



April/May 2018



UNIVERSITY OF  
BIRMINGHAM

*Driving  
Diversity*

# Vice-Chancellor's *view*



Vice-Chancellor, Professor Sir David Eastwood

## YOUR BUZZ

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**Front cover image:** Professor Kiran Trehan is Professor of Leadership and Enterprise Development in Birmingham Business School.

For many years I said that universities were unlike any other large business. We did not have a single 'product' or a small range of similar products. Universities were much more complex and diverse institutions, and understanding that complexity was fundamental to understanding universities. I told anyone who would listen that this was the case.

Four years ago, though, I had an epiphany. I realised that universities did have a single 'product', and that product was *knowledge*.

Fundamentally universities are shaped by, and indeed defined by knowledge. We are the places, *par excellence*, where knowledge is created. We discover, challenge, experiment, conceptualise, and publish. Without universities the knowledge and understanding of the modern world, indeed of the last millennium, would have been radically impoverished.

Not only do universities discover, challenge, and refine knowledge, the knowledge that we discover and hold is fundamental to everything else we do. In a university such as ours, all of our teaching is rooted in research, discovery, and the body of knowledge which constitutes our 'disciplines'.

Our publications are fundamentally about the communication of discovery, the challenge to orthodoxy, and the synthesis of what is known and understood. The intellectual property that universities promote and exploit is, again, directly derived from the research we undertake and the knowledge that we create.

Students come to universities in order to know more, to know better, and to know deeper. They understand that there is an authenticity to the knowledge that they will discover at universities which they cannot find elsewhere, and certainly not through a passive engagement with the internet.

Our faculty colleagues come to universities such as this because they are crucibles of exploration, places of debate, and a celebration of what the human mind is capable of.

Wider societies depend on universities because they are the most powerful engines of research and development, places where cultures are enriched and social capital created, and they are acknowledged as

the places where the minds, capacities, and capabilities of the next generation are fashioned and challenged.

So, crude though it is, universities do trade in a commodity and that commodity is the most precious of all human commodities, human understanding. Moreover, for about two and half millennia, universities had a privileged position. If you like, they had a massive advantage of 'incumbency'.

Society acknowledged the primacy of universities as places of intellectual authority. This was demonstrated in the way in which liberal and philanthropic regimes supported and endowed universities. It was also acknowledged by authoritarian regimes in the ways in which they sought to silence or constrain universities in order to pursue a politics of suppression.

In the world which we now inhabit, that primacy of universities is being challenged. It is being challenged in the current public debate about the position and purpose of universities. It is also being challenged by the rise of social media and an alternative technology of constructing and disseminating 'knowledge'.

It would be inappropriate, indeed, blimpish, to dismiss or disregard the rise of social media and new technologies of communication. Indeed many of these should be welcomed as opening debate, widening the dissemination of knowledge, and making access to information unprecedentedly immediate.

Nevertheless, it has turned out to be too easy a step from self-constituting communities on social media to the characterisation of other people's understanding of 'fake news'. In other words, social media is in danger of constructing the very antithesis of a university. An environment in which knowledge is not contested but asserted,

*continued on page 3*

# BRAZIL WEEK

5-8 MARCH 2018

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and an environment where alternatives are not explored but excoriated.

This counterpoint between the university at its best and social media at its worst has two important consequences. The first is the risk of a corrosion and coarsening of public debate. There is an irony here. At the very time that universities and the disciplines through which we structure knowledge and understanding are being challenged, sometimes even ridiculed, academics have probably never had such extensive access to the airwaves.

It is almost as if two cultures are being created. One is the culture of the university, of the academy, and of what we might define as 'peer-reviewed understanding'. The other is the world of mutually reinforced assertion, sometimes founded on misapprehension and misunderstanding, and sometimes founded on wilful misrepresentation.

In this conflict, the stakes are high. It is not simply about the survival of universities, it is about the survival of the kind of tolerant pluralism which underpins liberal democracy, and the constant questing curiosity which impels us to ever greater and ever deeper understanding.

A second challenge is indeed to the idea of the university. Universities are far from immune from wider social forces. To be a university, an institution must remain open, must remain a place of debate, and must ground all that we do in those disciplinary conventions which enable us to establish truths, challenge concepts and beliefs, and embody a shared quest to know more, to understand better, and to engage freely.

*Vice-Chancellor,  
Professor Sir David Eastwood*

The University celebrated our extensive engagement and research partnerships with top universities across Brazil during a week of exciting Brazilian-themed events for Brazil Week 2018.

Held over 5-8 March, Brazil Week celebrated Brazilian culture, ideas and research with events that ranged from insights into the world of diplomacy and corruption networks to lively discussions on Brazilian literature and film.

It all kicked off on Monday 5 March with Dr Marco Vieira (University of Birmingham), Dr Vinicius Carvalho (Kings College London, Brazil Institute), and Professor Edmund Amman (Latin American Studies, University of Leiden), exploring the challenges facing Brazil, including peacekeeping and defence, economy and development and foreign policy.

**Andréa Edwards, Director of International Development and Mobility, said:**

*'The University of Birmingham has extensive partnerships with top universities in Brazil and seeks to work collaboratively with them to answer some of the most challenging questions of the 21st century.'*

*'Brazil is a strategic partner country for the University of Birmingham and, as our links deepen, I am delighted that Brazil Week is establishing itself as a key event, and an important celebration on the University's calendar.'*



## EVENT HIGHLIGHTS

- Brazil innovation round-table with senior delegates from the Embassy of Brazil UK, who discussed future partnership initiatives
- Screening of the acclaimed documentary *The Boy who Made a Museum*, that included a discussion with the film's director, Sergio Utsch
- Guest lecture by Professor Eduardo Viola from the University of Brasilia on climate change, the Amazon, and Brazil's role in the geopolitical arena
- Women in Brazilian History – round-table discussion that focussed on the role of women in Brazilian History, spanning from the colonial to the modern period
- Brazil Distinguished Lecture – Professor Vladimir Safatle, University of São Paulo, gave a unique insight into present-day Brazil, through the political left in Latin America
- The University of Birmingham's Brazilian postgraduate research community showcased its expertise

# Queen's Anniversary Prize



At the end of February, the Vice-Chancellor joined Professor Clive Roberts and colleagues from the Birmingham Centre for Railway Research and Education at Buckingham Palace to be presented with the Queen's Anniversary Prize for Higher Education for its contribution to making railways around the world safer and more efficient.

