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WELCOME FROM THE CHAIR OF TRUSTEES

“In 2017 the Daphne Jackson Trust made some important steps towards achieving our mission of realising the potential of scientists and engineers successfully returning to research following career breaks.”

Top of our list of successes was our biennial Research Conference, which was held on 2nd November at the Royal Society. The Conference was very well attended by Fellows, former Fellows, hosts, sponsors, potential partners and key stakeholders in the UK STEM arena. The Conference is an excellent showcase for the work of the Trust and we have already begun preparations for 2019’s Conference.

The Trustees have overseen a number of important strategic developments at the Trust, including improvements to the processes involved in the award of Fellowships, the delivery of new training courses which enhance the support provided to Fellows and supporting a number of initiatives which will ensure the Trust’s long term future sustainability. In particular the continued development of advertised sponsored Fellowships to run alongside our regular sponsored Fellowships is proving to be very successful, with a number of new sponsors and arrangements in the pipeline. We are also seeing an increase in the number of three year Fellowships supported by hosts and sponsors.

In 2017 one of our long serving and highly valued Trustees completed their term of office and the Trust successfully advertised and appointed four new Trustees, who will ensure that the Board continues to maintain an appropriately wide range of skills and expertise in areas such as finance, strategy, governance, communications and policy, providing focused and strategic guidance to the Trust’s staff. I am pleased to put on record my gratitude to all of our Trustees, past and present, and to thank all other members of the Trust’s committees for their many contributions to the Trust’s activities in 2017.

As always, the Trustees remain extremely grateful for the outstanding commitment and work of the Trust’s staff, without whom the Trust’s objectives and status could not be delivered and maintained. Turning our focus to 2018, the Trust will continue to work to grow the number of its Fellowships, enhance its sectoral and public profile, and develop its interaction with the STEM policy agenda.

Professor Teresa Anderson, MBE,
Chair of Trustees, Daphne Jackson Trust,
Director of the Jodrell Bank Discovery Centre, The University of Manchester
2017 has been another great year for the Daphne Jackson Trust.

Writing this introduction made me think about my personal journey with the Trust, from simply working one day a week doing press and PR work to now being Chief Executive. I feel so grateful to have found the Trust and a role that I love and that inspires me every day.

There is a comparison to be drawn with the journey the Fellows go on in returning from a career break to a research career. There are undoubtedly going to be ups and downs along the way but it’s amazing when you get there!

This journey was clearly demonstrated by the former Fellows who presented their 5-minute Fellowship presentations at the Research Conference and were happy to show just how much the Fellowship had changed their lives. They were also fantastic role models for all the current Fellows at the Conference who are still on their journeys back to successful careers.

I am often quoted as saying that the Fellows are what makes the Trust so special but that is not the complete picture as there are so many others who work incredibly hard to make the Trust such a successful organisation. Staff, Trustees, sponsors, host organisations, collaborators, and donors all play their part and deserve heartfelt thanks for all they do.

The year has seen the Trust’s team undergo significant operational and administrative change. We reviewed our financial procedures and recruited several new team members. All of our back office processes are working well and we have continued to enhance the levels of support we give to applicants, Fellows and partner organisations.

I am delighted with our four new Trustees, who have a great range of skills and experience. Professor Graham Davies is Emeritus Professor and Former Dean of Engineering at the University of New South Wales, Susan Kay is CEO of the Dunhill Medical Trust, Amy MacLaren is Director of Development & Communications at the British Science Association and Dr Pia Ostergaard is a Senior Lecturer in Human Genetics in the Molecular and Clinical Sciences Research Institute at St George’s, University of London. Pia is a former Daphne Jackson Fellow and previous member of the Trust’s staff. She joins the Board with an excellent perspective of having herself successfully returned to a research career after a break.

I am happy to be working with a Board who, like me, share my vision of making a real difference in the sectors in which we operate. Equality, Diversity and Inclusion are becoming more mainstream in the consciousness of those who employ STEM researchers and they can no longer ignore the fact that having a diverse workforce is essential for meeting skills gaps and increasing productivity.

I hope you will find this Annual Review a useful insight into the inspiring work of the Trust and that if you do not already work with us, I hope it encourages you to engage with us and with the hidden pool of talent that our returners represent.

“I’m so grateful to have found the Trust and a role that I love”
The enthusiasm and excitement could be felt in the air at our 4th Research Conference on 2nd November 2017 at the Royal Society in London.

The Conference saw current and former Fellows present their research in oral presentations and posters, from across a wide range of STEM disciplines, to an audience from UK research councils, universities, charities, learned societies and our industrial partners and sponsors. Potential and existing sponsors, supporters and supervisors met with and networked with Fellows, Trustees and our team of staff, to gain insight into the Trust and to see just how well our Fellowships work.

Chief Executive of the Daphne Jackson Trust, Dr Katie Perry, said: “There was so much energy and positivity about the Trust on the day. It was a fantastic day of inspiring discussions and presentations showing the range and talent of our Fellows past and present.”

