



Medical Alumni Association

Supporting our medical students & junior staff

Autumn 2022 Newsletter

Welcome to the Autumn 2022 CCMAA Newsletter, there are key messages and some dates for your diaries!

The first is that I am delighted that Prof Margaret Stanley OBE FMedSci (Fellow) Emeritus Prof of Epithelial Biology, Dept of Pathology has accepted our invitation to become one of our Patrons. Margaret has spoken at our conferences, taught our students and supervised researchers. She has also made a major contribution to science and public health through her research on, for example, the role of HPV in cervical and other cancers and the development and advocacy for the roll out of the HPV vaccination globally. I am sure that she will continue to support our work as one of our distinguished patrons at Christ's College.

Covid-19 Webinar

There are three dates for your diaries. The first is our next and hopefully final Covid Webinar:

Christ's College Webinar Series

'Life Beyond the Pandemic'

Presented by the Christ's College Medical Alumni Association

27 October 2022

6:00-7:30pm BST

As part of our regular College Webinar Series, the Development Office, along with the Christ's College Medical Alumni Association (CCMAA) and the Christ's College Medical Association, are very happy to invite all alumni to the first webinar of the 2022-2023 academic year.

This is the fourth webinar in our series discussing Christ's College and the contributions its members have made towards managing COVID. The first two in the series were held in late March and early April 2021--just over one year after the first UK lockdown was announced--and covered how the College, University and local NHS managed the pandemic, the development of the novel vaccines, and advising the government via SAGE. The third webinar, held in November 2021 as life began to return to normal, sought to answer common questions about how to mitigate risk in day-to-day life, the success of the vaccine rollout, and immune responses to previous infections.

This upcoming webinar will look at life beyond the pandemic. How can we use the research and technology that was developed to manage COVID for other practical applications? And how are doctors and public health officials using the research generated during the pandemic to enable us to live with COVID going forward?

Our panellists and the titles of their talks are:

- Dr. David Thomas (m. 1972), Clinical Reader in Immunology and Inflammation and Wellcome-Beit Fellow at Imperial College London, **'Covid, Kidneys & Co-receptors: the predictive value of LRRC15'**
- Dr. Andrew Soltan (m. 2012), NIHR Academic Clinical Fellow, University of Oxford, **'Engineering a screening test for Covid-19 using routine clinical data: the case for AI in today's practice'**
- Dr. Benjamin Beresford-Jones (m. 2014), Cambridge Institute of Therapeutic Immunology and Infectious Disease, **'Through the gut, down the drain: wastewater surveillance during COVID and beyond'**

There will be time for questions following the talks.

Upcoming lecture

The next event this autumn is a Lecture given by Prof Sir David Spiegelhalter FRS OBE on the 16th November 2022 in the Yusuf Hamied Lecture Theatre on the topic of:

"Should we trust the statistics about Covid (or anything else)?"

David is Professor of Statistics and Chair of the Winton Centre for Risk and Evidence Communication in Cambridge and will be familiar to us all in his media role of explaining statistics to the public in an easy-to-understand fashion! While referring to the use (and sometimes abuse) of statistics during the pandemic he will no doubt provide other examples that relate to medicine and healthcare. The CCMAA are co-hosting this event with the CC Medical Society and the lecture will be open to all members of College and is not ticketed.

2023 CCMAA Annual Conference

The final date for your diaries is next years CCMAA Annual Conference which is booked in College on Saturday April 15th 2023 and this conference will be timed ahead of term, so Alumni who wish to stay over and enjoy a dinner in hall will be able to do that. The theme of the conference is still to be agreed but we hope to have an opportunity to look at the influence of College Fellows and Alumni on the establishment of the World Health Organisation (WHO) in 1948, the development of the Cambridge University Medical School and a debate on 'Discrimination in Medicine and what needs to be done' which we had planned in the pre-pandemic days!

The CCMAA Steering Group continues to support our work and we are grateful for the support of the College Development Office, the Director of Studies for Medicine and the students Medical Society for helping to build relationships and guide us in how we can continue to both network our Alumni and add value to current medical students learning.

Dr Tony Jewell
President

Summer 2022 Newsletter

Welcome to the CCMAA Summer 2022 Newsletter, which updates our news over the past six months.

Covid-19 webinar

We had our third 'Christ's College and COVID' webinar on the 25th November 2021 with very popular presentations.

The programme for the webinar included presentations from:

- Prof Julian Tang (m 1986), Professor of Respiratory Sciences about *the evidence for the use of facemasks to prevent aerosol spread of the virus*;
- Dr Lucy Jessop (m 1995), Director of Public Health at the National Immunisation Office ROI *on the successful rollout of the vaccines in the Republic of Ireland*;
- Prof Paul Moss (m 1980), Deputy Head of the College of Medical and Dental Sciences and Professor of Haematology at the University of Birmingham covered the *increasing importance to policy of the work being undertaken by the UK Immunology Consortium*;
- Prof Theresa Marteau DBE FMedSci (Bye Fellow), Director of Behaviour spoke on *her role leading the COVID events' research programme for the government*.

All the webinars are still accessible on the College website [here](#).

We are reviewing possibly hosting a final Christ's and COVID webinar on residual topics to include the global picture, the continuing UK community transmission, pandemic preparedness and assessing the impact of long Covid.

Conference update

We had hoped to hold a Conference this past April with in-person lectures and discussions followed by a formal dinner in Hall. However, in view of the continuing spread of Omicron and its lineages such as BA 2, the decision was taken to hold a remote event for another year.

The programme focused on various avenues pertaining to Prevention, with the following speakers:

Prof Margaret Stanley OBE (Fellow), Emeritus Professor of Epithelial Biology, Department of Pathology. Associate Fellow of the Centre for Science and Policy spoke of the incredible HPV science and Cancer Prevention vaccine programme.

Professor Dame Theresa Marteau DBE FMedSci (Bye Fellow) Emeritus Professor of Epithelial Biology, Department of Pathology. Director, Behaviour and Health Research Unit, Department of Public Health and Primary Care University of Cambridge School of Clinical Medicine. Associate Fellow of the Centre for Science and Policy drew attention to the often-unrecognised strong evidence for preventing a high proportion of non-communicable diseases by changing the environment, which, in turn changes the behaviours of the population to reduce the prevalence of common risks such as sedentary lifestyle, smoking, alcohol, fast foods as pre-cursors of diseases such as cancer and Type 2 diabetes.

Dr John Barber (m. 2003) National Medical Director's Clinical Fellow at the CQC. Senior Clinical Fellow in Prevention Team at NHS England reviewed how the role of the health services should also be described in terms of delivering some of the prevention programmes like vaccination and screening but also in making every consultation count.

Dr Judith Allanson (m. 1980). Consultant in Neurological Rehabilitation, Addenbrooke's Hospital talked about the need to ensure early access to rehabilitation programmes that can deliver better outcomes for serious and disabling conditions such as stroke and head injuries.

The Conference also updated attendees on the work of the Executive Committee and Steering Group and the President thanked everyone including the Development Office team for their support to the CCMAA.

We noted the winners of the Tim Heymann travel prizes since our last Conference:

2019: Natalie Weller (m 2013) – elective to Sri Lanka

2020: Vladimir Popa-Nimigean (m 2014) – to Romania and the Netherlands

2021: Not awarded due to Pandemic interruption!

The work of the CCMAA is led by the Executive team and supported by the Steering Committee and College Development Office.

Dr Tony Jewell

President