



### UNDERGRADUATE MICROBIOLOGY PRIZE 2020

We're delighted that Alexandra Spencer, a third-year student on the Biomedical Sciences with Microbiology/ Molecular Biology programme, has been awarded and Undergraduate Microbiology Prize by the Microbiology Society. The prize is awarded to students who excel in microbiology in the second year of their Bachelor's degree and recognises Alex's continued hard work and enthusiasm. As part of the award she receives a certificate and one year's free membership of the Microbiology Society.



### SAFETY AND ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH TEAM LAUNCH SCHOOL'S FIRST DEGREE APPRENTICESHIP

In September, our School launched its first Degree Apprenticeship.

Following a year of development, culminating in the successful validation of the course by the University and the successful accreditation by the Chartered Institute of Environmental Health, the Environmental Health Degree Apprenticeship course accepted its first cohort this academic year.

Mark Hodgson, Senior Lecturer in Environmental Health, was part of the Trailblazer Group that developed the Degree Apprenticeship Standard for the new course. Mark then went on to arrange a series of very successful and well attended employer liaison events to gauge interest from employers which received enthusiasm and commitment from local businesses and, due to demand, places on the course have been limited to one per organisation.

The first cohort sees Apprentices coming to us from a range of employers based in Yorkshire and Humber, Lincolnshire, the North East and Lancashire.

Hayley Robinson-Mitchell, Course Director for Environmental Health, said: 'As a team we are very excited to be launching the Degree Apprenticeship. We must thank the University's Apprenticeship Team for all their hard work, help and guidance in helping us get to this stage. We know it will continue to be a steep learning curve and we are ready to face the challenge'.

Visit our [Degree Apprenticeship pages](#) to find out more.

### STAFF MEMBER NAMED IN TOP 2% OF SCIENTISTS IN THE WORLD

Mark Johnson, Professor of Pain Analgesia, was one of 6 colleagues, 2 Emeritus Professors and 1 Visiting Professor from across Leeds Beckett to be named among the top 2% of the world's scientists. Scientists are ranked by discipline according to the impact of their research which is measured by how often their scientific publications are cited by other academics.

Mark leads a vibrant team of students and staff interested in the science of pain and its management and was ranked in the discipline 'anaesthesiology'. On receiving the news Mark said 'It's fantastic that the impact of our team's research has been acknowledged in this way. Ever since our first Beckett publication in the early 1990s, our ethos has been to include students at the core of our research activities. The composition of our team has always been multidisciplinary and multicultural, and this has enabled us to investigate a broad spectrum of regional, national and international topics'.

### WORKING WITH THE MINISTRY OF DEFENSE

We're thrilled that the Safety and Environmental health team have successfully been awarded a Ministry of Defence bid. The bid was developed by members of the Safety and Environmental Health subject group, with the help of colleagues across the university.

As a result, Leeds Beckett will deliver the BSc (Hons) in Environmental Health Studies to military personnel in the British Army and Royal Air Force, preparing them for a career in Environmental Health.



### **MSC STUDENT TO PRESENT AT NATIONAL CHARTERED SOCIETY OF PHYSIOTHERAPY CONFERENCE**

Georgina Henry, Junior Physiotherapist at Salford Royal Foundation Trust and Leeds Beckett alumna, is due to present her findings regarding the impact of physiotherapy on individuals experiencing homelessness at the National Chartered Society of Physiotherapy (CSP) Conference (VPUK20). Georgina related her work to one of the conference themes: Aging well.

Georgina is extremely grateful to her mentor and LBU Senior Lecturer Dr Philomena Commons who assisted her with conducting the research and has continued to mentor Georgina as she began her career as a Junior Physiotherapist working within the NHS.



**Gina Henry**  
*Physiotherapist*

### **SUPPORTING DIETETICS STUDENTS TO GAIN PRACTICAL EXPERIENCE DURING COVID-19**

At the start of the pandemic in March, it left many of our students uncertain about their situation. This was true for our cohort of second year undergraduate Dietetic students who were due to go into the NHS on their practice placements in May 2020.

Like all our teaching staff, the Dietetics course team worked incredibly hard to continue their students teaching and learning up to and hoped to still enable them to engage in the placements.

In the end the decision was taken to cancel the practice placements in May of 2020 due to the rising numbers and the closing of usual services within the NHS to cope and manage the impact of COVID-19.

Undertake practice placement is a requirement to progress on the Dietetics course and, as this opportunity had gone, the team felt it was imperative to provide some placement opportunity during the same period of time, and so the 'Leeds Beckett University Hospitals Trust' was born.

Our fantastic course team cancelled all leave and created a 4-week simulated block that closely mirrored the first 4-weeks of the practice placement the students were supposed to undertake. All qualified dietitians within the team were allocated a small group of 4-5 students for them to supervise and support throughout the block and they created new resources and innovative sessions to engage the students. In addition, they liaised with practice partners for service user and patient scenarios that could be shared with the students and would enable them to begin to develop their clinical skills.

It was an intensive process and some sessions were scheduled well into the evening. The team recorded themselves consulting with service users to demonstrate the relevant skills and also arranged peer review and feedback as well as real service user conversations to give the students the closest experience possible to the real placements.