The Birmingham Centre for Railway Research and Education (BCRRE) at the University is the largest university-based centre for railway research and education

in Europe. Its research partnerships see experts working with over 50 companies in more than 20 countries.

Professor Clive Roberts, Director of the Birmingham Centre for Railway Research and Education, said: 'We are delighted to receive this most prestigious accolade for the work of BCRRE, which benefits railway networks and train operators in the UK and around the globe.'

'With our focus on improving capacity, reducing energy consumption, and enabling significant cost reductions,

BCRRE's work results in improvements to services benefiting all rail users.

'Rail has a vital role in creating the world of tomorrow and we are looking ahead to the next phase of railway's transformation.'

## The Vice-Chancellor's Great Debate

**52% voted for Brexit, but how many will get the Brexit they want?**

**Date:** Thursday 19 April 2018

**Time:** 6.30pm

**Location:** Elgar Concert Hall, The Bramall, University of Birmingham

The Vice-Chancellor's Great Debate is a new event on the University calendar, and brings together a diverse panel of commentators to debate a topical theme. We have chosen a Brexit-related theme for this inaugural event that will coincide with the anniversary of the triggering of Article 50. Ritula Shah, journalist and regular

presenter of *The World Tonight* on BBC Radio 4, will moderate.

Our panel of experts includes:

- Professor Anand Menon, Director of UK in a Changing Europe,
- Lord Michael Heseltine, Conservative ex-Cabinet Minister and former Deputy Prime Minister
- Mr James McGrory, Director of Open Britain
- Richard Tice, Co-Chairman of Leave Means Leave

To register, please visit: <https://thebramall.co.uk/bookings/?eid=2289>

## Vote now for your favourite research

You can help choose which University of Birmingham research project we fundraise for later this year.

We want you to help make the final decision from a shortlist of three inspiring nominees for the Philanthropic Research Project 2018. Choose the project you think could do the most good with up to £250,000 of additional funding, to be raised from donors and supporters.

Look out for the staff, student and alumni vote from Tuesday 10 April.

The University's team of expert fundraisers will promote the winner as a charitable cause from Autumn 2018.

Vote from 10 April at [www.birmingham.ac.uk/alumni/prp.aspx](http://www.birmingham.ac.uk/alumni/prp.aspx)

Voting closes: **Friday 10 May 2018**



## SUCCESS WITH THE NEW RUTHERFORD FUND STRATEGIC PARTNER GRANT

The Rutherford Fund Strategic Partner is a new initiative from the UK government that provides funding to offer short-term fellowships that will build on and enhance university global strategic partnerships.

The University is one of 17 UK universities, from 85 applications, to have been successful in the first round. As a result, we will receive £150,000 to support seven fellowships to be taken up by up-and-coming researchers from Brazilian institutions between March 2018 and March 2019. The Rutherford Fellows will be hosted across four Colleges for between one and 12 months.

Richard Butler, who will host Filipe Montefeltro, said: 'We're delighted to receive this funding, which will support a new research collaboration using cutting-edge 3D imaging and engineering techniques. We aim to use this as a springboard to develop a strong longer-term collaborative relationship between Birmingham and UNESP in the area of Palaeobiology.'

Lais Galileu Speranza and Miloud Ouaï, who will host Carolina Musse Branco, said: 'The fellowship will allow us to address an important research topic (sustainable energy production for local communities from Waste Biomass using a novel thermos-catalytic reforming technology). This will promote knowledge exchange between Birmingham and UNESP and it will lead to improved knowledge transfer and regional development in Brazil.'

# UNIVERSITY OF BIRMINGHAM INDIA INSTITUTE LAUNCHED!

On Monday 29 January 2018 the University of Birmingham launched the India Institute!



**IMAGE 1:**

The lively round-table discussion was attended by Indian academic partners, key stakeholders and distinguished guests from the local Indian community.

**IMAGE 2:**

The Vice-Chancellor, Professor Sir David Eastwood and the High Commissioner of India, H.E. Mr Y K Sinha unveiled a commemorative plaque to mark this key milestone in the University's long-standing relationship with India.

Creating the University of Birmingham India Institute reflects the University's extensive links with India, which span over 100 years. The India Institute is a celebration of our shared past, but looks to the future as Birmingham researchers continue to forge new partnerships with their Indian counterparts to address global challenges.

To mark the occasion, distinguished guests attended the launch event, including key stakeholders, academics (including those from the University's partner institutions in India), a number of high-profile Indian alumni and members of the local community from India and the UK.

The Vice-Chancellor, Professor Sir David Eastwood and H.E. Mr Kumar Sinha addressed representatives of the UK and Indian education communities, before the High Commissioner unveiled a commemorative plaque. The High Commissioner then took part in a round-table discussion with Indian-born University of Birmingham Chancellor Lord Bilimoria of Chelsea, chaired by the University's Pro-Vice-Chancellor (International) Professor Robin Mason.

Speaking at the event, Professor Sir David Eastwood said:

*'Our India Institute marks an important milestone in our long-standing relationship*

*with India and re-affirms the University of Birmingham's deep and strong commitment to engagement with the country.'*

Lord Bilimoria of Chelsea, Chancellor of the University of Birmingham, the Founder and Chairman of Cobra Beer, President of the UK Council for International Student Affairs and Founding Chairman of the UK-India Business Council, commented:

*'There exists a special bond between Birmingham and India. For me, this is also a personal bond as my mother and my maternal grandfather both studied at the University of Birmingham. It makes me very proud to see that Birmingham has put its century-long bond with India even further with the launch of the University of Birmingham India Institute.'*

His Excellency Mr Y K Sinha said:

*'It gives me great satisfaction to note the deepening and broadening of ties between the University of Birmingham and India. I trust that, through the India Institute, the existing bonds between Indian institutions and the University will be further strengthened to address local as well as global concerns through joint research and other collaborative initiatives.'*

Among the highlights of the workshops taking place during the launch was the collaborative Ethnic Diversity in Cancer

Genomics workshop, delivered by Mrs Sudha Sundar, exploring ideas to further research in the three most common cancers occurring in women of non-Caucasian ethnicity.

