



Dear Nickname

In early March, I took over the position of Dean of School when Professor Julian Blow became Interim Vice-Principal (Academic Planning & Performance) for the University. When I assumed this role, I could not imagine that worldwide events would have a huge impact upon everyone, both personally and professionally. In the School, almost all of our lab-based research was closed down in late March. Only a small number of researchers undertaking essential maintenance or coronavirus research continued working in our labs. Our researchers began to return to the labs at the end of June to restart their work in the diverse research areas that we cover in our work. This newsletter has a strong focus on coronavirus and it's impacts.

During this time, we have lost Anthony Hope and Tricia Cohen who passed away this year. Their loss is infinitely sad and they leave a large gap in our midst, and of course an even bigger gap in their families. They will be remembered for their many important contributions to science and to the School and University.

With many good wishes

Professor Inke N  thke

Interim Dean of Life Sciences



[School of Life Sciences response to COVID-19](#)

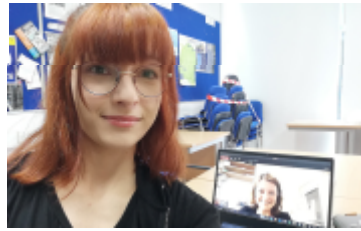
Our School is home to world-leading life science experts and many of them are now contributing towards the world effort to understand and combat the coronavirus pandemic.

None of this essential work could take place without our support staff who maintain the day-to-day activity in our research complex and have allowed our staff to return safely to the laboratories when they reopened at the end of June. Read about all the work that the School has been involved with on our dedicated [COVID-19 news page](#).



[Ian Gilbert & Miratul Muqit made new Fellows of RSE](#)

Professor Ian Gilbert, Professor of Medicinal Chemistry and Head of the Division of Biological Chemistry and Drug Discovery and Professor Miratul Muqit, Professor of Experimental Neurology and Wellcome Trust Senior Research Fellow in the MRC Protein Phosphorylation and Ubiquitylation Unit were named as new Fellows of the Royal Society of Edinburgh, Scotland's National Academy.



[Challenging academic year](#)

The academic year has been challenging for our staff and students for many reasons. Graduation for the Class of 2020 had to be cancelled but we hope to invite everyone back for a celebration when it is safe to do so. To mark their achievements, the School hosted virtual celebration events where memories and well wishes shared. Our [annual summer school](#) went online as well with twenty students undertaking well received projects.



[£7.5 million to accelerate drug discovery process](#)

Three of the world's leading pharmaceutical companies, Boehringer Ingelheim, GlaxoSmithKline and Merck KGaA, Darmstadt, Germany, have pledged £7.5 million to allow the Division of Signal Transduction Therapy (DSTT) to continue its award-winning work. This new round of funding will support dozens of posts in Dundee for the next four years and support for fundamental research in multiple therapeutic areas, including cancer, arthritis, lupus, hypertension and Parkinson's disease.

News in Brief

- Wellcome fund life sciences researchers ([Sarah Coulthurst](#), [Vicky Cowling](#), [Tomo Tanaka](#), [Susan Wyllie](#)) in multi-million pound awards.
- [Anti-malarial candidate](#) designed and developed by the **Drug Discovery Unit** progresses through first in human studies
- Spin-out company news: [funding success for Amphista Therapeutics](#) plus [TenBio](#) and [In4Derm launched](#).
- Prestigious [Future Leaders Fellowship](#) awarded to **Gabriele Schweikert**.
- The University recorded **100% course satisfaction in biosciences, pharmacology and genetics** in the [2020 National Student Survey](#).
- The School hosted its first [virtual work experience week](#) together with colleagues in Medicine. Pupils experienced a range of activities aimed at broadening their view of potentials paths of study and careers in life sciences research.
- Recent Life Sciences graduate **Conchita Fraguas Bringas** has [COVID-19 research published](#). The bioinformatics project was undertaken while completing her degree.

[Covid Stories from the SLS Community](#)

We asked members of our community what it has been like in the School experiencing all the changes due to the coronavirus pandemic? What has it been like for scientists that have refocussed to work on COVID-19? What has driven the teams undertaking this work? What has life been



like in the School for all staff and students going into the lab during lockdown and returning with new working measures?

Hear from scientists and our support staff in our [Covid Stories series](#).



Tricia Cohen

Sadly, Professor Tricia Cohen, died from lymphoma in August 2020 at the age of 76. Tricia joined the Biochemistry Department at Dundee in October 1971 alongside her husband, Philip. She was a co-founding Principal Investigator of the MRC

Protein Phosphorylation Unit in 1990 and made significant contributions to the research field of protein phosphatases. Tricia published over 120 papers on protein phosphatases between 1987 and 2015. During this period, 34 postdoctoral researchers and 17 PhD students were trained in her lab.

The early part of Tricia's research career (1973 - 1990) was undertaken part-time to allow her to spend time with her children, Suzanne, born 1974, and Simon, born 1977, while they were young. Alongside her research interests, Tricia was a keen baker, golfer and violinist. She is survived by her husband, two children and six grandchildren.

The School of Life Sciences Executive Group will be establishing a series of named lectures in her memory.

Read more about Tricia's scientific career [here](#).

Not enough news?

Find out more news from the School by visiting our news pages [here](#) or by giving us a follow on Twitter or Facebook @UoDLifeSciences

Please pass on

If you know someone who would be interested in hearing our news, please pass this email on. They can sign up to join the mailing list [here](#).

Update Your Details

From taking part in events and reunions across the world to networking with other graduates through WhatsApp, there are many ways and reasons to remain connected with your alma mater. Update your [contact details](#) to hear the latest news and ways to get involved.

Coronavirus Research Fundraising Campaign – raising funds for flexible research

As case numbers rise and restrictions are tightened, scientists globally cannot afford to slow down. They continue to work tirelessly at the forefront of the fight against COVID-19. As you have read in this newsletter, our researchers are working day and night to understand the virus better, to help develop effective testing, to contribute to the global search for a vaccine and to improve outcomes for those affected locally.

To support this vital work, we recently launched the University of Dundee Coronavirus Research Fundraising Campaign. [Here, Prof Inke N athke, Interim Dean and Associate Dean for Professional Culture, School of Life Sciences, tells us why flexible funding is important.](#)

You can find out more about our [fundraising campaign here](#).