The Research Conference was our biggest to date – attended by 184 delegates consisting of staff, Trustees, Fellows, representatives from host and sponsor organisations, Vice Chancellors, media and other individuals from within the Higher Education and research sectors.

Dr Julie Maxton from the Royal Society and Professor-Teresa Anderson, Chair of Trustees at the Trust, opened the Conference, followed by Professor Jim Al-Khalili’s ‘In conversation’ segment with a panel including David McAllister from BBSRC and Pia Ostergaard and Helen Marsh, both from the Trust.

Over the lunch break, delegates had the opportunity to network with Fellows whilst also viewing posters from 43 Fellows.

Professor Jim Al-Khalili in conversation with David McAllister (BBSRC) Pia Ostergaard and Helen Marsh, both from the Trust.

“We were delighted that the first chief executive of UKRI, Sir Mark Walport, Dame Mary Archer and Stephen Metcalfe MP were in attendance and that Physicist and broadcaster Professor Jim Al-Khalili agreed to host the first session of the Conference.”

Top Tweets from:

Athene Donald @AtheneDonald
Been a great day at #DJTRC17. Such wonderful stories, presentations and informal discussion. More power to the organisation!

Stephen Metcalfe @Metcalfe_SBET
Looking forward to judging the oral presentations at the @DaphneJacksonTr #DJTRC17 conference.

Maria Ribera Vicent @mariaribera
I think we all agree with Pia that the @DaphneJacksonTr fellowship is life changing. #DJTRC17

See all the Tweets from the Conference on Twitter @DaphneJacksonTr #DJTRC17
PRIZE WINNERS

Prizes were awarded to Fellows Dominique Meunier and Anne Jay as the overall winners for best oral and poster presentations. Patricia Grasa Molina and Clare Lawson were both highly commended for their poster presentations.

In a new session for this Conference, the audience watched six former Daphne Jackson Fellows give inspiring and heartfelt Five-Minute Fellowship presentations outlining what their Fellowship had meant to them over their career and lifetime.

The audience voted for Carolyn Carr as the winner. You can read more about her story and the other Fellows on page 7.

A further selection of photos from the day can be viewed in our Facebook album on The Daphne Jackson Trust’s Facebook page.

The Conference was made possible by a very generous donation from the estate of Nadia Slow, with further sponsorship from the Nutrition Society, the Royal Society of Chemistry and the British Pharmacological Society.

The next Daphne Jackson Trust Research Conference will take place in the autumn of 2019, so please do keep checking www.daphnejackson.org for more details!

WHAT OUR DELEGATES SAID

“An excellent range and variety of talks, posters and people”.

“I would particularly recommend this conference to people who have taken a career break and are thinking about coming back to science”.

“It really gives you hope for the future and makes you realise that having a career is completely possible even on a part time basis”.

“I loved meeting all the other Fellows. It is great to be able to find out about such a diverse range of subjects. So different to a standalone conference where you know a lot about the subject”.

“It has given me confidence and inspired me, reminding me of who I am and what I have in common with other Fellows”.

SEE MORE...

You can view snippets of the Conference from our ‘What we do and how we make a difference’ video on our You Tube channel ‘The Daphne Jackson Trust’.
FELLOWS BOOST THEIR SKILLS AT PRE-CONFERENCE TRAINING SESSION

For the first time, the Trust ran a pre-Conference training session alongside its Research Conference.

Fifty of our current Fellows were welcomed to the first pre-Conference training session, also held at the Royal Society on 1st November.

Chief Executive of the Trust, Dr Katie Perry, welcomed the Fellows. This was followed by an exhibition from several learned society member organisations and a talk on the benefits of learned society and professional institutional membership from Laura Woodland, Head of Membership Engagement at the Biochemical Society.

Afterwards there was a Networking Skills workshop, facilitated by Dr Karen McGregor, which saw Fellows learning about networking effectively at a conference and brushing up their skills with networking bingo over a light supper.

WHAT OUR FELLOWS LEARNT:
About the importance of building your own personal brand, creating an elevator pitch to sell yourself and learning techniques on how to network at conferences.

...DURING THE PRE-CONFERENCE EVENT:
BrPharmacologicalSoc @BritPharmSoc Great to be here and support the @DaphneJacksonTr Fellows at their networking and training event #DJTRC2017
Biochemical Society @BiochemSoc @DaphneJacksonTr looking forward to speaking to the Fellows this evening about the @BiochemSoc.
Elizabeth Dickinson @DrLizDickinson Just setting off for the #DJTRC2017 and arranging to meet the other @DaphneJacksonTr fellows when I arrive. Excited! #ReturnToWork #STEM

WHAT OUR FELLOWS SAID
“The networking training was really helpful – I will definitely try to put the skills and tips that I’ve learnt into practice.”

“Being given the opportunity to listen to and talk to other Fellows was incredibly valuable.”