To develop collaborations between institutions, Birmingham academics were joined by representatives from a number of centres of excellence in India in order to highlight the current state of research, outline initial areas of collaboration between India and the UK and to establish important next steps.

The India Institute looks forward to deepening Birmingham's existing links with India and forming new partnerships both in the UK and India.

## CONNECT WITH US!

 @UOB\_India

 University of Birmingham India Institute

 [www.birmingham.ac.uk/indiainstitute](http://www.birmingham.ac.uk/indiainstitute)

 [UoBIndia@contacts.bham.ac.uk](mailto:UoBIndia@contacts.bham.ac.uk)

# CELEBRATING OUR

# OUTSTANDING ACHIEVEMENTS



Staff from across the University came together in February to celebrate the Birmingham University Awards for Tremendous Achievement (BUAFTAs).

Shortlisted nominees and guests gathered in the Great Hall to celebrate the outstanding achievements and contributions of Birmingham Professional staff and teams. The evening was hosted by Rachel New, UoB alumna, and radio presenter, and guests were entertained with a Musical themed extravaganza including a performance by the Guild Music Theatre Group.

In addition to celebrating staff success, the BUAFTAs support local charities through the BUAFTA raffle. BUAFTAs 2018 are supporting life-changing transplant research at the University of Birmingham. The raffle raised more £5,040 for this vital work that is bringing together partners to advance transplant science and ultimately save lives.



## CONGRATULATIONS TO...



### NEWCOMER OF THE YEAR

★★★★★

**Anna Chrystal**

**School of Geography, Earth and Environmental Sciences**

Since joining the Lapworth Museum, Anna has delivered an education programme that has engaged over 2,700 school pupils and developed public engagement programmes, including family fun-days, holiday activities and outreach sessions.

★★★★★

**Commendation:**

**Sarah Wood, Hospitality and Accommodation Services**



### TEAM PLAYER OF THE YEAR

★★★★★

**Laura Harpham**

**Contact Team, Admissions Office**

Laura is unfailingly positive, hard-working and optimistic. She is a shining example of someone who not only 'goes the extra mile' but also ensures that others are motivated to go there as well.

★★★★★

**Commendation:**

**Daniel Philips, Academic Services**



### THE ACADEMICS' CHOICE AWARD

★★★★★

**Gavin David James Harper**

**College of Engineering and Physical Sciences**

Gavin has been the heartbeat of the Energy Institute and the point of contact for many outside the institution. He was instrumental in the development of Energy Capital and is now helping drive the creation of Energy Innovation Zones.

★★★★★

**Commendation:**

**Jennifer Jennings, Life and Environmental Sciences**



### THE STUDENT EXPERIENCE AWARD

★★★★★

**Jessica Cooper**

**Development and Alumni Relations Office**

As Scholarship Coordinator, Jessica does an outstanding job of looking after the Lloyds Scholars students. The relationship Jessica has with each of the scholars is tremendous, with students regularly citing her as an important part of their student experience.

★★★★★

**Commendation:**

**Ricky Joseph, Academic Services**



### TEAM OF THE YEAR

★★★★★

#### Business Engagement

The Business Engagement team have delivered a step change in the ability of the University to collectively prioritise, manage and benefit from relationships with key industrial and business partners. The team have helped to more than double research awards since 2013.



### UNsung HERO

★★★★★

#### James Nolan Estates

At the end of July, James reached his 50th year of employment at the University. He has provided the University with a lifetime of service and has always got stuck into his job and had a positive attitude.



### PRINCIPAL'S AWARD

★★★★★

#### University Sport & Fitness Centre Project Team

The Project team, comprising colleagues from across the University, worked tirelessly and enthusiastically to ensure the successful opening of the new centre, and provide an outstanding facility for students, staff and the community.



### CUSTOMER SERVICE AWARD

★★★★★

#### Ceridwen Keeping Development and Alumni Relations Office

Ceri epitomises customer service in everything she does. She has been in the Qatar region to promote the University's fundraising efforts, however she has not only supported her own function but gone out of her way to support all University endeavours.

★★★★★

**Commendation:**  
Catherine Coltman,  
College of Arts and Law



### BIRMINGHAM PROFESSIONAL OF THE YEAR

★★★★★

#### Monica Guise Post, Portering and Transport Services

Monica was named 30th in Green Fleets 100 most influential people in transport sustainability. She is always willing to help and grow talent and has a real passion for nurturing those that at times have felt undervalued.



### CONTINUED EXCELLENCE AWARD

★★★★★

#### Jacqueline Hawkins College of Medical and Dental Sciences

Jackie provides sustained excellence to colleagues in the Institute of Immunology and Immunotherapy. She cares tremendously about the academics in her Institutes and is a keen networker within the College, always happy to help everyone connect.



### VICE-CHANCELLOR'S AWARD

★★★★★

#### The Open Day Team External Relations

Over the last two years, attendance at open days has increased dramatically and the Open Day Team's hard work has ensured that visitor satisfaction ratings have remained high with typically 94–96% of visitors rating the event as 'good' or 'excellent'.



FOR FURTHER DETAILS  
ON THIS YEAR'S BUAFTAS VISIT

[WWW.INTRANET.BIRMINGHAM.AC.UK/BUAFTAS](http://WWW.INTRANET.BIRMINGHAM.AC.UK/BUAFTAS)

# Research [IN FOCUS]



In this edition, we bring you impactful research from the Colleges of Medical and Dental Sciences and Arts and Law.

