

BTRU Trainees' Research Day

Wednesday 22 March 2017
School of Clinical Medicine
Cambridge Biomedical Campus

The BTRU Trainees' Research Day held on Wednesday 22 March 2017 was attended by more than 30 trainees, bringing together colleagues from Cambridge and Newcastle and providing an opportunity for everyone to share their research and network with friends and fellow trainees. The BTRU has an inclusive approach to training and this was very evident on the day, with participation not only from those funded directly by the BTRU, but also from many others working for the unit's Principal Investigators (PIs).

Dr Menna Clatworthy (BTRU Training Lead in Cambridge) opened proceedings by welcoming everyone and outlining the programme for the afternoon. The trainees were joined by a number of invited guests, including Prof Mike Nicholson (BTRU Director, Cambridge) and Prof Andy Fisher (BTRU Deputy Director, Newcastle) who had agreed to judge the oral and poster presentations. Other BTRU Theme Leads and PIs were also present, as were Vasilis Kontogiannis and Shaun McMaster (NIHR Programme Team).



The first session was hosted by Dr Tennie Videler who coached the trainees in giving a three minute 'elevator pitch' about their research to the non-expert. Trainees then had the chance to pitch to each other before two volunteers each from Cambridge and Newcastle had the opportunity to put their experience into action in front of a lay panel made up of two patient and two public representatives. The lay guests were all highly impressed with the standard of the pitches and gave some helpful and constructive feedback to the trainees.

The elevator pitch workshop was followed by eight oral presentations from the trainees over two sessions, covering a variety of topics and reflecting the breadth of the research being undertaken under the umbrella of the BTRU. Among the speakers were Morvern Morrison (Newcastle) with a talk entitled 'Identifying potential predictive biomarkers





of successful ex vivo lung perfusion', and Patrick Trotter (Cambridge) with his presentation 'Transplantation of organs from donors with hepatitis C: the potential to substantially increase transplant activity'.

During the midpoint break the audience was invited to review the poster display. In total 13 posters were presented covering a wide range of topics, including 'IL2 induces regulatory B cells' (Akimichi Inaba, Cambridge) and 'Transcriptomic and proteomic analysis of the human kidney provides a reference dataset and demonstrates profound differences between cortex and medulla' (John Ferdinand, Cambridge).

The presentations from the trainees were punctuated by a workshop on NIHR funding streams given by Karen Fernando, Senior

Programme Manager, NIHR Trainees Coordinating Centre. Karen outlined the funding opportunities that are available and gave valuable advice on eligibility criteria, as well as some tips on completing funding applications.

The final talk of the afternoon was given by Keynote Speaker Dr Mike Murphy (BTRU Theme Lead and MRC Mitochondrial Biology Unit Programme Leader). His wide-ranging presentation was entitled 'Mitochondrial biology and its relevance to transplantation'.

At the close of the afternoon the trainees were commended on the high quality of the elevator pitches, presentations and posters. Prizes were awarded by BTRU Director Mike Nicholson and Deputy Director Andy Fisher. Morvern Morrison and Patrick Trotter were awarded joint first prize for best presentation; Akimichi Inaba and John Ferdinand received joint first prize for best poster.

After the close of the formal proceedings many of the trainees and guests enjoyed a dinner in the evening held at the Meade Suite, University Centre, Granta Place. This rounded off a very positive and enjoyable day with more opportunities for participants to network with colleagues and friends.

