

Department of
Psychiatry



Medical Sciences Division



UNIVERSITY OF
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Department of Psychiatry Annual Report 2023



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The Department of Psychiatry's mission is to conduct world-class research, teach psychiatry to medical students, develop future researchers, support doctors in training, promote excellence in clinical practice, and develop and provide innovative clinical services. The Department is committed to the translation of scientific discovery into benefits for patients.

From the Head of Department



2023 has been a productive and busy year. I have visited many research groups and each is doing exciting and important work. The [Oxford Health Biomedical Research Centre \(BRC\)](#) is at full speed, having celebrated its one year anniversary and the [UK Mental Health Mission](#) has launched.

There have been several spectacular showcase events, including the Oxford Neuroscience Symposium and our away day at St Catherine's College. I have been blown away by the breadth and quality of our neuroscience research. I really enjoyed hearing from early career researchers and students as well as more senior staff and making new connections.

We continue to work hard to make the Department a place people want to come to work in and stay. We have celebrated the diversity of our team through our themed months and have been busy delivering on the key actions and recommendations from the anti-bullying and harassment reports that we commissioned last year. We are continuing to

analyse the results of this year's staff survey but early indications suggest improvement on 2021 for the Department, and that we are doing much better than the divisional and university averages in key areas. As we get more data, we will continue to make changes to make the Department as inclusive and welcoming as possible and we are committed to addressing any areas identified for improvement.

Celebrating our work and raising our profile has been a further area of focus. The university's [Brain and Mental Health campaign](#) saw a spotlight on the work of the Department. We distributed our first ever alumni mailing, money raised from which enabled us to support Early Career Researchers (ECRs) to develop their careers by attending and showcasing their work at major academic conferences.

We have had substantial donations to support the [Brainwaves project](#), improving mental health in schools, and a single large philanthropic donation that enabled us to appoint two new [Brain Science Fellowships](#) to Sana Suri and Andrea Reinecke. They were selected from an incredibly competitive field of applicants.

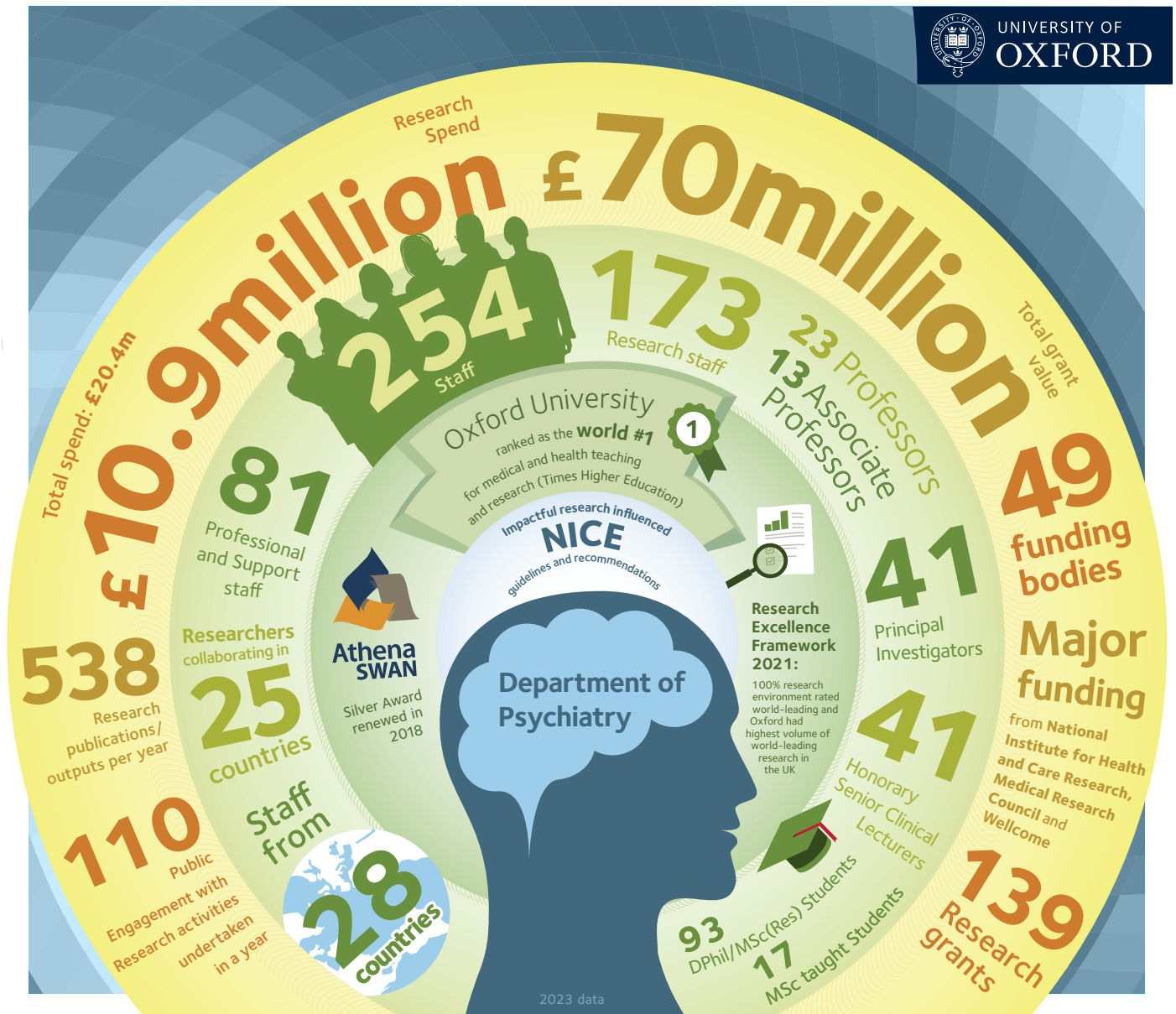
This year we said goodbye to the amazing Moira Westwood, as she moved to our sister Nuffield Department of Clinical Neurosciences after eight years as Head of Administration in Psychiatry. We owe her a huge debt of gratitude and to our professional support staff who are fundamental to the success of the Department.

