

Biomaterials Newsletter

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The Big Round-Up of 2019

Editorial

I would like to warmly welcome you to the first publication of the Biomaterials Newsletter. This newsletter was started by Dr Sammons and I with the aim of showcasing some of the good news stories (academic or extracurricular) that current Biomaterials students or alumni have achieved. We also hope that the newsletter will become an informative source for interesting articles or news stories regarding Biomaterials, in order to keep you up to date with how your degree is being used in the field of science and beyond.

I would like to also thank Dr Sammons in her support and enthusiasm in this project- it really would not have been possible without her. Finally, I thoroughly hope you enjoy the first of many Biomaterial newsletters!

Editor,
Shirin Anari

International Success for Behnam Dashtbozorg

Behnam Dashtbozorg (2014 Biomaterials graduate) is a PhD with integrated study student with the Innovative Metal Processing Centre for Doctoral Training (IMPACT CDT) based at the University of Birmingham.

Under supervision by Prof. Hanshan Dong and Dr. Xiaoying Li (School of Metallurgy and Materials) and Dr Rachel Sammons (School of Dentistry), he is developing durable antibacterial austenitic stainless steel surfaces through the combination of plasma nitriding and pulsed laser patterning. Such desirable surfaces could potentially resolve long-standing problems in the food and medical industries.

Behnam attended the 2019 International Conference on Surface Engineering Applications (26-28 Sept 2019, Busan, South Korea) and was awarded the best oral presentation prize for his talk on “the response of nitrogen S phase to ultrashort pulsed laser texturing for the production of durable antibacterial surfaces”.

Congratulations to Behnam regarding this great achievement!



Biomaterials Alumni Behnam Dashtbozorg receiving his prize for the best oral presentation on his talk in September 2019.

Fantastic Cross-Country Achievement for Amelia

In December, Amelia Quirk (current Biomaterial second year student) was chosen to represent Great Britain in the European Cross-Country Championships in Portugal. The British under 23 women’s team, which Amelia was part of, was awarded a Bronze medal and Amelia came 15th

Events of Interest

- **Insight into Education: To Teach or Not To Teach** – Event organized by the Careers Network further information found at <https://intranet.birmingham.ac.uk/as/employability/careers/events/public/college-specific/2019-20/insight-into-education.aspx>
- **Getting to know Frontline-** Event organized by the Careers Network further information found at <https://intranet.birmingham.ac.uk/as/employability/careers/events/public/emp-presentations/2019-20/Frontline-28Jan20.aspx>
- **Insight into Science** - Event organized by the Careers Network further information found at <https://intranet.birmingham.ac.uk/as/employability/careers/events/public/college-specific/2019-20/insight-into-science.aspx>
- **Internships and Work Experience Fair 2020** – held on Wednesday 5th February 2020 (11:00-15:30) for information can be found at <https://intranet.birmingham.ac.uk/as/employability/careers/events/public/careers-fairs/internships-work-experience-fair.aspx>

out of 56 world-class runners in her debut in this age group – a brilliant achievement!



Amelia (far right) and some of her GB team members at their very successful Championship in Portugal.

No Soggy Bottoms- a Wonderful Charity Bake Off!

In November we teamed up with the Dentists to hold a Bake off in aid of Children in Need. Pictured below are helpers, from left to right, Olga Yevlashevskya, PhD student (graduated in Biomaterials in 2019); Master's student Maria Muchova, final year Biomaterials students Alicia Breakwell and Ariya Sajeev and Administrator Daniel Williams. The event raised a fantastic £182!



Biomaterials in the News

- Light-activated biomimetic hydrogel for infection-beating wound dressings-**
<https://www.materialsoday.com/polymers-soft-materials/news/biomimetic-hydrogel-anti-infection/>
- Investigating cancer by growing tumors in the lab-**
<https://www.materialsoday.com/biomaterials/news/investigating-cancer-by-growing-tumours-in-the-lab/>
- Decoding the structure of bone-**
<http://news.mit.edu/2013/decoding-the-structure-of-bone-0416>
- Working out makes hydrogels perform more like muscle-
<http://news.mit.edu/2019/strong-hydrogels-biomaterials-0422>
- MedTech worth £1.6 billion to Midlands' economy according to new report-**
<https://www.birmingham.ac.uk/university/colleges/mds/news/2019/11/MedTech-economy-report.aspx>

An Inspiring Christmas Lecture engaging the next generation of Biomaterial Scientists



Dr Sammons, Dr Kuehne and Dr Hadis, together with PhD students Olga Yevlashevskya, Ben Hewitt and Frankie Lewns (all graduated in Biomaterials in 2019) presented a Biomaterials Christmas lecture- with the help of Oscar the skeleton! The Christmas lecture entitled “How we put Santa together Again” was delivered to 360 school students aged 12- 13. They all now know how to do a hip replacement, perform balloon angioplasty and 3D print an artificial ear!

Pictured on the right, Oscar can be seen in action with Dr Hadis.

A Well-Deserved Christmas Meal

Finally, it was time for the Annual Christmas Meal at Franco Manca, organized by final years Dominic Pangilinan and Callum Smith, it turned out to be a great success with a very good turnout!



Contact

Please send any good news stories or any Biomaterial related news to either SPA1253@student.bham.ac.uk or to Dr Sammons for consideration. We would love to hear from you and have your input!