



THE MSOP MEMO



June 2025

GPhC Reaccreditation

Medway School of Pharmacy is delighted to formally announce that following the reaccreditation Part 2 event in February 2025 the General Pharmaceutical Council's (GPhC) accreditation team agreed to recommend to the Registrar that the reaccreditation of the MPharm degree is confirmed and that the MPharm with Preparatory Year is accredited.

Thank you to all staff and students who were involved in the reaccreditation process.

Pint of Science 2025: A Toast to Science and Community

We proudly celebrate the success of this year's Pint of Science event, held over three engaging evenings from 19th to 21st May.

This annual festival brings research out of the lab and into local pubs, creating an informal space for everyone to learn about cutting-edge science in a relaxed and welcoming environment.



This year's event was expertly organised by Dr. Vuono with the invaluable support of a dedicated team of volunteer helpers. Their enthusiasm and hard work made the three nights not only possible but thoroughly enjoyable for all who attended.

The line-up of speakers offered a fantastic variety of insights and sparked engaging discussions:

- Monday 19th: Dr Scott, Murtala Dahiru and Prof Temperton - Developing New Medical Tools using Bats, Viruses and Gels
- Tuesday 20th: Zani and Lorna - A Strategy for Healthy Ageing: Improve Sleep & Manage Pain.
- Wednesday 21st: Dr Bhamra and Dr Zanganeh - The Real Story: Alcohol and Herbal Remedies

A heartfelt thank you to everyone involved — speakers, organisers, volunteers, and audience members alike — for making this year's Pint of Science such a memorable and meaningful experience. A special thank you to the venues and Dr Nicola Tyers for chairing the three evenings. We look forward to another round next year!

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Dr Fani Papagiannouli- Research Funding

Congratulations to Dr Fani Papagiannouli who recently received a £125k Springboard25 award from the Academy of Medical Sciences, a grant given to academics within the 5 years of their first academic employment to establish their independent biomedical research careers.

Dr Papagiannouli said: "I am honored and excited to have received the Academy of Medical Science #Springboard25 award. I am profoundly grateful to the Academy and the expert reviewers for trusting and supporting my lab's research directions. This prestigious award will springboard my independent line of research and long-standing ideas to study the "modus operandi" of squamous epithelia, all the way from their internal architecture to communication with disparate neighboring cells, and uncover common themes, conserved strategies and system-wide changes leading to human diseases."

Read the full announcement here: <https://acmedsci.ac.uk/more/news/springboard-2025>

OneBAT Barcelona- Dr Nigel Temperton & Dr Simon Scott

Last month, Dr Temperton and Dr Scott attended a General Assembly meeting for the Horizon Europe 'OneBAT' project grant in Barcelona, marking the mid-point of this project to discuss progress, data and future research strategies.

Dr Temperton has also just participated in a Prepare-EU Summer School on Pandemic Preparedness which involved members of 13 EU consortia. He presented a paper entitled "A pseudotype virus neutralization platform for bat coronaviruses" to an audience including other OneBAT consortia members attending from Italy and Hungary.

Dr Scott has also recently hosted a visiting PhD researcher (Maria Francesca Priore) on the OneBAT project for an intense three weeks of lab work.



Publication News

- Dr Vadim Sumbayev led a study (with many MSOP Principal Investigators, post-docs and students involved, see authorship)- "Wuhan strain of SARS-CoV-2 triggers activation of immune evasion machinery similar to the one operated by cancer cells"

<https://www.frontiersin.org/journals/immunology/articles/10.3389/fimmu.2025.1599352/abstract>

- New paper with University of Cambridge in Emerging Microbes & Infections led by George Carnell, a former MSOP PhD student who has just started a lectureship at OneVirology, University of Nottingham.

<https://europepmc.org/article/MED/40326334>

- New paper with LSHTM in Communications Medicine (incl. Medical Research Council Unit, The Gambia, Africa)

<https://europepmc.org/article/MED/40379979>

- New Pre-print on H5Nx influenza with APHA UK (Animal and Plant Health Agency) involving Cecilia Di Genova (2nd author) who was a former MSOP PhD student of Dr Simon Scott and a post-doc with Dr Nigel Temperton on a MRC COVID rapid response grant.

<https://europepmc.org/article/PPR/PPR1009479>

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Dr Emma Veale- Industry Fellowship

Congratulations to Dr Emma Veale who has been awarded a four-year Industry Fellowship from The Royal Society, starting in July. Her industrial sponsor is Metrion Biosciences in Stevenage.