## IMPROVING CLINICAL TRIALS: ASSESSING THE IMPACT OF TREATMENT ON PATIENT QUALITY OF LIFE

Professor Melanie Calvert (Institute of Applied Health Research) is influencing change to improve clinical trials by assessing the impact that treatment has on patients' quality of life.

Clinical trials aim to provide robust estimates of both the benefits and risks of healthcare interventions, by comparing them to standard care or a placebo.

Patient-reported outcomes (PROs) are increasingly assessed within clinical trials using questionnaires completed by patients. These questionnaires seek to capture the patient's opinion on the impact of their disease and treatment on their life. They are used to inform future patients about the potential symptoms or quality of life they may experience on a particular therapy, thereby helping individual patients and their clinicians choose the best treatment for them. This is particularly important in addressing patient questions such as 'how am I likely to feel on this treatment?'

Patient-reported outcomes are often selected as primary, secondary or exploratory outcomes within clinical trials as they provide the patients' unique perspective on the physical, functional and psychological consequences of treatment and the degree and impact of disease symptoms.

If captured in a scientifically rigorous way, the patient-reported outcome results

can provide valuable evidence to inform shared-decision making, labelling claims, clinical guidelines and health policy. However, evidence suggests that PRO content of clinical trial protocols is often suboptimal.

The Centre for Patient Reported Outcomes Research (CPROR) at the University of Birmingham aims to address this issue and optimise the use of PROs in clinical trials and routine care, to improve service delivery, enhance patient care and outcomes and ensure that the patient perspective is at the heart of health research and NHS decision-making.

In February, members of the CPROR and international collaborators, funded by Macmillan Cancer Support, published new international guidelines providing recommendations for items that should be addressed and included in clinical trial protocols in which PROs are a primary or key secondary outcome.

Improved design of clinical trials including PROs will help ensure high-quality data to inform patient-centered care. We encourage use and uptake of the new guidance by researchers, funders, ethics committees, journal editors and patient partners involved in the co-design of research to endorse and improve the quality of PRO data from trials and maximise the benefits to patients.

## EASING THE PAIN OF DEATH BEFORE BIRTH

Led by Dr Danielle Fuller (Department of English Literature), this interdisciplinary project is focusing on people in England who have experienced miscarriage, termination for fetal anomaly and stillbirth.

It examines how they reach decisions concerning what happens to their baby after death, how their perceptions of the law impact on their decision-making, and how they communicate their experiences and choices to those there to support them.

The project is also examining existing guidance on what happens to babies after they have died, investigating how professionals interpret it in practice and the extent to which it takes account of the views, experiences and needs of the bereaved.

From a linguistic standpoint, this project is paying careful attention not just to what the bereaved and those who support them say, but how they use words and actions, particularly the use of figurative language, to express complex and difficult emotions.

The reports and articles that arise from the project will contribute to the training of support workers and will inform and improve government policy, including revisions to the Human Tissue Authority's guidelines, and pave the way to improved care pathways for people who have faced pregnancy and baby loss.

For more information on this project, please visit:  
<https://deathbeforebirthproject.org>





# Advancing Spinal Research

The Centre of Precision Rehabilitation for Spinal Pain (CPR Spine) is a research centre, led by Professor Deborah Falla and Dr Alison Rushton, which aims to identify personalised management approaches for back and neck pain, taking into consideration the multidimensional nature of pain.

The Centre, which opened in December 2016, boasts state-of-the-art facilities and multidisciplinary expertise in physiotherapy, osteopathy, anatomy, neurophysiology and bioengineering. CPR Spine is also home to postgraduate educational and research programmes, supporting the next generation of clinicians and researchers.

*Buzz* spoke to Dr Nicola Heneghan and Andy Sanderson from the CPR Spine Patient and Public Involvement (PPI) team about a common problem that is likely to affect us all at some point in our lives.

## How many people are affected, globally and in the UK, by back and neck pain?

Back pain is the number one cause of disability worldwide, with neck pain fourth. Current estimates suggest that over 632 million people worldwide experience back pain, and over 332 million experience neck pain. In the UK it is thought that up to 33% of the adult population (~17.3 million people) experience back pain each year and 13.6% (7.1 million) experience neck pain. The prevalence of back and neck pain is rising, attributable to, amongst other things longer life expectancy, sedentary behaviours and obesity.

## Who are the most likely to be affected by back or neck pain?

Most people would struggle to say that they have never been affected at least once. However, there are factors that increase risk, from lack of regular exercise, obesity, injury and pregnancy, to occupational demands like lifting, sustained postures and inappropriate workstation designs.

## What is the economic impact of back pain and costs to the individual and society?

The healthcare costs of back pain alone are estimated to cost the NHS £2.8 billion per year, but as it causes 3.51 million lost working days per year, the economic impact far outweighs this. Workplace Wellbeing tell us that here at the University there are, on average, 1,200 sick days per year for back pain/sciatica, which is actually below the 1,500 days average for the higher education sector.

## Why is the management of pain so complex?

Back and neck pain are multidimensional in nature with physical, psychological and sociological factors all contributing, to a greater or lesser degree, to an individual patient's presentation.

## Why have you decided to set up the CPR Spine Register?

We have created the CPR Spine Register to enable us to actively involve individuals whom our research is intended to benefit. This may be through shaping our research at the design stage by joining our dedicated Patient and Public Involvement group, by supporting the communication of new research findings and rehabilitation to those whom it matters most, and where eligible, participate in projects using our state-of-the-art equipment using advanced assessment techniques. The vision is to improve our understanding of a range of painful conditions and optimise management.

## Why is it important to involve people in shaping research and future treatments?

The best way for us to be successful is by involving those who our research aims to benefit. Listening to individual stories, ideas and views helps us to plan for and design research projects that will help to create new knowledge and understanding.