“As a result of attending this event, I really see the value in joining a learned society or professional institution.”
Here at the Trust, we know the impact that our Fellowships have on the lives of returners and how our Fellowships can play a very large part in turning things around for returners to STEM. This is the message from all our Fellows, but none more so than the six former Fellows who spoke about how their Daphne Jackson Fellowships changed their life. The six returners, as detailed below, were each allowed five minutes to present and were asked to use only two visual slides to win over the audience, who voted for their favourite. The presenters echoed the findings of our report: A survey of former Daphne Jackson Fellows. Regardless of their career destination, 90% of the respondents said that their Daphne Jackson Fellowship helped them get subsequent jobs by increasing their self-confidence, offering personal support, creating opportunities to network, improving their skills and knowledge and adding experiences to their CVs. Over 70% affirmed that the Fellowships helped them return to their career of choice.

DR Bindi Brook
Bindi is a mathematician who completed her Fellowship at the University of Nottingham from 2007 to 2009. Her Fellowship was sponsored by the Medical Research Council.

DR Carolyn Carr
Originally a chemist, Carolyn’s Fellowship from 1998 to 2000 was hosted at the University of Oxford and sponsored by the Engineering and Physical Sciences Research Council.

DR Siobhan Dorai-Raj
Our most recent former Fellow to take part in the session, Siobhan, a microbiologist, completed her Fellowship at the John Innes Centre from 2015 to 2017. Her Fellowship was jointly sponsored by the John Innes Centre and Biotechnology and Biological Sciences Research Council.

DR Jackie Ferguson
Jackie completed her Fellowship in biological sciences between 2011 and 2013 at the National Institute for Biological Standards and Control. Her Fellowship was sponsored by the Biotechnology and Biological Sciences Research Council.

DR Anke Husmann
Anke completed her Fellowship at the University of Cambridge from 2012 to 2014 and changed her research area to enter the field of medical materials. Her Fellowship was sponsored by the University of Cambridge.

DR Sharon Strawbridge
Sharon is a physicist who completed her Fellowship, sponsored by the Leverhulme Trust, at the University of Exeter from 2007 to 2009.

WHAT THE AUDIENCE SAID
- Dr Carolyn Carr was picked as the winner by the audience. She returned to academia after taking an eleven-year career break to raise her children.
- Carolyn is now a senior post-doctoral researcher in the Cardiac Metabolism Research Group in the Department of Physiology, Anatomy and Genetics at the University of Oxford, where she studies stem cell therapy for the heart, with a focus on using MRI to measure cardiac function after cell transplantation and NMR spectroscopy to investigate stem cell metabolism.

- “I really enjoyed the five minute presentations from the former Fellows. It gives you hope for the future and makes you realise that having a successful science career is completely possible, even on a part time basis.”
- “It was very inspiring to hear all the success stories of past and present Fellows.”
- “I loved this session – it was great to hear people’s stories and the impact the Fellowships have had.”
- “Fabulous - so nice to hear that the successful former Fellows were once in my position with the same type of stories. Very moving and inspirational.”

Dr Carolyn Carr was picked as the winner by the audience. She returned to academia after taking an eleven-year career break to raise her children. Carolyn impressed the audience with her overwhelmingly positive and entertaining reflection on what her Fellowship did for her, with a mixture of personal and professional antidotes thrown in. “A Daphne Jackson Fellowship is an excellent scheme that I recommend heartily to anyone on a career break and looking to return to science. I was delighted to be asked to take part in the Research Conference and get across my enthusiasm in my presentation about what my Fellowship did to help me.”
A former builder with an eleven year career break returned to the lab with a Daphne Jackson Fellowship.

Prior to starting his Fellowship, Anthony Wynne was combining working as a builder, running two successful small businesses and being chief carer to his two preschool daughters.

Anthony had originally started out in a very different career. Having gained a BSc in Biotechnology from South Bank University London in 1995, he had an illustrious start to a career in microbiology, with a range of technical research roles at the Institute of Food Research, which later became part of the University of Reading. Anthony worked for two years there as a research assistant, where he became project leader on three separate projects, producing several papers, patents and book chapters during his time.

After getting married in 2003 and travelling around the world on an extended honeymoon break, Anthony and his wife set up home in the south west of England due to their love of the water and water sports. Previously Anthony canoed for the British team.

He initially tried to find research work but was unsuccessful and could only obtain low paid manual work in the building and construction industry. His wife, a successful project manager, then became pregnant and they went onto have two daughters, born three years apart. It made financial sense for Anthony to become the primary care giver for his two daughters and he chose to take a prolonged break from his research career to look after them. As his daughters became more independent, Anthony was able to set up and run two successful small businesses, one in construction and the other in yachting.

However, Anthony’s love of, and passion for, science never faded. He continued to apply for research jobs, but without success. “I was disappointingly told in interviews that the gap in my CV made me uncompetitive with other applicants.”

Despite this, Anthony kept abreast with developments in the field by keeping up with the literature and attending conferences when he was able to. Once his daughters were older and settled at primary school, Anthony decided to focus seriously upon a return to research and leave the businesses he had set up.

