**Live Research**

Live research as of September 2020.

Prof Pascal McKeown, QUB

**2013\_SCD, Inherited Cardiac disease and young sudden cardiac death: Development of a comprehensive Northern Ireland Registry**

Prof McKeown was awarded £30,000.00 as part of a UK wide project to develop a common dataset for inherited cardiac conditions.

Dr Bettina Schock, QUB

**2015\_11, Modulation of persistent inflammation in asthma by drug repositioning**

Dr Bettina Schock of QUB was allocated £68,500 to analyse samples from airway cells in children with and without asthma to test the effectiveness of drugs, potentially leading to new treatments

Prof Donna Fitzsimons, QUB

**2016\_05, HEart faiLure carer support Programme: A pilot study of the HELP intervention for carers.**

Development of a supportive intervention to meet the needs of carers of people with advanced heart failure, awarded £89,595.00

Dr Diane Lees-Murdock, UU

**2016\_07, EpiRiboSH: Epigenetic Effects of Riboflavin Supplementation in a Randomised Control Trial of Hypertensive patients stratified by MTHFR genotype**

Dr Diane Less-Murdock was awarded £60,595 to examine the effects of riboflavin (Vitamin B2) supplementation on individuals who have been shown to have a specific genotype which predisposes them to high blood pressure.

Prof Frank Kee, QUB

**2017\_09 Cessation in Pregnancy Incentives Trial (CPIT): A phase III Randomised Controlled Trial**

Part of UK wide study into whether providing pregnant women with incentives helps them quit smoking, awarded £50,000.00

Dr Damian Downey, QUB

**2018\_07, Assessing Microbial, Inflammatory and Clinical Outcomes in Community Acquired Pneumonia.**

Dr Damian Downey and his team want to compare the standard tests for bacteria associated with Community-acquired pneumonia (CAP) with newer DNA tests. £60,897.00

Dr Murali Shyamsundar, QUB

**2018\_03, Pulmonary and systemic effects of hyperoxia – mechanistic study in a human in vivo model and systemic effects of hyperoxia**

This study will explore high oxygen levels and the effects of oxygen toxicity on healthy human volunteers. £40,490

Prof Donna Fitzsimons, QUB

**2018\_08 Exploratory study of the prevalence & experience of cardiac cachexia within a population of people with advanced heart failure Northern Ireland.**

This research team will measure the prevalence of cardiac cachexia for patients with heart failure, and what impact these numbers have on the services who treat them. £108,557.00

Prof Judy Bradley, QUB

**2018\_10 Airways Clearance Treatments in adults with BronchiEctasis (ACT-BE): A Northern Ireland pilot survey of patients and physiotherapists to establish current practice and plan future research.**

Prof Bradley funded to establish current practice in NI and how treatment decisions are made by physiotherapists and by people with bronchiectasis living in NI. Awarded: £72,156.00

Profs Marie Murphy and Alison Gallagher, UU (PhD study)

**2018\_002 Reducing sedentary behaviour and promoting physical activity in children aged 8-9 years: developing, feasibility and pilot testing a low-cost, multicomponent, school-based classroom intervention.**

PhD studentship - to develop an intervention to increase physical activity and reduce sedentary behaviour in 8-9 year olds in schools. £114,893.00

Prof Michael Donnelly, QUB

**2019\_06, The SHARE-D tool for lifestyle change to help prevent heart disease and stroke: Refining content and delivery to maximise implementation**

SHARE-D is a short questionnaire that can be used by health professionals and patients when they are discussing and agreeing goals that will help change health behaviours. Prof Donnelly and team want to simplify the tool that professionals will have time to use, and that patients will still benefit from. £32,933

Dr Karim Dib, QUB

**2019\_07 Do histamine and neutrophil histamine four receptor play a role in the development of resistant neutrophilic asthma?**

The study will establish whether histamine and neutrophil H4R play a role in severe asthma, and whether blocking histamine’s action at the H4R receptor would be a useful treatment for patients with severe form of resistant asthma. £58,442

Dr Noleeen McCorry, QUB

**2019\_11, Improving psychological wellbeing using Acceptance and Commitment Therapy (ACT) among stroke survivors with cognitive impairment (ImpACT Stroke): An intervention optimisation study**

Many psychological therapies are not always suitable for stroke survivors if their cognitive problems are severe. The team want to modify ACT to address this gap in need. £59,898.00

Dr Qiaozhu Su, QUB

**2019\_08, Therapeutic Effect of Fenugreek Seed in Hyperlipidemia and Cardiovascular Disease and the Establishment of Novel Therapeutic Biomarkers**

Researchers in The QUB, led by Dr Qiaozhu Su, have received funding, to study whether Fenugreek Seed could be used in the treatment of Hyperlipidemia and Cardiovascular Disease. £98,306

Dr Chris Watson, QUB

**2019\_10, Ischaemic Heart Disease: developing new diagnostic and therapeutic approaches with CLEC3B**

CLEC3B is a protein found in the heart. The researchers think that this might be linked to developing heart disease. They will look at CLEC3B and blood levels in people who have had a heart attack. They will also examine these in patients before and after they have corrective surgery to improve blood flow to the heart. £76,795.00

Prof Michael Donnelly, QUB

**2019\_04, Development of an app version of the ‘The Healthy Brain Rehabilitation Manual’ – adapting home-based cardiac rehabilitation for use in the TIA and stroke population**

‘The Healthy Brain Rehabilitation Manual’ is a home-based rehab programme for TIA and ‘minor’ stroke patients. Professor Michael Donnelly is developing an app version of the programme, called “Brain Fit”, and will test it in a pilot study with a group of local people who have had a TIA. £65,000.00

Prof Tara Moore, UU

**2019\_16, Cardiovascular risk prediction via analysis of eye vasculature**

Prof Moore and team are exploring whether the blood vessels in the eye can be used to detect heart disease. The team have already built tech that uses a photograph of the blood vessels in the eye to assess risk. The team now plan to test how well their tech predicts the risk of developing heart disease in a large group of people from across Northern Ireland. £250,000.

14 applications were received in the 2020 Grant application window, and we funded 5 (36% success rate). The following projects were funded in 2020 (and due to start in March 2021).

Dr Chris Watson, QUB

**2020- H07 Investigating novel biomarkers of cardiac arrhythmia and associated risk of stroke and heart failure**

We funded Dr Chris Watson, QUB, to study if chemicals in the blood of people with AF can be used to predict risk of stroke & heart failure. £60,418

Dr Joe Kidney, BHSCT

**2020-C03 Inflammatory responses to Epstein Barr Virus (EBV) in Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease (COPD).**

We funded Dr Joe Kidney, Belfast Trust, to study the link between Epstein Barr Virus and COPD. £79,160

Dr Laura Jane Sherrard, QUB

**2020-C05 Characterising biofilms in endotracheal tubes to direct a new strategy for preventing ventilator-associated pneumonia in critically ill adults**

We funded Dr Laura Sherrard, QUB, to study what types of bacteria grow in ventilator tubes used when treating people in intensive care. £79,535

Dr Katy Pedlow, UU

**2020-S01 Prep Plus: Supporting upper limb practice to community dwelling stroke survivors**

We funded Dr Katy Pedlow, Ulster University, to study the impact of adding arm exercises to our PREP programme. £103,575

Dr John Busby, QUB

**2020-C01 Investigating the association between biologic use, medication adherence and comorbidities in severe asthma: an analysis of linked data**

We funded Dr. John Busby, QUB, to study whether people are less likely to keep using their asthma inhalers when treated with powerful new biologic medicines. £70,485