

THE MSOP MEMO

April 2026

Medway School of Pharmacy Careers Fair 2026



Another successful Careers Fair took place on Wednesday 18th March – this year it was an online event!

A very diverse range of speakers was able to share a glimpse of their careers with our students and invited them to learn more about their organisations and what they can offer our Pharmacy graduates. Representatives from hospitals, community pharmacies, academia and educational support were available afterwards in break-out rooms to answer the many interesting questions our students had.

Many thanks to everyone who supported and attended the event, especially the students who did once again a great job in representing the school.

After this inspiring event we certainly look forward to next year's Careers Fair!

-The Placement Team

London Student Sustainability Conference

Some of our sustainability group students (Dikchya, Rio, Davina and Hasan) had their submission accepted to present at the London Student Sustainability Conference and that day recently happened on 25th February. Their project combined an academic poster "Rethinking Health and Waste in Pharmacy" and a creative installation "A Cabinet with a Past and a Future" to expose the environmental impact of pharmaceutical waste and present practical solutions for a more sustainable pharmacy future.

The group reported their presentation, poster, and creative installation were all received very positively. In particular, the creative installation attracted a lot of attention, with many people coming over to interact with it and take photos. Overall, they found it a really positive experience.



Enterprise Challenge 2026



Congratulations to MPharm student David Moluba who recently won 'Freelancer of the Year' in the Enterprise Challenge 2026. This year's Enterprise Challenge received almost 200 applications from both the UK and the University of Greenwich's partner college, FPT Vietnam.

Each year, students compete for the coveted title of Greenwich Entrepreneur of the Year and an impressive £5,000 cash prize to support their business. Funded by Santander, the Enterprise Challenge offers students six weeks of expert mentoring, valuable networking opportunities and the chance to secure funding to grow their idea into a fully fledged enterprise. Read the full story [here](#).

International Women's Day 2026

Dr Sadaf Ashraf recently contributed to "Leading with intersectionality: a collective reflection for International Women's Day 2026" as featured on the University of Greenwich website with other colleagues from the BAME Staff Network Executive Committee. Read the full reflections [here](#).

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Research News

Daylight saving time and health publication

Dr Aiste Steponenaite has recently had a study published in the European Journal of Epidemiology.

The paper, titled "A systematic review of epidemiological studies into daylight-saving time & health identifying beneficial & adverse effects," brings together evidence from 157 studies across 36 countries. Dr Steponenaite co-led this collaborative project with her colleague Philip Lewis in Germany, working alongside an international team that includes several world leading researchers in sleep and circadian science.

The aim of the study was to provide a comprehensive and balanced assessment of how seasonal clock changes and living on daylight saving time affect health. The public and policy debate is often framed as if daylight saving time is uniformly harmful. However, their findings show a more nuanced picture.

Given the ongoing policy discussions in Europe and beyond about abolishing seasonal clock changes, the work has clear public health and policy relevance. Dr Steponenaite hopes it will contribute constructively to that debate and further strengthen our visibility in circadian and population health research.

View the study here- <https://doi.org/10.1007/s10654-026-01372-8>



Professor Nigel Temperton- Research update

Professor Nigel Temperton was recently featured in a profile post on the Leyden Labs LinkedIn about his recent article in Science Translational Medicine- Phase 1 and preclinical studies reveal safety, pharmacokinetics, and efficacy of intranasal delivery of the influenza antibody CR9114.

View the [LinkedIn post](#) and the [original research article](#).

This study was also featured in an article in [New Scientist](#) last month.

Professor Nigel Temperton has recently contributed to a new article which is currently at the preprint stage- Development of an ELISA-Based Pulldown Approach for Functional Analysis of Antigen-Specific Antibodies. The article can be accessed [here](#).

Professor Temperton's manuscript "Development and Qualification of a Pseudotyped virus-based Microneutralisation assay for Influenza D virus" has been accepted for publication in Influenza and Other Respiratory Viruses.

On Monday 30th March at the Terrapinn World Vaccine Congress in Washington DC Professor Temperton delivered a talk entitled "Multiplexed Neutralization Assays: A Unified Platform for Evaluating Breadth Against Priority Pathogens". This is part of the Pre-Congress Workshop ANTIBODIES FOR INFECTIOUS DISEASES.



Dr Simon Scott- Research update

Dr Simon Scott has been invited to give talks at two European institutes.

April 2026 - National Laboratory of Virology at the University of Pécs, Hungary. The talk '40 years of virus research' will be story of Dr Scott's research career and the many virology projects he has worked on over the years, both in the UK and abroad. The lecture will of course include his research with pseudotyped viruses at MSoP, with a particular focus on the OneBAT Horizon Europe grant project with his long-term colleague Dr Gabor Kemenesi.

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Dr Scott will also be conducting field work as part of his 10 day trip - collecting and processing samples from wild bats in the region.

May 2026 - Istituto Zooprofilattico Sperimentale delle Venezie (IZSVE), Padua, Italy (a national Public Health & Research Institute). Dr Scott will be giving a seminar as part of a training meeting organised as part of the OneBAT research project, for stakeholders in animal and human health (scientists, industry and public health representatives).



In this he will be explaining the development and use of pseudotyped viruses for antibody serology (in this case wild bats) in safe, low biological containment laboratories, as part of his ongoing project.

Finally, Dr Scott will be hosting a visiting researcher (PhD student Maria Francesca Priore, from IZSVE) in March for two weeks to conduct work as part of the OneBAT project.

National Student Psychiatry Conference 2026

Dr Aiste Steponenaite was invited to speak at the National Student Psychiatry Conference held at the KMMS on 24-25th January which brought together more than one hundred medical students from all over the country who are interested in pursuing their careers in psychiatry. Dr Steponenaite gave a talk on "Sleep Pressure, Body Clocks, and Mental Health" introducing the translational aspects of her research and how they could be applied in psychiatry context.