“I kept my passion for science and developed my own research into the area of metabolic diseases such as type 2 diabetes and obesity. I attended conferences and read literature in my spare time in the evenings, and listened to scientific talks whilst working in the daytime as a builder.”

Anthony found out about the Daphne Jackson Trust through an article in a magazine and contacted Dr Helen Marsh, one of the charity’s Fellowship Advisors. With his daughters now both at school, he proposed attending the University of Plymouth to carry out his laboratory work during school hours and to work from home when required. A Professor at the University of Plymouth, a previous contact of Anthony’s, was happy to support him with his application for a Fellowship.

“My initial thought was what a unique and fantastic opportunity for me! I could retrain and get back into research in an academic setting, update my skills and knowledge. The part time and flexible aspect of the Fellowship as 0.5 FTE was very attractive and means I can continue looking after my children including outside of school hours and in school holidays.”

“The Daphne Jackson Trust is extremely pleased to have supported Anthony into his Fellowship at the University of Plymouth. We wish him the very best of luck as he returns to the lab and into research in his chosen field of metabolic disease.”

Anthony Wynne
Biochemist at University of Plymouth, Centre for Biomedical Research

To return to the bench after being away for such a long time felt challenging - but I was ready to return.”
2017 was a very successful year for one former Daphne Jackson Fellow, Dr Morag Maskey. Morag was honoured with the ‘Ones to watch’ award in the 2017 Timewise Power Part Time Awards, an annual scheme set up to recognise the UK’s top 50 people who work in senior roles, all on less than five days per week.

Returning from a five-year career break over seven years ago, Morag started work within the autism research team at Newcastle University, following the award of a Newcastle University funded Daphne Jackson Fellowship.

Morag successfully used her Fellowship to transition from the field of environmental science to neuroscience. She now works a four-day week at Newcastle University where she leads a research stream which is investigating the use of virtual reality to help children and adults with autism to manage their anxiety. She has three children aged 12 to 15, and her youngest child is on the autism spectrum.

“My desire to make a contribution to this field of research, and my commitment to improving the daily lives of children with ASD, is paramount”.  

In 2010, Morag spotted an advert for a job as a research associate in the Institute of Neuroscience at Newcastle University. She knew immediately that this was the job for her and as her children were now older and more independent, she leapt at the chance to apply.

“Although I had a research background, albeit in a different field, I was confident that I could do the job with enthusiasm, commitment and compassion. However, I didn’t even get an interview, despite my previous sixteen years research experience. The rejection left me feeling deeply disappointed”.

Undeterred, Morag then contacted a lead researcher in the project she had applied to work for and asked how she could improve her chances of getting a job. He suggested that she volunteer with a group of autism researchers. Morag started going into Newcastle University one day a week as a visiting researcher. After a year, she was more convinced than ever that this was the area of research she would like to pursue. Whilst at Newcastle University, Morag first heard about the Daphne Jackson Trust and the retraining programme offered by the Trust.

“I knew I needed a comprehensive retraining programme to transition between the two research areas, and that’s what the Fellowship offered me along with the opportunity for part-time working and flexibility to continue looking after my family’s needs.”. Since her Fellowship ended in 2013, Morag has worked closely with researchers at Newcastle University on a number of different autism related projects.

“My Fellowship definitely led me to become an employable researcher and gave me a greater understanding of autism”. Morag was presented with the Timewise Power Part Time award in January 2017.

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“My Fellowship definitely led me to become an employable researcher and gave me a greater understanding of autism”. Morag was presented with the Timewise Power Part Time award in January 2017.

“I was honoured to have been included in the Timewise 2017 Power Part Time List and that, by opening up about my own personal working patterns, I can help pave the way for future generations of workers – men as well as women - who will need to fit work with other major commitments in life.”
FELLOWS IN POST IN 2017

All of the Daphne Jackson Fellows in 2017, during all stages of their Fellowship, are shown here.

BIOLOGICAL SCIENCES

DR EMMA PILGRIM
University of Exeter
BBSRC

DR SIOBHAN DORAI-RAJ
John Innes Centre
BBSRC

DR CATHERINE ONLEY
Wellcome Trust Sanger Institute
BBSRC

MR ANTHONY WYNNE
University of Plymouth
BBSRC

DR LOUISE VICKERS
Sheffield Hallam University
BBSRC

DR HUIMIN WAN
University of Sussex
BBSRC

DR SREELEKHA BENNY
University of Reading
Royal Society of Chemistry
BBSRC

DR AISHA BABA-DIKWA
The University of Manchester
BBSRC

DR ELIZABETH DICKINSON
University of York
Royal Society of Chemistry
BBSRC

DR CLARA DE PASCALE
University of Westminster
BBSRC

DR HELEN THOMPSON
Durham University
Biochemical Society

DR KATALIN KONDAS
Imperial College London
BBSRC

DR DANIEL ROR
University of Cambridge
BBSRC

DR NIGOLA ATKINSON
University of Leicestershire
BBSRC

MRS JOHANNA MCNICHOLL-KENNEDY
University of Leicester
BBSRC

DR IRINA ABNIZOVA
Babraham Institute
BBSRC

DR JULIE FLETCHER
University of Exeter
Biocomposites Ltd.