Professor Belinda Lennox



Photo credit: Morten Kringsbach

Facts and Figures



Key appointments and staff changes

There have been 87 new starters in the Department this year, while 15 people have moved to a new role within the Department. 49 people have left with an additional 24 transferring to another Oxford department.



Naomi Wray (pictured) was appointed to the Davys Chair, **Seena Fazel** has become Director of the Centre for Suicide Research (CSR), with Keith Hawton now Emeritus Director. **Mark Woolrich** is now the Director of the Oxford Centre for Human Brain Activity (OHBA). **Husseini Manji** has joined as Professor of Psychiatry and co-chairs the Mental Health Mission led by the Oxford Health BRC. Four new Associate Professors were appointed: **Sarah Bauermeister, Ludovica Griffanti, Louise Dalton** and **Elizabeth Rapa**.

We have also seen the departures of Daniel Freeman and his O-CAP team to Experimental Psychology. Alan Stein has moved to Oxford's Blavatnik School of Government and Kia Nobre to Yale. Both are now honorary members of the Department.

From the Associate Head of Department for Research



successful outcomes, including six large awards from Wellcome.

We set up a new initiative to support Early Career Researchers by offering travel awards to attend conferences, particularly for those with caring responsibilities or other personal factors that make going to conferences more difficult.

Looking ahead, there are many exciting research developments in the pipeline for 2024.

Professor Paul Harrison

By any metric, it has been a busy and successful research year. A major development was the renewed and expanded NIHR Oxford Health BRC, which encompasses and helps support a wide range of research in the Department as well as elsewhere in Oxford and beyond until the end of 2027. However, we have not rested on our laurels.

The grants team handled 200+ applications this year – a huge amount of work, and I am grateful for all their efforts. I also thank Val West, who has expanded the research facilitation provision available with bespoke support for a wide range of funding applications. Our grant applications led to many



Photos: Department of Psychiatry/Stuart Gillespie

From the Associate Head of Department for People and Culture



handbooks', a photography day to update our Department imagery, and much more.

Thank you so much for completing the staff survey this year. The results are starting to come in and I think are a testament to the wonderful community in the Department. There is much to celebrate in these results and some areas to focus on in the coming year.

This year the People and Culture Oversight Committee and working groups have organised activities and events for menopause awareness, LGBT+ history, race equality, student wellness, neurodiversity, flexible and family working, summer wellness, academic career development, Black history, men's mental health, and reflection and gratitude.

We have been working on our action plan this year which includes new initiatives, from providing an anonymous suggestions form for Psychiatry culture ideas or concerns; the roving Head of Department scheme with Belinda attending individual group meetings across the year, the new PI peer learning meetings, the launch of the quiet room and 'lab



Coming up we have our Athena Swan Silver renewal application. This includes a focus on fixed-term contracts, how we act on bullying and harassment and staff development.

Professor Catherine Harmer

News highlights 2023



Professor Kam Bhui speaking at the Attune conference

A new [dementia risk score](#), developed by a team led by Sana Suri and Raihaan Patel, identified people at risk of developing the disease, outperforming three other widely used risk scores.

