

William Harvey Clinical Research Centre

Newsletter November 2015



Professor Amrita Ahluwalia awarded Women in Science and Engineering (WISE) prize

The WISE Awards is an annual event to celebrate women in science, technology, engineering and maths (STEM) and an opportunity to recognise inspiring organisations and individuals actively promoting STEM to girls and women.

The WISE Research Award was presented by Her Royal Highness The Princess Royal at a special ceremony at the Grange Hotel St Paul's, London on Thursday 12 November.

Amrita Ahluwalia, Professor of Vascular Pharmacology and Deputy Director of QMUL's William Harvey Research Institute, said: "The WISE awards are an important national celebration of the excellence of women working and learning in the STEM subjects. I was so impressed by all of the nominees but

particularly the many young and highly motivated women doing such amazing work”

Professor Ahluwalia’s research focuses on new prevention therapies for hypertension, using dietary interventions as well as pharmacology. Hypertension is a growing global epidemic affecting one billion people and her finding that vegetables such as beetroot can lower systemic blood pressure may offer simple additional options for blood pressure lowering.

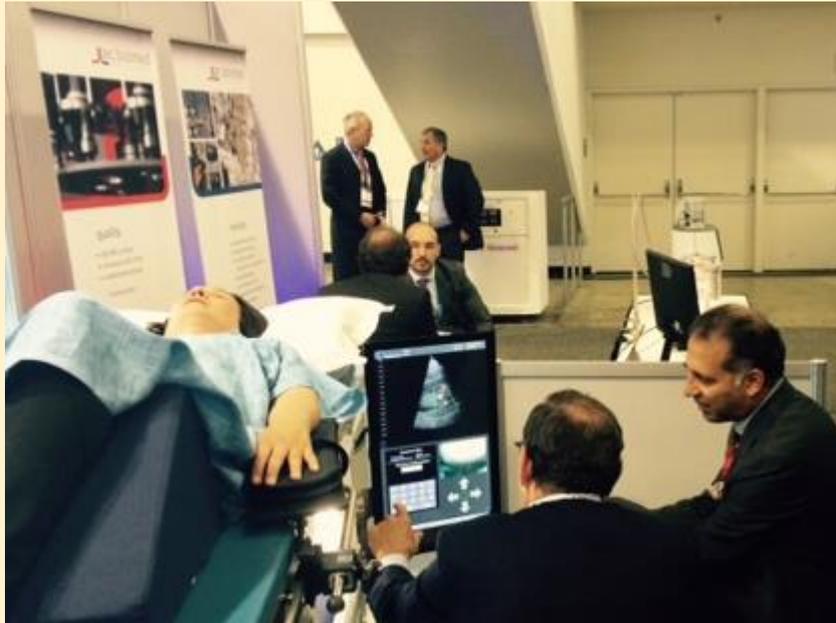
Professor Ahluwalia also played a key part in QMUL’s School of Medicine and Dentistry receiving the Silver Athena SWAN award in April 2015, recognising a commitment to advancing women’s careers in STEM in higher education and research.

She is the first woman to receive the GlaxoSmithKline Prize in Clinical Pharmacology in its 40-year history. To support other women in the profession, she also established a Prize for Excellence in Pharmacology for Women, developed a mentoring scheme for the British Pharmacological Society and hopes to use campaigning for medical research charities to improve the position for women winning fellowships to take maternity leave.

Congratulations to Amrita!

Study Updates: Wave IV study

Congratulations to Drs Mel Lobo and Manish Saxena and the rest of the CRC team working on the Wave IV study (mentioned in our last newsletter). Barts is currently the number one actively enrolling site for this study.



The Kona Wave technology was presented at the Transcatheter Cardiovascular Therapeutics conference in San Francisco recently with demonstrations using a functional model of the Surround Sound system. Additionally, Professor Schmieder presented positive long-term follow up data from the WAVE I-III single-arm studies and described the ongoing WAVE IV activities. His presentations were part of 8 hours of presentations and discussions devoted to device hypertension therapies at the conference and were very well received by those in attendance.



Let's talk hearts

Lets talk hearts 15th March 2016 **"Hearts and Minds"**

Two talks on the heart and the mind/brain

Venue: conference room, Idea Store Whitechapel, five minutes walk from Whitechapel tube station.

Time: 3-5pm

For registration or to join the Lets talk hearts mailing list please email letstalkhearts@qmul.ac.uk or ring 07572 768985.

Speakers include: Malcolm Finlay who will talk about

The Brain, The Heart & Voodoo Death

How mental stress can be really bad for you. Abnormal heart rhythms are really common: 1 in 20 of us will experience a heart rhythm problem during our lives. There's a wealth of evidence linking stressful events with the most serious forms of abnormal heart rhythms, taking in voodoo death, world cup football and SCUD missile attacks, as well as more everyday anger and shock. Malcolm will share the tales of discovery of these links, and how science is catching up with the mechanisms behind them.

BIO

Malcolm Finlay is a Consultant Cardiologist and Lecturer at Queen Mary University of London. He has a particular research interest into how abnormal heart rhythms arise, and a clinical interest into how to put them right. His research has recently demonstrated how mental stress can predispose to heart rhythm problems, and he is now examining the mechanisms in heart cells that can lead to this. Other than Science and the NHS, Malcolm has made several short films, rides a fixie and is currently learning to fly an aeroplane.

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