for immediate release

SCIENTIFIC SUMMIT TO ADDRESS GROWING BURDEN OF FUNGAL DISEASE - University Hospital of South Manchester Academy and University of Manchester host special Anniversary Meeting

More than 130 experts from across the world are gathering in Manchester this weekend for the 50th Annual Scientific Meeting of the British Society for Medical Mycology, which starts on Sunday (April 27, 2014).

Mycology is a branch of botany, which studies fungi and fungus-caused diseases, their genetic and biochemical properties, their use to humans as a source of medicine, and their dangers such as poisoning and infections.

The role of the British Society for Medical Mycology is to advance education and promote research in all branches of medical and veterinary mycology, and to disseminate the results of such research for the public benefit.

Professor Malcolm Richardson and his professional team from the University Hospital of South Manchester and University of Manchester has organised this years three-day meeting to review and present the latest scientific advances in medical mycology research, treatment of fungal infections and clinical practice management. The programme reflects the origins and activities of the Society and its Members.

Highlights include the 50th Anniversary Foundation Lecture: ‘Our Society – a Memoir’, given by Professor Frank Odds; lectures by senior investigators and
retired Members; and a wide spectrum of talks by junior researchers and post-graduate students. Throughout the meeting a number of poster presentations will be on display and representatives from the pharmaceutical world and diagnostic companies will be exhibiting their products and services. A photographic record of the 50 years of the Society and abstracts from the Annual Meeting will appear on the Society’s website: www.bsmm.org.

The Conference programme is attached. For more information please contact Susan Osborne, Director of Communications at The Goodwork Organisation on 07836 229208.

BSMM 2014 PROGRAMME (APRIL 27– 29 2014)

All sessions in the Scandinavian Ballroom, Radisson Blu Hotel (Manchester Airport), Manchester

SUNDAY 27 April 2014

14:00 – 17:00 Executive committee meeting (Room 101)
14:00 – 18:00 Registration (Ballroom Lobby) and poster hanging (Ballroom Lobby)
17:30 – 19:00 Buffet evening meal (Scandinavian Ballroom)
19:00 – 20:30 MAIN POSTER session and poster prize judging Ballroom Lobby)
20:30 – 21:15 50th Anniversary Foundation Lecture: Our Society: a memoir (Scandinavian Ballroom)
              Frank Odds (University of Aberdeen, UK)
21:15 Late Bar

MONDAY 28 April 2014

Breakfast: Collage Restaurant

Session 1: BSMM 50th: past to present (Chair: Chris Kibbler)

08:30 Still counting: mycotic diseases and the CDC
        David Warnock (CDC, USA)
08:50 Global burden of superficial mycoses affecting the skin
        Rod Hay (International Foundation for Dermatology, London)
09:10 Unusual fungal pathogens
        Colin Campbell (Mycology Reference Laboratory, Bristol, Public Health England)
Session 2: PhD student prize presentations (Chair: Jonathan Richardson)

09:30  The role of the cryptococcal capsule in evasion of the immune response and as an etiological agent of cryptococcal pathogenesis  
       Katherine Miller (University of Sheffield, UK)

09:45  A novel in vitro Candida virulence assay  
       Edina Szabo (University of Aberdeen, UK)

10:00  Serum L-ficolin and its role in innate defence and inflammatory modulation in response to Aspergillus fumigatus  
       Stefan Bidula (University of East Anglia, UK)

10:15  Understanding Cryptococcus neoformans manipulation of phagosome maturation  
       Leanne Smith (University of Birmingham, UK)

10:30  Evaluating the AdvanDX QuickFISH™ assay for the rapid identification of yeasts direct from positive blood cultures  
       Rebecca Gorton (Royal Free Hospital, London, UK)

10:45  Tracking the human pathogenic mould Fusarium with a genus-specific monoclonal antibody  
       Marwan Al-Maqtoofi (University of Exeter, UK)

11:00 – 11:20 Coffee/Exhibition/posters (Ballroom Lobby)

Session 3: Candidosis (Chair: Megan Lenardon)

11:20  History of Candidosis – Mysteclin-F  
       Michael Worboys (University of Manchester, UK)

11:35  Recurrent vulvovaginal candidiasis (RVC) is there a role for azole resistance?  
       Jack Sobel (Wayne State University, USA)

11:55  Host defence against Candida  
       Gordon Brown (University of Aberdeen, UK)

12:15  Mutagenicity of Chronic Candida infections  
       Riina Richardson (University of Manchester, UK)

12:30  The role of fungal cell wall composition and remodelling in echinocandin drug tolerance and resistance  
       Louise Walker (University of Aberdeen, UK)

12:45  Candida – current gaps and future directions  
       Neil Gow (University of Aberdeen, UK)

12:55 – 13:40 LUNCH and poster viewing

Session 4: Gilead Fellowship presentations (sponsored event) (Chair: Lewis White)

13:40  Evaluating the clinical outcomes of Scottish candidaemia patients: impact of antifungal treatment and biological properties of Candida spp  
       Gordon Ramage (Glasgow Dental School, UK)

13:55  Next-generation sequencing of azole-resistant strains of Aspergillus fumigatus  
       Ali Abdolrasouli (Imperial College London, UK)

14:10  Implementing the web based fungal audit tool (F.A.T) across different NHS Trusts
Gemma Johnson (St Bartholomew’s Health NHS Trust, UK)
14:25 Prospective audit of renal and liver toxicity of anti-fungal drugs in patients with haematological malignancies
Francesco Nannini (St Bartholomew’s Health NHS Trust, UK)
14:40 Antifungal stewardship at a London teaching hospital achieves sustained cost reduction over 3 years without compromising microbiologic and clinical outcomes
Laura Whitney (St Georges Hospital, London, UK)
14:55 Fungal infections in military patients injured in Afghanistan
Andrew Johnston (Queen Elizabeth Hospital, Birmingham, UK)

