

July 2020
Issue 16

NEWSLETTER

Research and fundraising news, in times of Covid-19

Need a helping hand? Get to know Jo!



Jo Brailsford-Finnis

With Dawn departing for new fundraising challenges we invite you to say hello to our new Community Fundraising Manager Jo Brailsford-Finnis – she's here to support you with your fundraising, so do get in touch and say hello. Here she shares a bit about herself, so you can "get to know Jo"!

I've been working at the University of Nottingham for the past three years. I like to make a difference – and to enable other people to feel they can make a difference. Whether you are drawn to the cause, or to a challenge – my aim is to ensure that, whatever your motivations, you feel encouraged and supported and your efforts have a real impact.

I like a challenge! Most recently I have completed a Firewalk and a skydive (the most terrifying thing I've ever done!). I also managed my first (and only?) marathon, Brighton, in 2017, raising over £2,000. I love the way a lot of charities are really making the most of virtual fundraising, enabling so many more people to get involved and feeling they can make a difference.

Describe myself in three words? Enthusiastic, imaginative and stubborn!

You can contact Jo at supportus@nottingham.ac.uk

A very big thank you to the Bosom Buddies Project once again supporting NBCRC - this time raising an amazing £300 by hosting The Isolation Pub Quiz.

HOW TO GIVE

Every little bit helps. **100% of every penny given goes directly to our research.** If you would like to donate, please visit: <https://tinyurl.com/y7xyj4na>



#NottThe10k

Sunday 31 May saw the start of #NottThe10k, the virtual challenge set up in lieu of the Run For All Nottingham 10k. It may have been a hot day, but people certainly got into the spirit of virtual running!

We challenged you to run 10k either in one go, or through a series of smaller runs over the course of two weeks. A couple of brave participants set up JustGiving pages, one raising an incredible £363, whilst others took on our challenge to donate £10 for 10k. As runners (or walkers!) finished, they added their photos and times to the NBCRC Facebook page - you can see several of these in the picture above!

This is our first foray into the world of virtual fundraising, but it won't be our last! As the past few months have shown, many things are possible.

Celebrating academic success!

Congratulations to NBCRC member Dr Michael Toss, who has successfully defended his PhD thesis 'Exploring the role of tumour microenvironment in the behaviour of breast ductal carcinoma in situ'. Michael continues with the Breast Pathology Research Group as a Post-Doctoral Research Associate focussed on the use of artificial intelligence in breast cancer diagnosis.



Congratulations also to Bhudsaban Sukkarn for successfully passing her PhD viva on 10/6 entitled 'The role of calpastatin isoforms in breast cancer Lymphovascular invasion'. Her supervisors, Prof Stewart Martin and Dr Sarah Storr, and all colleagues in NBCRC wish her the very best of luck in the future.



An example of our new working practice - the viva was held remotely with Bhudsaban back home in Thailand.

Results are in! – NBCRC Pilot Grant call 2020

Thanks to donations made by our wonderful supporters and fundraisers NBCRC is able to support 3 further projects under our pilot grant scheme.

Each project will receive £10K to fund novel breast cancer research for a 12 month period. Data obtained through pilot projects can be vital to securing larger grants from other funding bodies, to support the ongoing research.

The application process involved a rigorous review by breast cancer specialists and patients across the UK to ensure that the best projects are funded. Congratulations to this years recipients. The successful projects are:

Tracey Bradshaw	Investigating in vivo efficacy of apoferritin-encapsulated antitumour benzothiazole 5F203 against human-derived breast cancer xenografts
Victoria James	Uncovering how triple negative breast cancer communicates to nearby non-cancer cells in order to mediate treatment resistance
Stewart Martin	Understanding calpastatin's role in regulating breast cancer metastasis

You will be able to hear more from the project leaders during October (Breast Cancer Awareness month) when NBCRC will deliver a series of short online presentations, open to the public.

NBCRC Awareness - Online Event
Save the date: 6 Oct 9-11am

Update on Pilot Grants from 2019

Although there are many aspects of research that our members can continue at home Covid-19 has had a significant impact on laboratory based work. There has been no access to laboratories since the end of March and although a return to the building is in progress, this is a gradual and phased operation to ensure safe working practices.

It is for this reason that the duration of our 2019 pilot grant awards has been extended. This will give the project teams the opportunity to complete their planned research and generate valuable data that will help us to further understand breast cancer and work towards new and improved treatments.

A reminder of these projects, also funded entirely by your generous support is given below. These projects, together with the 3 new awards will continue until end of Sept 2021. Updates will be provided throughout the year but the project leads will also present their progress at our Oct online event.



Andrew Green	Glutamine Transporters as Therapeutic Targets in Aggressive Oestrogen Receptor Positive Breast Cancer
S Madhusudan	Targeting Replication protein A (RPA) for personalization of breast cancer therapy
Judith Rammage	Tissue Resident immune cells in Breast Cancer

NBCRC goes online: This month there are two opportunities to hear from NBCRC researchers. You can find these as events on our Facebook page or use the links below to register. Registration is free. The link to join the lecture will be sent to you by email prior to the event.

PUBLIC LECTURE
Wednesday 15 July, 6pm

Breast cancer services during the COVID-19 pandemic

Prof Kwok-Leung Cheung
Breast Surgery and Medical Education
University of Nottingham

Register for Prof Cheung's lecture



ONLINE PUBLIC LECTURE
Thursday 16 July, 6-7pm

Using breast cancer tissue in research

Dr Andrew Green, Deputy Director NBCRC



Register for Dr Green's lecture

CONTACT US:

nbcrc@nottingham.ac.uk
www.nottingham.ac.uk/go/nbcrc
0115 7485158

FOLLOW US:



[Facebook.com/NottmBreastCancerResearchCtr](https://www.facebook.com/NottmBreastCancerResearchCtr)
[Twitter.com/NottmBCRC](https://twitter.com/NottmBCRC)