## How can staff get involved?

CPR Spine is keen to hear from University staff (and their friends and family!) who are affected by a back or neck pain and would like to be part of our journey. It's easy to join the Register – please send us an email on [cprspineregister@contacts.bham.ac.uk](mailto:cprspineregister@contacts.bham.ac.uk)

## What's the most impressive piece of equipment that the Centre has?

We are privileged to have access to a range of impressive equipment, one of our newest pieces of equipment is a functional testing device called the 'Primus' from BTETM. This device is a favourite because it is so versatile that it allows us to test a wide range of tasks within the laboratory setting. With an array of different attachments, we are able to test a person's functional capacity during everything from tennis serves to kicking, from picking up a ball from the ground to using a screwdriver.



For more information on the research that we do at CPR Spine please contact [CPRspine@contacts.bham.ac.uk](mailto:CPRspine@contacts.bham.ac.uk), and if you have back or neck pain and wish to join the CPR Spine Register please contact us on [CPRspineregister@contacts.bham.ac.uk](mailto:CPRspineregister@contacts.bham.ac.uk)

# LIFE-SAVING STUDENTS

FOUR UNIVERSITY OF BIRMINGHAM MEDICAL STUDENTS HAVE BEEN AWARDED WITH THE VICE-CHANCELLOR'S SPECIAL COMMENDATION AWARD FOR SAVING A PERSON'S LIFE.

Speaking at the award reception, Vice-Chancellor, Professor Sir David Eastwood said:

*'I am delighted to present to Claudia, Jessica, Rebecca and Alix the Vice-Chancellor's Special Commendation Award. Their training has enabled these four young women to do something remarkable; to save someone's life. For Kate and her family their actions turned tragedy into happiness. They have shown themselves to be worthy of becoming doctors; for, as the Talmud says: "to save a single life is to save the world entire".'*



IMAGE left to right: Claudia Conroy, Rebecca Reed, Kate Thomas, Vice-Chancellor, Jess Davies, Alix Wood

In November, Claudia Conroy, Jessica Davies, Rebecca Reed and Alix Wood were guests at a party, when another guest, Kate Thomas, a student at the University of Sheffield, collapsed.

Claudia, Jessica, Rebecca and Alix acted promptly to establish that Kate's heart had stopped beating, and, working as a team, they put their resuscitation training into practice: Jessica and Claudia undertook cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR), while Rebecca phoned for an ambulance and Alix tended to a very distressed guest and then accompanied Kate to hospital and waited with her until her mother arrived.

When Kate's mother got to the Queen Elizabeth Hospital cardiologists told her that had it not been for the prompt actions and skills of the medical students, Kate was unlikely to have survived.

Three months later, Kate was fit and well enough to attend the award ceremony, which took place at the Vice-Chancellor's office to thank the students for their actions in saving her life, and to commend their skill, dedication and professionalism.

That Kate is alive today is not a matter of chance; the effectiveness of Claudia and Jessica's resuscitation was not a matter of chance. The world-leading resuscitation training they've received at the University of Birmingham enabled them that evening to put their training into practice when it mattered most.

## RMD AT BIRMINGHAM

The four are among the latest in a long line of students to receive basic life support training, training that began 23 years ago.

In 1995, Jon Hulme was a young medical student (Jon is now a consultant in critical care and anaesthetics and a pre-hospital care specialist at City hospital). He, along with fellow fourth-year medical students Hannah Shore and Gavin Perkins, approached Professor Julian Bion to suggest that rather than delivering basic life support training in a lecture theatre, it might be more effective to train students practically. And so began the training programme that, to date, has involved more than 800 students in the Resuscitation for Medical Disciplines (RMD) basic life support (BLS) training delivery, and which now equips over 700 people each year with the skills they need to perform life-saving resuscitation procedures.

Today, Jon remains integral to the training, and under his guidance, teams of medical students instruct, test and organise basic life support (BLS) training for students studying on the University's eight healthcare courses. So successful has the Birmingham programme been, that last year RMD set up its first centre outside Birmingham at the University of Bristol, and also successfully assisted the University of Manchester in setting up its BLS training programme.

In addition to teaching students, RMD embodies one of the founding principles of our University: our civic responsibility. Each year RMD teaches members of the public at University open days and community days. They have taught at Birmingham's New Street Station and at the V Festival, as well as regularly teaching in secondary schools in the West Midlands – they have even taught the contractors working on the new Sports Centre and Library!



# UOB DUBAI

Our new campus development in Dubai marks the latest phase in the University of Birmingham's global expansion and provides an opportunity to pursue our international ambitions in line with our strategic framework. As well as generating income and enhancing our reputation, the new campus builds on our extensive international research collaborations, distance learning courses, and well-established international teaching activities in Singapore and China.

University of Birmingham Dubai will provide opportunities for students to study on a range of undergraduate and postgraduate programmes. Initially, these will include Business, Economics, Computer Science, Mechanical Engineering, and Primary and Secondary Teacher Education, with further programmes to be offered from 2019.

As a member of the elite Russell Group of UK universities, which includes Oxford and Cambridge, we are the first to open a campus in the international education hub of Dubai. By bringing a first-rate education system to Dubai, we have aligned our vision with local agendas including UAE Vision 2021 and the Dubai Plan 2021, and have formed collaborative partnerships with the Ministry of Happiness, Ministry of Education and the Dubai Government.

The Vice-Chancellor, Professor Sir David Eastwood, officially opened the campus in February, accompanied by partners from Dubai International Academic City (DIAC), Knowledge and Human Development Authority (KHDA) and University of Birmingham colleagues. It was a unique event to celebrate the considerable progress made so far and to reflect on the opportunities presented by the venture. It was very well received in media across the UAE and it certainly went a long way in raising the international profile of the new campus.

Applications are now coming and in we will be welcoming our first cohort of students to the Phase 1 campus in September 2018. Located at DIAC, this impressive building can hold up to 360 students and will remain open until we move to our Phase 2 development. Phase 2 will be a purpose-built, full-size university campus that will hold up to 4,500 students and is also located on DIAC, near to accommodation options, transport links and of course, Costa.