Year 3 Students – Paid Research Placement Opportunity Summer 2026

Year 3 students have the opportunity to apply for a paid Summer Research Placement awarded by British Society for Research on Ageing. This prestigious award covers a 10-week placement, commencing on 1st June 2026, investigating "The role of ion channels as potential drug targets for age-associated knee osteoarthritis".



The value of the studentship is £3000 which will be paid directly to the student and contributes to living expenses

As part of the placement, the student will stain knee joint tissue samples using histological, immunohistochemistry and immunofluorescence techniques to identify osteoarthritis-related changes. Microscopy work and computer-assisted image analysis will enable these changes to be quantified and graphically presented.

This is a great opportunity to strengthen your CV, gain new skills and enhance employability. The successful student will have an opportunity to present their work at national scientific conferences as well.

Please see instructions on the MPharm Student Handbook Moodle page for more information and application instructions.

Year 2 Students- Research Placement Opportunity Summer 2026

Dr Sadaf Ashraf is offering a research studentship for 4 weeks over the summer. The studentship consists of undertaking a laboratory-based research project investigating "Novel therapeutic targets to treat osteoarthritis". This is a great opportunity to strengthen your CV, gain new skills and enhance employability.

Please see instructions on the MPharm Student Handbook Moodle page for more information and details of how to register your interest.

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3MT University of Kent - MSoP PGR candidate Zani Makurata

We are pleased to share that our PhD (Research) student Zani Makurata will represent MSoP in the University of Kent's Three Minute Thesis (3MT®) Competition 2026, presenting her research titled "Investigating the role of hypertension in modulating knee joint changes and pain processing pathways." Coordinated by the Graduate and Researcher College, the 3MT challenges postgraduate researchers to deliver a compelling spoken presentation on their research and its significance in just three minutes to a non-specialist audience. The competition is open to all active PhD researchers who have passed their first-year probation review and not yet completed their viva by 29 April 2026. The first round will take place in person on 29 April 2026, followed by the Kent final on 27 May 2026.

The competition offers valuable opportunities to develop research communication, presentation, and public engagement skills, while also encouraging reflection on the wider impact of research. The winner will receive £300, with £100 awarded to the runner-up, both to support further training, development, or research. For more information, including rules, judging criteria, and past presentations, please visit: <https://student.kent.ac.uk/life/postgrad/3mt>

MSoP Bronze award for Sustainability

Congratulations to our technician team in achieving MSoP's first BRONZE award for Sustainability (Laboratory Efficiency Assessment Framework - LEAF) in labs A248 (SL2) and A250 (SL1) with flying colours. There was great feedback from our assessor highlighting strengths in sharing of common practices across teaching labs ensuring efficient use of chemicals and other resources.

To quote, "the lab is a stellar example of sustainability embedded into standard operations". LEAF is becoming a requirement for an increasing number of grants, so this work is crucial to our success as a school. Very well done to everyone involved!



Graduation- July 2026

The MSoP Graduation Ceremony will be held at Rochester Cathedral on Wednesday 29 July. We are really looking forward to marking this important milestone with our graduating students. Final timings will be confirmed nearer the event.

Open Days & Offer Holder Events

Thank you to all staff and Student Ambassadors who helped out at our recent Open Morning and Offer Holder Afternoon on Saturday 21st March.

Opportunities to see the campus, meet academic staff and current students and tour the facilities are invaluable to our prospective students. Our Offer Holders for September 2026 were able to attend two short taster sessions- Clinical Skills with Dr Jo Dockwray and Simulation with Gemma Wray.

We will be hosting our next Offer Holder Event on Saturday 18th April and our next Open Day on Saturday 20th June. If MSoP students are interested in becoming Student Ambassadors, please check the University of Greenwich Student Jobshop listings.



Goodbye and good luck to Sophie Gray

Medway School of Pharmacy would like to take this opportunity to say goodbye and good luck to Sophie Gray who is leaving to begin a fantastic new role at Medway Hospital and we will sadly be saying goodbye to her at the end of this term.

Thank you for all she has done for the School and we look forward to seeing her in our OSCEs next year!



Lost Property

We have acquired a wide selection of lost property over the last academic year. From the beginning of next term, all uncollected, non-valuable items will be available for collection in Anson reception. Please do take the time to look and see if anything of yours is there. For valuable items lost, please ring the bell at the reception hatch.

Any items not collected by 5pm on Friday 12th June will be donated to charity or disposed of.

May Examinations

Summer examinations take place for all UG students from **Monday 27th April** until **Friday 15th May**. Individual student timetables for examinations are available on the Greenwich Portal.

Please ensure that you have familiarised yourself with the times and locations of your examinations and arrive with plenty of time to spare. For students with GIPs, if you have any specific queries regarding your GIP, please contact us using the details below.

Students MUST go to their timetabled room.

Remember if you do not bring your Greenwich ID card, you will not be permitted entry to the exam room and will be asked to go to Blake to obtain a new card. This will delay the start time of your examination and you will not be given additional time.

If you experience any unforeseen circumstances on the day of an examination (Such as severe traffic issues, illness etc) please contact the Exams team as soon as possible either at pharmacyassessments@greenwich.ac.uk or call on **01634 883319**

Upcoming Dates

- **Summer examinations-** Monday 27th April- Friday 15th May
- **Bank Holiday-** Monday 4th May
- **Placement Weeks-** Monday 18th May- Friday 12th June
- **Bank Holiday-** Monday 25th May
- **End of Summer term-** Friday 12th June
- **Examination resit period-** Monday 13th- Friday 24th July