CHEMISTRY

DR ELENA LESTINI
University of Warwick
Royal Society of Chemistry
BBSRC

DR CHARLOTTE BONNEAU
Kingston University
Royal Society of Chemistry

DR YOGITA PATIL-SEN
University of Central Lancashire
Royal Society of Chemistry

DR NICOLA JONES
University of Central Lancashire
Royal Society of Chemistry

DR XUTAO DENG
University of Central Lancashire
EPSRC

DR MUNAZZA SHAHID
Imperial College London
Royal Society of Chemistry

PSYCHOLOGY

DR JOHN SARGENT
The University of Manchester
Patient Safety Translational Research Centre

DR LUCY BATES
University of Sussex
University of Sussex

ENGINEERING

DR MARIA RIBERA-VICENT
University of Surrey
The Royal Academy of Engineering

DR KERSTIN SCHIRRMANN
The University of Manchester
EPSRC

DR XUANLI LUO
The University of Nottingham
The Royal Academy of Engineering

DR SUSAN FRANKS
The University of Nottingham
EPSRC

MATHEMATICS

DR DIMITRA KOSTA
The University of Edinburgh
EPSRC

DR PAULA SEVERI
University of Leicester
EPSRC

DR ZOE GARDNER
The University of Nottingham
EPSRC

DR ABIR GHORAYEB
University of Bristol
EPSRC

DRA LELEKHA BENNY
University of Reading
Royal Society of Chemistry
BBSRC

DR AISHA BABA-DIKWA
The University of Manchester
BBSRC

DR ELIZABETH DICKINSON
University of York
Royal Society of Chemistry
BBSRC

DR CLARA DE PASCALE
University of Westminster
BBSRC

DR HELEN THOMPSON
Durham University
Biochemical Society

DR KATALIN KONDAS
Imperial College London
BBSRC

DR DANIEL ROR
University of Cambridge
BBSRC

DR NIGOLA ATKINSON
University of Leicestershire
BBSRC

MRS JOHANNA MCNICHOLL-KENNEDY
University of Leicester
BBSRC

DR IRINA ABNIZOVA
Babraham Institute
BBSRC

DR JULIE FLETCHER
University of Exeter
Biocomposites Ltd.
COLLABORATIONS AND PARTNERSHIPS
WORKING TOGETHER TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE

The Trust has continued to meet the challenges faced by returners by collaborating with many organisations across a range of sectors.

During 2017 the Trust engaged with a variety of stakeholders, and for a variety of reasons, from sponsorship of Fellowships to working together with organisations towards a shared goal. There is increasing willingness to form ongoing working collaborations and offer support to one another.

COLLABORATIONS

It is of particular importance to the Trust to work with the STEM learned societies and professional bodies. The type of engagement and support which the Trust seeks from target organisations covers a wide range, and includes news spots, blogs, free room hire, identification of the Trust as a source of expertise in the generation of policy, utilisation of the Chief Executive as a speaker for events, one-off donations, recurrent general funding, publishing the outcomes of relevant Fellowship research in journals, opportunities for general marketing/PR, and policy and public affairs collaboration.

The nature of each relationship and support offered differs depending on the organisation. During 2017 there have been many successful outcomes and the Trust has increased the number of organisations with which it works with. The Research Conference offered an excellent opportunity for many organisations to develop new working relationships or strengthen existing ones.

The Trust attended a number of events hosted by STEM learned societies, including the launch of the Royal Academy of Engineering/Science Council’s Equality, Diversity & Inclusion Framework; the Campaign for Science & Engineering’s 30th Anniversary Lecture; the Royal Society’s Diversity Conference and the Nutrition Society’s 75th Anniversary reception.

In our efforts to continue supporting equality and diversity in the research workforce, we collaborated with Women in STEM groups such as WISE, Cambridge AWiSE, Athena Swan, European Platform of Women Scientists and British Federation of Women Scientists together with other organisations such as the Association of Medical Research Charities, Vitae Researcher Development, and the Science Council to name just a few.

SPONSORSHIP

As issues of equality, diversity and inclusion continue to grow in importance it is essential that all research institutions, both in academia and industry, recruit and retrain staff from all walks of life – including those who have been on career breaks. Whilst the Trust provides the infrastructure and dedicated staff to recruit and retrain Fellows and administer the awards, financial support is provided by external sponsors and host institutions.

The Trust works in partnership with a range of universities, charities, learned societies, research councils and industrial organisations to develop sponsorship arrangements for Daphne Jackson Fellowships. The Trust is very grateful to the sponsors of Fellowships in 2017 and is delighted to be working with organisations that are looking to sponsor Fellowships. These are listed on page 16 of this Review.

We also rely on donations from individuals and organisations who support our work to help us to develop and improve our support for Fellows.