We will be offering a number of fully funded scholarships as

well as part-funded awards to outstanding students from around the world. We're committed to ensuring that all students have the opportunity to realise their potential regardless of social or economic status. We're also working closely with colleagues across the University to develop and implement support systems to ensure we provide the same high standard of student experience as we do in the UK.

The local team is growing steadily with Ben Bailey taking over Campus Operations earlier this year and Professor Glyn Watson (pictured above) accepting the position of Provost.

*'It is a great honour to be appointed as the first Dubai Provost and to join at such an exciting time for the University of Birmingham Dubai. I am looking forward to taking up my post in April and one of my first priorities will be to develop the UoB Dubai Strategy, which will set out how we will deliver our vision for teaching and research. The Dubai Campus has quality at its heart; from our rigorous quality assurance measures to high-standard learning spaces and our online learning content to our student services development.'*

As Professor Watson prepares to move out to Dubai this month, his thoughts will be turning to the future aspirations of the UAE and the University of Birmingham and how we will contribute to the region's growing economy:

*'The UAE, itself, is a country that has come an awful long way, in a very short space of time; and as it looks to its own future, it is relying on institutions like Birmingham to help it grow the intellectual capital that will be so crucial to the next steps in its development. In this sense, the Dubai campus is very much in keeping with the ambitions of the University's original founders'; a civic University which makes a real social and economic contribution to the city and region in which it was based.'*



# transforming OUR campus

## Green Heart

Part of the Green Heart is now open, following the completion of the first phase of the redevelopment of University Square. The area near to the Arts Building has new benches, completed paving and new lighting, as well as newly planted trees – just a handful of the 160 that are due to be planted as part of this project.

The second phase of University Square is now underway, in the area close to Staff House. Temporary pathways and ramps have been installed to maintain access. This phase will complete in June, leading to the full reopening of University Square to take place in time for the warmer weather.

For more details, follow [@uobgreenheart](#) on Twitter, or check out the blog at [uobgreenheart.com](#). If you have any questions, drop the team a line on [greenheart@contacts.bham.ac.uk](mailto:greenheart@contacts.bham.ac.uk).

## Teaching and Learning Building

Plans are now underway for a purpose-built Teaching and Learning Building at the heart of campus. A hub for education, the facility will provide a state-of-the-art teaching and social study space to support the modern learning experience at Birmingham.

Adjacent to the new library, the building will provide excellent access for students with a diverse range of needs and preferences, consisting of:

- A 500-seat lecture theatre
- A 250-seat interactive lecture theatre
- Ten seminar rooms for 30 students at a time
- Learning spaces for several hundred students, which will include areas for individual study, collaborative group work and creative break-out sessions
- A café



Teaching and Learning Building

## School of Engineering

Some new artistic impressions of the School of Engineering development are now available and give an idea of the building, which is due to commence in the coming months.



Artist's impression of the School of Engineering development



Artist's impression of the School of Engineering development



# EdTech:

# lessons learned from teaching students online

As one of the largest providers of distance and blended learning programmes in the United Kingdom, the University's commitment to develop the range and availability of online programmes is underpinned by the global community we serve.

As students from the initial cohorts for the Online MBA, Online MSc International Business and Online Masters of Public Administration submit their final dissertations, our staff have been reflecting upon their own experiences of teaching students in this type of environment.

Having had a major input developing both the Online MBA and Online MSc International Business – and with previous experience teaching online – Dr Michael Shulver (Director, Online Content, Online MBA and Online MSc International Business), and Dr Roshan Boojihawon (Director, Online MSc International Business), have been discussing their evolving approaches to teaching from behind a computer screen:

*'It is pointless using precious interaction time for "chalk and talk" lecturing,'* explains Dr Shulver.

*'Inspired by the experience of teaching 100% online – and by gaming – I realised that there were opportunities to move students from passive video consumption*

*to more active modes of asynchronous study. These days most of my videos are interactive and contain questions or prompts that move students into a more active mode of learning.'*

With technology aiding the delivery of teaching materials, you may assume this reduces overall input from staff. However, developing one module alone will take 24 weeks – three times longer than they take to run and, when 'live' with students, the programmes require careful monitoring too. Dr Boojihawon highlights the versatility of the work and its usefulness to campus-led programmes:

*'The sheer preparation for online teaching also means that you have a lot of materials which can be translated back for campus purposes too. So there is a natural overlap which becomes quite beneficial.'*

*'There's an increased sense of accountability and more demand to stay relevant with your teaching,'* explains Dr Boojihawon. *'As online interactions are permanent, I'm more active in ensuring materials are timely and appropriate.'*

*'Ideas are there "forever",'* adds Dr Shulver. *'They become a matter of record – as does my correspondence with students. Online teaching gives you nowhere to hide and that's fine – I enjoy the pressure – but it means that more precision is required.'*

All three postgraduate degrees were developed and launched at the same time in 2015. Their mode of delivery – 100% online – marked a significant step-change in the provision and delivery of distance learning in the United Kingdom.

Reflecting upon their digital teaching approach, Dr Shulver and Dr Boojihawon offer the following advice for anyone thinking about this mode of delivery:

1. Whilst using existing content is easy, slim it down to the essentials. People who choose to study online are generally time-poor so don't give your students ten journal articles to read in a week.
2. Curate content so that students can find things easily. If they only need to look at certain sections of a textbook chapter, tell them what they are and where to find them.
3. Relate to students and affirm what they are saying in an explicit way: interact through the screen. It's so important because you can't rely on body language.
4. Reorient your mindset to have a different approach for teaching online. If you're still working with the face-to-face style, it will be your biggest handicap.
5. Maintain your relationship with materials and content as this isn't over once you've designed and launched them. Your ideas get tested with a live online audience, so be ready to engage and acknowledge the strengths of what you are trying to say – along with the weaknesses, too.
6. Be prompt – a response within 24 hours is already getting late. It's not always easy to meet that expectation.