All students engaged and all progressed through the 4-weeks at their own pace and on their own learning journey. This experience received really positive feedback and evaluation and the team also benefitted from the experience and took away learning to incorporate into current modules.

The simulated placements were only possible as a result of the team giving up their annual leave and time to create opportunity for our students and as a result of the students embracing the opportunity and working alongside them.

We are extremely proud of all our students for their tenacity and engagement and extremely proud and grateful for the Nutrition and Dietetics team that stepped up under very difficult circumstances in order to offer an opportunity to our students so that they were not further disadvantaged.



### DELIVERING PHYSIOTHERAPY TO THE HOMELESS AT ST GEORGE'S CRYPT

Dr Philomena Commons from the Physiotherapy team featured on Look North on 24th August 2020 for her work at local homeless organisation, St George's Crypt. The report was based on the impact of the pandemic and the work of the crypt and other government initiatives during this time.



Phil began her work with the crypt in 2011, with an on-site weekly single physiotherapy session for the homeless. These weekly sessions treat on average around 5 clients a week and students from the School of Clinical and Applied Sciences have also been able to use the service to enhance their learning and broaden their understanding of the social nature of health. To date, 3 masters students have based their final research project on the work that takes place there.

### INEQUALITIES IN WEIGHT MANAGEMENT: WORKING WITH PUBLIC HEALTH ENGLAND

Professor Louisa Ells, alongside Dr Jamie Matu and other colleagues across Leeds University, University College London, Public Health England and the Obesity and Healthy weight team, have had a report published on supporting weight management services during the COVID-19 pandemic.

It is widely known that Children and young people from certain minority ethnic groups, from low socioeconomic status (SES) families, or with intellectual and/or physical disabilities are at greater risk of developing excess weight. This rapid research project involved working with service providers, commissioners and users on how weight management services have adapted in response to the pandemic and explores what measures are required to facilitate these changes.

The findings have helped to highlight areas of emerging good practice and some significant evidence gaps that will help inform future research in this important area. It has also led to the creation of a set of guiding principles for service users, service providers and commissioners.

The report is included as part of the collection for weight management and guidance for commissioners and providers and can be found [here](#).

### WELCOME TO PROF MATTHEW MOLINEUX, VISITING PROFESSOR IN OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY

The Occupational Therapy team is delighted to welcome Professor Matthew Molineux as a Visiting Professor.

Matthew is Professor and Head of Occupational therapy at Griffith University in Queensland, Australia. Professor Molineux has a close history with Leeds Beckett, having written and delivered our first MSc Occupational Therapy programme. He brings a wealth of subject specific knowledge having written extensively on occupational science. He is at the forefront of teaching innovation, being an early adopter of problem-based learning and flipped classroom teaching. He will be delivering lectures to both BSc and MSc Occupational therapy students.

### PUBLICATION NEWS

Staff and students within the School have had many publications released between September 2020 and December 2020.

- Dr Leuan had a study accepted for publication on the Journal Performance Enhancement and Health.
- Professor Louisa Ells and Dr Maria Maynard published a PHE report in October 2020 entitled 'Barriers and facilitators to preventing and treating childhood obesity in families with the highest risk of developing excess weight: A scoping review of qualitative evidence from the UK and Europe'
- Dr Jamie Matu had 2 papers accepted in September 2020. One in Sports Medicine and the other in the Journal of Hypertension.
- Claire Gardiner co-authored a chapter in the British Renal Society document entitled 'A multi-professional renal workforce plan for adults and children with kidney disease'.
- MSc Occupational Therapy graduate (2020) Kinga Bugajska had a study published in the British Journal of Occupational Therapy.



- Dr Wayne Roberts (Biomedical Sciences) worked with Dr James Boyne and his group at the University of Huddersfield have had the following accepted into the Journal Biochimica et Biophysica Acta – Reviews on Cancer: The Role of Cancer Associated Fibroblast derived from Exosomal MicroRNAs in the Tumour Microenvironment of Melanoma.
- Professor Louisa Ells had a paper accepted around the impact of weight management nutrition interventions on dietary outcomes in children and adolescents with overweight or obesity.
- Dr Ieuan Cranswick had a piece published on Muscle Dystrophy in men in The Conversation.
- Dr Gareth Jones had 3 papers published, two which were co-authored by visiting professors Isabelle Schoffl and Volker Schoffl and the third co-authored with Volker Schoffl and visiting research fellow Uzo Dimma Ehiogu.
- In November, Dr Jamie Matu had a paper published in the European Journal of Clinical Nutrition and another in the Journal of Science and Medicine in Sport.
- Lewis Hughes, Dr Wayne Roberts and Dr Donna Johnson had a paper published by the Microbiology Society.
- Carine De Marcos Lousa co-authored a paper published by EMBO reports.
- Dr Rob Brooks has co-written a book with Sue Parkinson which was published by Routledge on 30th November entitled 'A Guide to the Formulation of plans and goals in Occupational Therapy' for use by students but also in practice.

#### KEEP UP TO DATE WITH OUR SCHOOL BLOG

Keep up to date with all the news by reading the blogs written by the staff within the School: [leedsbeckett.ac.uk/blogs/school-of-clinical-and-applied-sciences/](https://leedsbeckett.ac.uk/blogs/school-of-clinical-and-applied-sciences/)

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