In 2017 the Trust worked collaboratively with the following learned societies, professional institutions and allied organisations:

- Biochemical Society
- British Pharmacological Society
- Campaign for Science & Engineering
- Inside Government
- The Institute of Physics
- The Institute of Materials, Minerals and Mining
- The Nutrition Society
- The Royal Academy of Engineering
- The Royal Astronomical Society
- The Royal Society
- The Royal Society of Biology, in particular the Society’s Diversity & Inclusion Working Group
- The Royal Society of Chemistry
- Society of Chemical Industry

Stephen Metcalfe MP with Dr Katie Perry at the Research Conference
It is equally important that organisations such as the Trust communicate effectively, reaching out to all stakeholders and audiences, and engaging with organisations with whom common goals are shared, in order to build a better future for STEM researchers.

Building on previous successes, during 2017 the Trust continued to engage proactively with policy makers and stakeholders, parliamentarians, learned societies and professional bodies. The Trust increased its social media profile, with Twitter continuing to be the main vehicle for its regular social media communications. The Trust also joined YouTube to launch a series of new videos produced by Boffin Media, featuring Trustees, Staff members, Fellows, Supporters and Stakeholders including Sir Mark Walport and Prof Jim Al-Khalili.

POLICY FOCUS

Our status as the provider of the UK’s foremost STEM returns’ scheme ensures that we make a meaningful input in the STEM policy and gender equality arenas.

Within the parliamentary sphere, we remain committed members of the Women & Work All Party Parliamentary Group and the Parliamentary & Scientific Committee. A particular highlight was Stephen Metcalfe MP Chair of the Parliamentary & Scientific Committee, agreeing to be a judge at our 2017 Research Conference. The Trust was represented at a number of events within the Westminster calendar, such as the Parliamentary Big Bang Reception, the Royal Society of Biology’s Week Parliamentary Reception and Parliamentary Links Day. In addition, Dr Katie Perry was a key note speaker at an Inside Government ‘Promoting Women in STEM’ conference.

There is still a significant STEM gender skills gap, persistent and unacceptable disparities in comparative levels of pay and career progression to senior levels between men and women (particularly subsequent to a career break), and an urgent need for employers to fully commit to part-time working, re-learning and job flexibility. That this situation exists in the context of a growing UK STEM skills shortage should be of concern to us all.

Looking ahead, there is much for the STEM sector to concern itself with: Brexit, significant changes in the higher education regulatory environment, the Industrial Strategy and the continuing drive for improved gender equality and diversity & inclusion are just a few of the many priority issues.

We remain committed to collaborating with other stakeholders to ensure that the voice of STEM researchers is heard loud and clear. I would be pleased to hear from anyone wishing to engage with the Trust on STEM and gender policy issues.

Tim Julier,
Executive Officer
tim.julier@surrey.ac.uk

CHARITY AWARDS

The Trust was recognised throughout the year with several nominations and charity awards as detailed below:

- Dr Morag Maskey won the ‘Ones to Watch’ category of the Timewise Power Part Time Awards – see page 9 for Morag’s story.
- Dr Katie Perry was nominated for the Institute of Physics Lawrence Bragg Medal for outstanding and sustained contributions to physics education and to widening participation within it.
- Dr Katie Perry was a finalist in the Business Women in Surrey’s Outstanding Women in STEM awards, held as part of the International Women’s Day celebrations.
- Dr Karen McGregor was shortlisted in the supporting Executive category for the Charity Times Awards.
- Professor Hillary Lappin-Scott, a Trustee, was awarded the individual Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) Pioneer Award in the Chwarae Teg Womenspire Awards, which celebrate the amazing achievements made by women across Wales.

IMPACT AND ENGAGEMENT

REACHING OUT TO BUILD A BETTER FUTURE

It is finally being recognised at a national level that providing support for individuals wishing to return to STEM is a crucial component of maintaining a diverse and talented STEM workforce.

“You have the expertise, the networks and a community of Fellows who themselves are now acting as mentors”.

PROFESSOR MARK WALPORT
Prior to her career break, neuroscientist Dr Natalia Gorenkova had what looked like a flourishing future career in international research.

She was working at the forefront of stroke therapy research in the field of stem cell research and nanomedicine, having obtained a PhD from Moscow State University, with nearly ten years of research experience under her belt through positions held in Ireland, Germany and the UK. Natalia gained an impressive eight publications as first author and had published 13 papers overall in the time since receiving her PhD.

Natalia started her Daphne Jackson Fellowship after a three-year break taken to care for her daughter. She was employed as a post-doc at Manchester University when she found out she was pregnant. Natalia was delighted but knew she would need to take maternity leave as well as relocate to be near her family in Ireland.

Shortly after the birth, Natalia began to look for research posts but struggled to find anything suitable in Northern Ireland, where she was living at the time. In 2014, Natalia split from her partner and moved to London with her daughter, where she began life as a single parent.

Once her daughter was settled in a new nursery, Natalia started to look for employment, but despite her significant experience as a highly skilled researcher she was faced with knockback after knockback.