## LEARN MORE

Please contact the Distance Learning Admissions Team via:  
[onlineadmissions@contacts.bham.ac.uk](mailto:onlineadmissions@contacts.bham.ac.uk) | +44 (0)800 032 7101 | @UoB\_Online  
 or visit: <https://hub.birmingham.ac.uk>

## CAMPUS CURIOSITIES

### What is it?

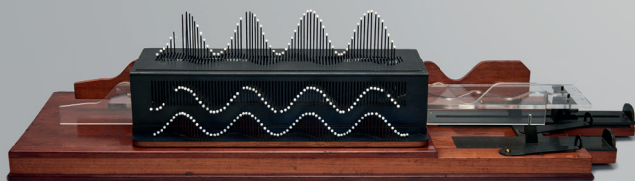
Wheatstone Wave Machine, made by John Newman, mid-1850s. Historic Physics Collection, Research and Cultural Collections

### Where is it?

Rotunda Gallery, Aston Webb Building (if used as part of the exhibition) OR Historic Physics Collection Museum, Poynting Building

Wheatstone's Wave Machine uses undulating beads to show how light travels in a wave formation. The machine's inventor, Sir Charles Wheatstone (1802–1875), developed a number of fantastical 'philosophical toys', which visualise un-seeable natural phenomenon, patterns and theories.

The machine demonstrates the motion of a wave in perceptible spatial dimensions. The mesmerising fluidity



of the mechanical wave is a persuasive suggestion of wave theory's legitimacy, of its naturalness in the physical world.

The machine contains metal rods, tipped with white balls. These rods are moved up and down, or from side to side, by wooden sliders. As the sliders are pushed through the machine they generate travelling waves on the white balls. To a physicist, the machine shows the nature of polarised light and can demonstrate how different waves can be combined.

About 30 machines were made in London in the 1850s. The wave-theory of light had only come to be accepted in the scientific community in the previous few decades; these models were devised to help in understanding and explaining the theory.

As well as illustrating wave motion, the Wheatstone Wave Machine exposes the elegant workings of the scientific world, where so often things can be known but not seen.

### Learn more

The Wheatstone Wave Machine was an inspiration to artist-in-residence, Ian Andrews. The machine is on display, along with Andrews' artworks, in the exhibition *The Sketchbook and the Collider*. The exhibition is in the Rotunda Gallery, Aston Webb Building from 12 March–4 May 2018.

You can also find out more about the exhibition on our blog: <http://rcc-redmarley.tumblr.com>

## Chancellor's column

For the third time since they were instituted, the University of Birmingham was awarded a Queen's Anniversary prize for Higher Education this year. There are only 21 institutions which receive this award every two years. This time the University of Birmingham received the prize for its contribution to making railways around the world safer and more efficient. The University's Centre for Railway Research and Education (BCRRE), headed by Professor Sir Clive Roberts, is one of the University's centres of excellence with the added advantage of Birmingham being the only university in the country to have its own functioning railway station – the 116th busiest in the country!!

Winning an award such as this is not only a matter of great pride for the whole University family but is an inspiration to aspire and achieve in the future.

The award was presented by His Royal Highness the Prince of Wales at a ceremony at Buckingham Palace. Also present was Her Royal Highness the

Princess Royal in her role as a university Chancellor.

A week later, Princess Anne visited the University of Birmingham to open our state-of-the-art Sports & Fitness Centre, which also features the city of Birmingham's first 50-metre Olympic length pool. It was so appropriate for Her Royal Highness to open the centre as an international athlete herself, being the first member of the royal family to be an Olympian, taking part in the Olympics alongside our very own Pro-Vice-Chancellor Myra Nimmo, an Olympian herself!

It is remarkable that the Sports Centre, within a few months of its opening, is being used by over 20,000 people, including students, staff and the local community – members of the public as well as school children. This clearly demonstrates the huge demand that has existed for such a facility, which is led by Zena Woodridge OBE, our Director of Sport.



Looking ahead, the Sports Centre will be the venue for Squash in the 2022 Commonwealth Games and the University will also be the venue for Hockey.

The beginning of 2018 has been such a celebration of excellence and achievement for our wonderful institution. *Lord Bilimoria is the founder and chairman of Cobra Beer, Chancellor of the University of Birmingham and the founding Chairman of the UK India Business Council.*



# news+views

Our regular feature gives *Buzz* readers a quick tour of the latest University news hitting the headlines and activity among our online community.

If you would like to work with the press office, or find out more about how they can help you promote your research, email [pressoffice@contacts.bham.ac.uk](mailto:pressoffice@contacts.bham.ac.uk) or call 0121 414 6029

## in the news...

Many articles about Birmingham research and expertise appear in local, national and international press every day. Here are just a few examples of our recent highlights.

Dr Katherine Brown appeared on BBC Radio 4's *Women's Hour*, discussing ISIS and women fighting on the frontline. Meanwhile, Professor Fiona de Londras spoke to BBC Radio 4's *The Briefing Room* about the legal implications of stripping someone of their citizenship.

**A study involving Professor Philip Newsome and Professor Gideon Hirschfield revealed how a new scanning technology could almost halve the number of liver biopsies carried out on people with fatty liver diseases featured in science and international media.**

Dr Amaury Triaud's research into distant planets harbouring water covered by BBC Radio 5 Live, *The Independent*, *Metro*, *Daily Mail*, *The Sun*, *the Daily Mirror* and Yahoo! UK & Ireland, *USA Today*, *the Saudi Gazette*, *Sohu* (China) *Gulf Today* (UAE) and *The Hindu* among others.

**Dr Anne Van Loon wrote an article on Cape Town's water science for *The Observer* and *the Guardian*, whilst Dr Stephan Lautenschlager's research into the evolution of turtles' brains was covered by *India Blooms*, *Schattenblick* (Germany) and *Iran Daily*.**

More than 130 regional and national media outlets reported on research led by Professor Peymane Adab which showed that schools cannot alone be the solution to the childhood obesity epidemic.