15:10 – 15:30 Coffee/Exhibition/posters (Ballroom Lobby)

Session 5: Cutaneous and other mycoses (Chair: Susan Howell)

15:30 History of tinea and cutaneous mycoses – Whitfield’s Ointment
Michael Worboys (University of Manchester, UK)
15:45 The new BAD Onychomycosis guidelines
Mahreen Ameen (Royal Free NHS Trust, London, UK)
16:00 The new Tinea capitis guidelines
Claire Fuller (Chelsea and Westminster NHS Trust, London, UK)
16:15 Analysing Innate Immune Responses to Mucor circinelloides using Zebrafish Larvae – A Novel Model System for Mucormycosis
Kerstin Voelz (University of Birmingham, UK)

16:30 – 17:30 BSMM AGM (Scandinavian Ballroom) or POSTER viewing

BSMM ANNUAL DINNER (Quarry Bank Mill, National Trust)

18.30 Coaches leave for evening venue
19.00 Drinks reception/tour/garden stroll
20.00 BSMM Annual Dinner and prizes for best poster and student oral presentation
21.45 Coach transfer back to the Hotel
22.00 BSMM 50th Sing Song

TUESDAY 29 April 2014

Breakfast: Collage Restaurant

Session 6: Aspergillosis: epidemiology and diagnostics (Chair: Chris Linton)

09:00 History of Aspergillosis – Thomas Rothwell MD
Michael Worboys (University of Manchester, UK)
09:20 Epidemiology of allergic bronchopulmonary aspergillosis
Ritesh Agarwal (PGIMER, Chandigarh, India)
09:40 Antibody-based diagnostics for aspergillosis  
*Richard Barton (Leeds Teaching Hospitals NHS Trust, UK)*

**Session 7: Aspergillosis: pathogenesis (Chair: Elaine Bignell)**

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<th>Time</th>
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<th>Presenter</th>
<th>Institution</th>
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<tr>
<td>10:00</td>
<td>Multigenic origins of allergic bronchopulmonary aspergillosis</td>
<td>Paul Bowyer (University of Manchester, UK)</td>
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<td>10:20</td>
<td><em>In-silico</em> experiments to identify the role of the epithelial barrier in <em>Aspergillus</em> host-pathogen interaction</td>
<td>Reiko Tanaka (Imperial College London, UK)</td>
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<td>10:35</td>
<td>Regulation of sulphur assimilation is essential for virulence and affects iron homeostasis of the human-pathogenic mould <em>Aspergillus fumigatus</em></td>
<td>Jorge Amich (Julius-Maximilians-University of Würzburg, Germany)</td>
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<td>10:50</td>
<td><em>Aspergillus</em> - current gaps and future directions</td>
<td>David Denning (University of Manchester, UK)</td>
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11:00 – 11:30 Coffee/Exhibition/posters (Ballroom Lobby)

**Session 8: Cryptococcus and Pneumocystis (Chair: Simon Johnston)**

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<tr>
<td>11:30</td>
<td>Current challenges in clinical cryptococcus disease</td>
<td>David Lalloo (Liverpool School of Tropical Medicine, UK)</td>
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<td>11:55</td>
<td><em>Pneumocystis jirovecii</em> infection</td>
<td>Robert Miller (University College London, UK)</td>
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<td>12:20</td>
<td>Pleural cryptococcosis and cryptococcal rib osteomyelitis with concurrent tuberculosis</td>
<td>Cameron Choi (North Manchester General Hospital, UK)</td>
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<td>12:35</td>
<td>Cryptococcus – new problems, new ideas</td>
<td>Robin May (University of Birmingham, UK)</td>
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12:45 – 13:30 Lunch

**EXTRA Session: Wellcome Trust Strategic Award Career’s Workshop (Scandinavian Ballroom)**

13.30 – 16.30 Workshop entitled “Grant and Fellowship writing” – open to all BSMM members, in particular students and postdocs attending the BSMM meeting.

1. Grant and Fellowship writing – overview, advice and important points

   **Professors Neil Gow and Alistair Brown, Aberdeen Fungal Group, University of Aberdeen**

   Tea/Coffee break

2. Fellowships – how to write a successful fellowship – the “dos and don’ts”
**Dr Megan Lenardon, MRC New Investigator, Aberdeen Fungal Group** – will focus on the academic early career researcher fellowship

**Dr Darius Armstrong-James, MRC Clinician Scientist Fellow, Imperial College London** – will focus on the clinical fellowship

If you would like to attend the workshop, please register by sending an email to MMFI-Hub@abdn.ac.uk giving your name, University/employer, position (e.g. PhD, Postdoc etc.) and contact details. Please register by 22nd April.

**Notes to Editors**

The University Hospital of South Manchester Academy is the education and training “arm” of UHSM NHS Foundation Trust, based at Wythenshawe Hospital. UHSM Academy is responsible for the management and support of all learners within the Trust including Apprentices, Undergraduate Medical and other Healthcare Professional students and the continual professional development of postgraduate Doctors and Healthcare professionals. Additionally, UHSM Academy works very closely with and hosts two North West networks for Health Education North West. UHSM Academy also has good links with its local community and a strong Global Health programme. UHSM Academy is proud to have been asked to facilitate the 50th Anniversary Annual Meeting for the British Society for Medical Mycology.