“It was a frustrating time. I felt driven and ready to re-enter my former research career. I’d spent many years making significant contributions in the field of stroke research and making efforts towards the next step of my career.”

In 2014, a former supervisor of hers introduced her to a Senior Research Lecturer at the University of Strathclyde, during a Stroke Symposium. Natalia asked if there were any opportunities for her within his laboratory in Scotland and together they started pursuing career re-entry opportunities together. They spotted the advert for the Daphne Jackson Trust’s Medical Research Scotland sponsored Fellowships.

“I thought the Fellowship sounded like the perfect opportunity for me to re-enter my research career and seemed like a good match for my personal circumstances.”

She was delighted to be successful in the Trust’s application process and was awarded a two-year Fellowship, beginning in 2015 after she relocated to Scotland.

Natalia’s Fellowship is giving her the opportunity to refresh her skills in the laboratory and she is focusing on techniques such as cell culture, intracranial surgery and implantation, confocal microscopy and fluorescence-activated cell sorting (FACS). She is also attending the Trust’s professional development and retraining courses and a number of other University courses aimed specifically at scientists.

“I am enjoying working again - being around other scientists, negotiating with pharmaceutical companies and clinical partners. The part-time aspect of the Fellowship is hugely helpful in allowing me to balance my family’s needs and pursue an academic career.”

Natalia’s research project will investigate if silk can be a biomaterial to create an optimum microenvironment for stem cells that will be used to treat stroke; with the aim of the ultimate benefit in reducing disability and dependency after stroke.

“I am now feeling confident again and committed to science, thanks to the Daphne Jackson Trust. I’m delighted that the Trust exists to provide opportunities and support career-break returners in science.”

“Life simply put my academic plans and future on hold. I’m happy I’m now an independent scientist once again.”
‘Thanks to my Daphne Jackson Fellowship, my career path is clear again.’

ABIR GHORAYEB

COMPUTER SCIENTIST AT THE UNIVERSITY OF BRISTOL, SCHOOL OF CLINICAL SCIENCES

Computer scientist Dr Abir Ghorayeb put her aspiring research career on pause to raise her family but her return to academia wasn’t as easy as she initially thought it would be.

“I was lost towards the end of my career break. I didn’t know what to do to get back to research.”

Prior to Abir’s career break she was a promising international and active researcher in computer sciences, having studied and completed postdoctoral research in France, Canada and Lebanon, the latter being the country where she was born.

Before her career break, Abir had gained an impressive ten publications. She was adept at giving talks and presenting posters at conferences. Following her PhD, she spent one year in a private company, and a further two years in postdoc research.

“I finished my PhD in 2007 at the University of Joseph Fourier, France. During my PhD, I was working on the design, development, and evaluation of a communication system for older people using the user centered design approach. In 2009, I started two years of Postdoctoral research at the University of Montreal, Canada. I was working on the “Accessibility” and “Design for All” approaches.”

When she moved to the UK in 2011 because of her husband’s career in the technology of numerical simulation, Abir made the decision to focus on her family, bringing up her two young daughters and putting on hold her research activities until she was ready to work. Once her daughters were both settled at primary school, Abir felt ready to return to an academic role. After a break of four years she started to apply for research jobs but found limited opportunities as her experience was judged to be in a ‘niche area’, with not many research groups near her working in the same area. As a result, she received no offers of employment and started to become despondent, especially after having worked at a high level in research.

“During my career break, I always tried to keep a foot in the door of my former research career, by volunteering for local charities.”

Abir first heard about a Daphne Jackson Fellowship through a professional networking group and decided to find out more. She had noticed that some of the work that Professor Gooberham-Hill was involved within the University of Bristol’s School of Clinical Sciences and Faculty of Health Sciences, accorded with her own research interests. Abir approached Professor Gooberham-Hill to ask about working together on an application for the Fellowship on a research project around accessible interface design for older people, a topic which related to her PhD and her postdoctoral research.

After successfully completing the different stages of the Fellowship application process, Abir was awarded a Daphne Jackson Fellowship.

“I was thrilled to hear I was awarded my Fellowship! I am relishing the opportunity to return completely to my research activities. I can now build upon my research work to date but also refresh my skills, increase my knowledge, and learn new skills.”

Abir’s research project is looking at creating interfaces to new technologies that will allow older people to use them easily, in order to better support older people living independently in their own homes.

“Thanks to my Daphne Jackson Fellowship, my career path is clear again.”
SPONSORS & SUPPORTERS

We would like to thank all of our sponsors and supporters that make it possible for the Trust to continue to be the UK’s leading organisation dedicated to realising the potential of scientists and engineers returning to work after a career break.

CURRENT SPONSORS

The Trust is delighted to be working with the following organisations, which have sponsored and supported the Trust in 2017.

