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## Welcome

- from Jeremy Tigue, Chair of the WHRF Trustees

*Welcome to our latest newsletter about development at William Harvey Research. Communication is the key theme as we see every day the need for medical researchers to explain science to the wider world. Nikita Patel, one of our PhD students, participated at COP26 having already won a communications prize from the British Pharmacological Society. The winner of our own annual Lay Communications Prize was another student, Camilla Davan-Wetton.*

*We are also continuing our fund raising for the Professorial Chair in Intensive Care Medicine. With COVID-19 disproportionately affecting ethnic-minority populations in Britain, research and development in intensive-care medicine by William Harvey Academics at Barts will have a major global impact.*



L-R: Dominic Smith, Natasha Boulding, Clare Rodseth, Jake Coole, Nikita Patel, Oliver Ring (Brett Parkinson joined virtually)

### *My role*

I had the privilege of co-hosting the panel event with Oliver Ring (AstraZeneca) and it was a real pleasure to share the stage and hear from some great scientists. I moderated the incoming comments and questions from the audience (live and virtual) and ensured they would be understood by everyone, since there were a mix of backgrounds (science and non-science) attending.

### *A personal reflection*

I learnt a lot from attending the Green Zone at COP26, not only from our panellists but also from all the exhibitors present. I appreciate the small, individual actions we can each take that will make a difference but the need to still work together as a collective to achieve the common goal of fighting climate change. It was clear to see how science and business go hand in hand to provide solutions to society and how interdisciplinary collaboration is key.

Radio interview with Nikita Patel after the event, listen (from 21:49) on <https://soundcloud.com/thisisriverside/riverside-reports-5th-november-2021>

Podcast recorded by Nikita Patel with The Periodic Fable, listen on either: <https://open.spotify.com/episode/7obtxXcO2uKKr0LkPOAZ44> or on <https://podcasts.apple.com/gb/podcast/nikita-the-next-gen-debate/id1580362254?i=1000543597686>

# Society of Chemical Industry's COP26 event

- Co-hosted by **Nikita Patel**, WHRF-funded PhD student, Centre for Translational Medicine and Therapeutics

### *Event summary*

Countdown to Planet Zero was a Next-Gen debate organised by the Society of Chemical Industry to showcase work being carried out by young scientists to tackle climate change. The themes explored were Fuels of the Future (Brett Parkinson, C-Zero and Jake Coole, Johnson Matthey), Turning Waste into Gold (Natasha Boulding, Sphera and Clare Rodseth, Unilever) and Engineering Nature (Dominic Smith, GSK). The event gave the audience the opportunity to question and challenge the panel on their climate change solutions.

### **BPS Best Oral Communication Prize**

At this year's British Pharmacological Society's 90<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Pharmacology 2021 conference, Nikita Patel, a third-year PhD-student funded by WHRF received the Best Oral Communication Prize for her talk entitled, 'Inhibition of Bruton's tyrosine kinase reduces organ injury and dysfunction in a rat model of severe haemorrhage' (Cardiovascular and Respiratory session).

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# Lay Communication Prize

Congratulations to **Camilla Davan-Wetton**, who won the WHRF Lay Communication Prize 2021 with her presentation, 'Another day to spend in bed'!

"Entering the Lay Communication Prize was a thoroughly enjoyable experience and a great challenge. Explaining your research to non-scientists is an invaluable skill, highlighted more than ever in the last 18 months, and participating in competitions like this provides an excellent opportunity to test your ability to do this. A big thanks to the William Harvey Research Foundation!"  
*Camilla Davan-Wetton*

See - [www.williamharveyresearch.com/news/news](http://www.williamharveyresearch.com/news/news)

"Medical science has become increasingly complex even as our understanding of the systems which govern human life have improved. The ability to explain to non-experts why and how particular fields or research are important is more vital than ever." *Steve Bates, WHRF Trustee*

## News

### Other Achievements

Former Lay Communication Prize runner-up and project-grant award winner, **Dr Anne-Sophie Thorup** won the Poster Prize at EULAR 2021, the Annual European Congress of Rheumatology.

Former winner of the Lay Communication Prize, **Dr Zahra Raisi-Estabragh**, won the prestigious Royal Society of Medicine President's Gold Medal in Cardiology.

### Funding News

Awards were made by WHRF totalling £10k for small-equipment grants to Principal Investigators in the William Harvey Heart Centre and in the Centre for Biochemical Pharmacology.

WHRF has continued to pay out on awards made in 2020 to support the salary costs arising from COVID-19 delays to PhD studentships.

WHRF is partnering with Queen Mary University of London in an application to the Dunhill Medical Trust for five PhD studentships to join the **John Vane Academy** cohort of early-career researchers.

## Professorial Chair in Intensive Care Medicine

Fundraising has continued for this post at Barts Health under the organizing activity of Prof. Charles Hinds and Prof. Sir Mark Caulfield. In addition to £25k pledged by WHRF, another £25k has been donated to WHRF, and a pledge of £50k over five years has been received from the Behrens Foundation. A total of £235k has already raised, with potential pledges in play that would double this commitment, which is a magnificent contribution towards the target of £1.2m.

***Professors Hinds and Caulfield would be delighted to meet potential donors. Meetings with other leaders and key individuals from Barts and QMUL can be arranged as required.***

Contact: [c.j.hinds@qmul.ac.uk](mailto:c.j.hinds@qmul.ac.uk)

For the full Case for Support and to watch WHRF's COVID-19 diaries, including from Barts intensive care unit, go to [www.williamharveyresearch.com/foundation](http://www.williamharveyresearch.com/foundation)

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