Max Taquet and Paul Harrison led the discovery of [two biomarkers](#) in Covid patients who experienced cognitive dysfunction, indicating blood clots as a possible cause.

[Two digital tools](#) developed by the TOPIC research group, led by Cathy Creswell, were recommended for use in the NHS to help children and young people with anxiety or low mood.

[A study led by Dr Vanessa Raymond](#) (pictured, below) found three or more concussions can have an impact on brain function.



Clare Mackay spoke to BBC Radio 4's Woman's Hour talking about her [lived experience of hair pulling disorder](#) and had a scientific paper published on the subject.

A major study found [beta blockers were associated with a reduction in violence](#). Led by Seena Fazel, alongside the Karolinska Institute in Sweden, researchers looked at data from 1.4m people.

Research led by Willem Kuyken's team found that [young people's mental health deteriorated](#) at greater rate during the pandemic.

A paper co-authored by Keith Hawton and Anne Stewart found viewing [self harm images](#) usually causes harm.

The [Oxwell Student Survey](#), led by Mina Fazel's team, launched looking into the mental health and wellbeing of thousands of school and college students across the country.

The [STEP \(Stratification & Treatment in Early Psychosis\) programme](#), led by Philip McGuire, has begun. It is investigating

the effectiveness of cannabidiol (CBD) in treating people with psychosis or psychotic symptoms.

[The CHiMES Collaborative's Co-Pics and Origin projects](#) publicly launched. Attune, exploring young people's mental health and adverse childhood experiences (ACEs), held its first conference. Photographs taken by participants on the Co-Pact project were exhibited in Manchester and London.



Lord Cameron's visit to DPUK

[Dementias Platform UK](#) hosted the Translation 2023 conference, the launch of the MND Accelerator, visits by Lord Cameron, former President of Alzheimer's Research UK, and a delegation from the Korean Brain institute.

Members of the NEUROSEC team will be part of a new [Wellcome research platform](#) in ethics and humanities aimed at empowering researchers to overcome barriers holding back progress in their fields of research.

The [Global Alliance for Living Evidence on aNxiety, depressiOn and pSychosis, or GALENOS](#), launched. Led by Andrea Cipriani and supported by Wellcome, it aims to make it easier for everyone to access and review scientific literature.

Awards and prizes



Michael Sharpe (pictured, centre) – Hackett Prize, Academy of Consultant-Liaison Psychiatry & American Psychiatric Association's Adolf Meyer Award.

Paul Harrison – Lifetime Achievement Award, British Association for Psychopharmacology (BAP).

Leonardo Bonetti – Marco Capogna Young Neuroscientist Prize.

Kam Bhui – Honorary Fellowship of the Royal College of Psychiatrists & Honorary Fellowship of the American College of Psychiatry.

Angharad De Cates – Communicator of the Year, British Association for Psychopharmacology.

Edward Harcourt – MBE for services to Interdisciplinary Research.

Husseini Manji – Rhoda and Bernard Sarnat International Prize in Mental Health, US National Academy of Medicine.

PETRUSHKA (Precision Psychiatry Lab) – Study of the Year, NIHR Thames Valley Health Research Awards.

Rebecca Murphy – Technological Advances Through Research Award, Academy for Eating Disorders Technology & Innovations Special Interest Group.

Kate Saunders (as part of a team led by Christopher Kowalski) – Denis O'Leary Medical Educator Award.

Keith Hawton, Deborah Casey, Elizabeth Bale and Galit Geulayov – Best paper, Child and Adolescent Mental Health Journal, ACAMH (Association for Child and Adolescent Mental Health)

This year's Clarivate Highly Cited Researchers: Andrea Cipriani, Seena Fazel, John Geddes, Paul Harrison, Willem Kuyken, Rob McCutcheon and Philip McGuire.

Fellowships and scholarships

Michael Colwell, Andreea Raslescu – Goodger and Schorstein Award (Medical Sciences Division).

Samantha Groves – Oxford-Hoffmann scholarship (Jesus College)

Kevin Matlock – Junior Research Fellowship in Social Sciences (Worcester College).



Sana Suri and **Andrea Reinecke** both won Brain Science Fellowships.

Andrea Luppi – Wellcome Early Career Award Fellowship.

Edoardo Ostinelli – Senior Hulme Scholarship (Brasenose College).

Emma Sonesson – Junior Research Fellowship (Somerville College).

Roisin Mooney – OPEN (Oxford Policy Engagement Network) Fellowship.



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