- Babraham Institute
- Biotechnology and Biological Sciences Research Council
- Biochemical Society
- Biocomposites Limited
- University of Brighton
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There are also a number of organisations which sponsor on an ongoing basis for one or more Fellowships and the Trust is delighted to be working with them. They are:

- Biotechnology and Biological Sciences Research Council
- Engineering and Physical Sciences Research Council
- John Innes Centre
- Medical Research Council
- Medical Research Scotland
- Natural Environment Research Council
- Royal Society of Chemistry
- Science and Technology Facilities Council
- University of Leicester
- University of Nottingham
- University of Oxford
- University of Surrey

In addition, the following sponsors were working with the Trust during 2017 to agree new sponsorship arrangements:

- British Heart Foundation
- Durham University
- Imperial College London
- Kidney Research UK
- Newcastle University
- National Physical laboratory
- Queen Mary, University of London
- The Nutrition Society
- The Society of Chemical Industry (SCI)
- University College London
- University of Huddersfield

SUPPORTERS

We also would like to thank the following organisations which have provided financial or in-kind support to us during 2017:

- The Huggett family
- Department of Physics, University of Surrey
- University of Surrey
- Nutrition Society
- British Pharmacological Society
- Royal Society of Chemistry
- Institute of Physics
- The Dunhill Medical Trust
- The Royal Society

We also gratefully acknowledge those individuals who make regular or standalone donations to the Trust.
BOARD OF TRUSTEES, PATRONS & STAFF MEMBERS

2017 has been another very successful year for the Daphne Jackson Trust.

STAFF MEMBERS

The Daphne Jackson Trust has a small team consisting of 10 members of staff, all of whom are part-time apart from Dr Katie Perry who is the only full-time staff member.

The Trust’s team deliver the charity’s objectives by carrying out the day-to-day operations of the Trust overseen by the Chief Executive, supported by the Trust Manager and a team of Fellowship Advisors and administrative staff.

Staff skills encompass financial management, academic research, marketing, communications, administration, policy and public affairs, public sector experience as well as expertise in the understanding of the issues returners face.

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Trust Manager

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Fellowship Adviser

Dr Indrayani Ghargrekar
Fellowship Adviser

Dr Julie Dallison
(from March 2017)
Fellowship Adviser

Tim Julien
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Dr Julie Dallison
(from March 2017)
Fellowship Adviser

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THE DAPHNE JACKSON TRUST ANNUAL REVIEW 2017

As an independent charity, we receive no public-sector funding. We rely on the generosity of sponsors and donors, whether from individuals or organisations, to continue providing our Fellowships. There are many ways in which you and your organisation can help.

- **SPONSOR OR HOST A DAPHNE JACKSON FELLOW**
  The cost of sponsoring a Daphne Jackson Fellow is less than you might think and can make a huge difference to someone’s career, also impacting positively on the skills base of the UK’s STEM research workforce.

- **MAKE A DONATION OR LEAVE A LEGACY**
  We rely on donations from individuals and organisations to support our work in raising the Trust’s profile to potential returners and promoting flexible working opportunities for STEM researchers. We welcome your donation, large or small, and you can donate online now through our Virgin Money Giving Page which can be found on our website.

- **BECOME A TRUSTEE OR JOIN OUR AWARDS COMMITTEE**
  We rely on the expertise and experience of a wide range of individuals to help inform our decision making. If you are an established member of the research community, or have ongoing links with academia, industry, or the charity sector, and think we may be able to collaborate to use our mutual knowledge and expertise to further the aims of the Trust, please do get in touch.

- **SPONSOR A NETWORKING EVENT, OR PROVIDE A MEETING ROOM**
  We hold regular networking events and meetings in London and around the UK. If you are able to offer complimentary meeting rooms, or a part of a larger venue at reduced rates, we would be delighted to hear from you.

Visit our website [www.daphnejackson.org](http://www.daphnejackson.org) for more details or email DJMFT@surrey.ac.uk to get in touch.

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THE SIR JOHN MASON ACADEMIC TRUST (SJMAT)

The Sir John Mason Academic Trust (SJMAT) was created from a legacy left by Sir John Mason, FRS 1923 - 2015.

Sir John Mason established cloud microphysics as a coherent scientific discipline, being the first ever Professor of Cloud Physics in the world. His research on the physics of cloud formation and later thunderstorms was pioneering and his texts on Cloud Physics remain seminal volumes for the community. In 1965 he was appointed Director General of the UK’s Meteorological Office developing it into a leading centre of excellence on the international stage. During his tenure the Meteorological Office developed computer based forecasting and exploited space based observations for weather monitoring.

He was highly influential within international institutions such as the World Meteorological Organisation and was President of many scientific bodies. He was both treasurer and senior vice-president of the Royal Society during which time he established the now well know Royal Society University Research Fellowships. This was testament to his commitment to support younger researchers and give them the opportunity to establish their research independence. He was also an ‘internationalist’ believing research could and should be conducted collaboratively, it is with these aims that he requested that a Trust be established to facilitate international research.

The Sir John Mason Academic Trust is therefore delighted to sponsor this year’s Annual Review of the Daphne Jackson Trust. It is particularly appropriate since Sir John knew Daphne as a fellow physicist and worked with her when he was pro- chancellor of the University of Surrey.