**There was widespread media coverage of research involving Professor Nick Loman, Dr Andrew Beggs and PhD student Josh Quick which saw the human genome being sequenced for the first time using a pocket-sized device.**

Dr Kashif Rajpoot's involvement in the development of a new autism test was covered by the *Daily Mail*, *the Guardian*, *the Daily Mirror*, *The Independent*, and MSN UK, whilst Professor Neil Thomas's work exploring physical activity as a means of preventing diabetes was covered by the *Malay Mail* and *Manila Informer* (Malaysia), among others.

**The launch of our India Institute was covered by the *Hindustan Times* and Pro-Vice-Chancellor (International) Professor Robin Mason spoke to BBC Radio WM about the venture.**

A study led by Dr Victoria Goodyear and Professor Kathleen Armour shedding new light on teenagers' reactions to posts on social media being covered by various media, including *The Daily Mail*, *The Daily Telegraph*, and *Times Education Supplement*, as well as *Which School Advisor* (Dubai), *Arabia News* (Saudi) and *China Daily*.

## Join the UoB online community

Follow us on Twitter at @unibirmingham. If you use social media at work and would like to increase your visibility, find out more at: [intranet.birmingham.ac.uk/socialmediaguidelines](http://intranet.birmingham.ac.uk/socialmediaguidelines)



## feeling social...

Wednesday, March 8 was International Women's Day and staff, students and alumnae shared their day using the hashtag #UoBWomen.

We coordinated a series of content to share across our social media channels throughout the day, to highlight the diverse experiences of the University's women. For Twitter, these included quick videos where academics and the Guild's Women's Officer shared who their inspiration is and answered the question, if they could change one thing for women across the world, what would it be? We also posted facts about interesting women through history used together with images taken from the Cadbury Research Library.

On Facebook, we celebrated the day with a Throwback Thursday image of the first President of the Guild of Students, a Birmingham Brief and supporting video from Professor of Democracy Nic Cheeseman and an inspirational message from a cancer immunology research scientist who shared a selfie of herself in the lab.

A YouTube playlist was also shared, featuring women from across campus – from alumni and current students, to the work of our Birmingham Heroes.

## Kiran Trehan... in my own words



Professor Kiran Trehan is Professor of Leadership and Enterprise Development in Birmingham Business School, Academic Director for External Engagement and Co-Director of The Enterprise and Diversity Alliance (EDA).

“ I grew up in the East End of London. At school, my favourite subject was English literature. I was intrigued by the work of Shakespeare and it still resonates with me in my current work because of its relevance to leadership and diversity. The surrounding areas, where I went to school, have changed so much over the years, which is great to see; it’s much more socially and culturally diverse now. I studied at Lancaster University where I went on to do my Masters and PhD, and later was lucky enough to go back, but as a senior member of faculty, which was a little surreal as I was then working with the very people who had taught me! I moved to the University of Birmingham in 2012.

As my academic career developed, my research interests focused on entrepreneurship, diversity and leadership in small firms. These interests coalesce around the theme of inclusive and engaged entrepreneurship, including exploring the connection between diversity, enterprise and social and economic development. I am also particularly interested in ideas related to engaged scholarship and impact. By this I mean exploring how ideas emerging from research can be tested with policy-makers, the business community and entrepreneurs in ‘real-time’. This ensures that the research generates academically rigorous and actionable knowledge that can be applied in a variety of organisational and policy domains. The research addresses the concerns of practitioners, policy-makers and academics by converting insight into effective action, policy initiatives and sustainable impact.

I feel a strong connection between my interests and the University’s own, very clear civic mission. One of the most exciting parts of this is our commitment to address regional, national and global challenges in relation to social, economic and community development. Equality, diversity and race underpin much of the University’s research, with each college uniquely illuminating and tackling inequality to ensure we have a more inclusive society.

Locally, our role in helping shape and develop society has never been more important. We know that, although the population of the West Midlands is diverse, diversity is not reflected in the region’s leadership. The Mayor, Andy Street, under his cohesion and integration strategy, has launched the West Midlands Combined Authority (WMCA) Leadership Commission. My colleague, Professor Phillimore and I were asked to lead the work to examine the state of leadership in the region and the factors that shape the diversity of leadership across a range of sectors, including our own university.

Working with our universities, professional services, public services, creative industries and small firms, we have been collecting evidence to look at the current state of leadership and some of the interventions that have been implemented to improve opportunities for people from under-represented communities and groups. This is such an important project because, like the Race Equality Charter (REC), it is helping to ensure the leadership of the future is representative of the region it serves.

To influence and have impact, we need to ‘walk the talk’. Our work towards the REC Award demonstrates further our commitment to equality. It is a genuine opportunity to reflect and engage on the experiences of staff and students, and our relationship with our local community. For it to make a difference and have long-term impact, we need everyone’s involvement. My message to colleagues, students and our wider stakeholder community is if diversity and race equality matter to you then get involved, your voice is essential if we are to create an inclusive workplace.

Initiatives like Win:Win, Athena Swan, and the REC demonstrate that when you create a space and a voice for collective action to engage, critique and influence the future, transformation can start. However, in recognising our commitment to more inclusive processes and practices, I also recognise that this is a work in progress. Inclusion matters, and in universities innovation takes place; the current political, economic, social and policy environment provides clear imperatives for more inclusive workplaces. The University, through initiatives like the REC is developing systems, infrastructure and a culture to facilitate and grasp new opportunities. This requires us to move away from isolated or episodic initiatives to collective institutional action that addresses what has created – and continues to create – inequality. To quote our mission statement, this requires us to be ‘persuasive, persistent and bold, and empower people to turn ingenuity into reality to make important things happen’.

One of the most inclusive activities you can do outside of work to keep fit and healthy is running; it requires no equipment and can be done anywhere. I stumbled into running after taking part in a charity run with some friends. It’s also very rewarding – there’s something exhilarating about running, not just because it pushes me physically, but there are also emotional payoffs. On the days when I have to force myself to get out there, I always come back feeling a little more optimistic, ready to tackle the next opportunity or challenge. ”