Press release- <https://metrionbiosciences.com/emma-veale-rsfellowship/>

A Taste of the World during April's Special Postgraduate (Research) Coffee Morning

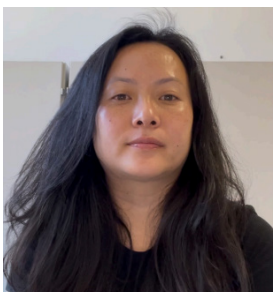
At Medway School of Pharmacy, our Postgraduate Coffee Mornings have become a cherished tradition — a relaxed and welcoming space for postgraduate students to take a well-earned break, catch up, and enjoy a good cup of coffee together every 4–6 weeks. But this April, we decided to do something a little different — and a lot more delicious! To celebrate the incredible diversity within our postgraduate community, we turned our regular gathering into a global tasting experience. Everyone was invited to bring a dish from their home country, creating a table full of flavours from around the world. From the well-loved crunch of German Pretzels to aromatic Chinese delicacies and rich Iranian cuisine, there was something for every palate.

Did you know that Momos are delightful dumplings from Nepal (that quickly disappeared from the plate!).

The highlight for many, however, may have been the cake — a beautifully-made treat that was not only admired by attendees but also thoroughly enjoyed by Alfie, the “Postgraduate Research dog”, who managed to sneak a taste of the cream topping (under close supervision, of course).

Events like this remind us that our community is not just about research and study — it's about connection, culture, and sometimes, just a really good meal.

Thanks to everyone who contributed food, stories, and smiles to make April's coffee morning such a memorable one. Dr Papagiannouli and Katrin Jones are already looking forward to the next one — although Alfie might just be hoping for another slice of cake!



3MT Competition Winner

Congratulations to Gauri Thapa, one of MSoP's PhD students for winning the People's Choice Award at the FES Three Minute Thesis competition last month. Gauri's thesis focused on 'Investigating the long-term impact of COVID-19 and the risk of developing dementia' and alongside Laura Utume from the Natural Resources Institute, will represent the Faculty at the University of Greenwich

UCLH- Festival of Excellence Winner

Congratulations to MSoP PhD student Ethel Carboni-Jardim who was awarded “Judges' choice” for her poster at the University College London Hospital Festival of Excellence in May.



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Simulation Conference

Dr Jo Dockwray and Dr Media Zanganeh attended a fantastic Simulation conference in Oxford last month where they displayed their poster showcasing simulation at MSOP. Andy Buttery was the keynote speaker and attendees got to take part in some exciting workshops and came away with lots of new simulation-based ideas to incorporate into the curriculum.



NSU Florida Student Visit- May 2025

Thank you to everyone who was involved in the NSU Florida Student visit last month. The students were very enthusiastic about the experience they had- they particularly liked the clinical skills interaction and independent prescribing session, which is very different to US pharmacies and the short placement with local community pharmacies was also valued.



MSoP Schools Conference 2025

The MSOP Schools Conference 2025 took place from 20th-22nd May and this year's theme was "Pharmacy at the heart of it". We welcomed over 60 Year 12 students from schools across Kent who were interested in pharmacy, medicine or any allied healthcare profession.

The conference aimed to highlight the role that pharmacy professionals play as part of the wider healthcare team. The sessions followed the life of a patient who had a heart attack and included the original diagnosis and treatment alongside lifestyle advice. It also integrated the areas of allied healthcare and pharmaceutical procedures surrounding the patient's treatment. Thank you to all the staff involved for all the hard work that went into organising and running this event.

Becoming a Designated Prescribing Practitioner 2025

In September, Denise Rabbette will be speaking at the 'Becoming a Designated Prescribing Practitioner 2025' event. This is an interactive and multidisciplinary event for new or aspiring DPPs in collaboration with the Royal College of Nursing.

For more information: <https://events.rpharms.com/website/17089/>

Equality, Diversity & Inclusion: Update

The DEI group held the first successful "Convo Coffee and Cake" session on 28th May in which Prof Gurprit Lall shared his experiences of a career in academia and education for someone of colour and the prejudices that he has faced.

We are looking forward to our next Convo Coffee and Cake session in September which will focus on the theme of finances. Full details to be announced- watch out for updates in your email inbox and for posters around Anson next term.

The DEI lead, Dr Waldock is leading on a research project investigating the impact of intersectionality on outcomes within the prescribing programme and the development of the pharmacist role identity in the MPharm programme.

We are always open to people who have a passion for EDI to join us. Is that you? If so, then please email Dr Waldock for an informal coffee or meeting on Teams - c.j.waldock@greenwich.ac.uk