

THE MSOP MEMO

June 2026

Happy retirement Lynn Gallagher!

Last week we waved farewell to Lynn Gallagher- Medway School of Pharmacy's Chief Technician as she retired after 24 years at MSoP. Here is an excerpt from Dr Nicola Tyers' speech-

In 2002 — two years before the Medway School of Pharmacy admitted its very first students — Lynn arrived at what would become this School. There were no students. There were no graduating classes. There was a building, a vision, and a great deal of work to be done. Alongside Claire Mackie, Lynn helped build this School from the ground up. She set up the laboratories. She established the systems and processes. She created the environment in which thousands of pharmacists would go on to train, qualify, and go out into the world to care for patients. She was here before the School existed. And she has shaped everything it has become.



In 2014, Lynn co-founded the Kent Branch of the Association of Pharmacy Technicians UK — APTUK — alongside Sue Jones from East Kent Hospital Trust. She has served as Branch Chair ever since. APTUK is the professional body for pharmacy technicians — the equivalent of the Royal Pharmaceutical Society — and the Kent Branch, under Lynn's leadership, has become one of the most celebrated in the country. In 2016, the Kent Branch won the national APTUK Branch of the Year Award. In 2017, they won it again. And in 2019, they won it for a third time. Three times national champions. For outstanding work for pharmacy technicians across the Kent region.

But if you ask Lynn what she is most proud of — what she would want to be remembered for — I believe she would tell you about the Schools Conference. This is Lynn's project, built around her deepest conviction: that pharmacy should be open to everyone, and that the young people who could most benefit from a career in this profession are sometimes the ones who never imagine it is for them. The Schools Conference brings secondary school students to this place, introduces them to pharmacy, and helps them understand how to apply, what to expect, and why this might be the career that changes their lives.

Lynn will be greatly missed by all MSoP staff and students and we wish her well for a long, happy and healthy retirement.

Congratulations to Dr Tyers- RCP Fellow

Congratulations to Dr Nicola Tyers who collected her Fellow certificate for the Royal College of Pharmacy. RCP Fellows are members who have attained distinction in their pharmacy career. Fellowship is one of the highest honours the RCP can bestow upon its members, and it means so much because RCP Fellows are nominated by their peers and chosen by a distinguished panel of fellows.

Until recently it was known as the Royal Pharmaceutical Society (RPS), but Nicola is one of the first cohort of people to receive the Fellow award for the RCP. They became the Royal College of Pharmacy on 15 April 2026, following Royal Assent from the Privy Council and having received formal approval from both the Charity Commission and OSCR. This historic moment was the culmination of more than three years' extensive work by their leadership team and elected members, colleagues and members, and involved a huge number of people from across the whole pharmacy ecosystem.



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Research News

Professor Nigel Temperton- Pseudotyping Meeting- 10th edition

10th June 2026 marked the 10th Edition of the Pseudotyping meeting that was started by the Viral Pseudotype Unit with colleagues at UCL and NIBSC (Nigel Temperton, Simon Scott, Edward Wright, Yasu Takeuchi and Giada Mattiuzzo). This was the largest meeting to date with over 60 delegates registered from academia, biotech, public and animal health institutes and regulators. The meeting was held at the University of Westminster in Central London and this year, there was representation from the following stakeholders: AbBaltis, RQbio, iosBio, VisMederi, Twist Bioscience, DIOSynVax, VirionX, MHRA, APHA, Francis Crick Institute, OneVirology, DSTL, LSTM, Pirbright Institute, Oxford Vaccine Group, Viral Pseudotype Unit (VPU), and Universities of Essex, Nottingham, Sussex, Kent, Oxford, Sheffield, Warwick, QMUL, UCL, Westminster.

These meetings bring together interested parties with overlapping interests and priorities to meet, discuss, network and collaborate in a collegial environment, the true definition of a "community of practice".

Professor Nigel Temperton- World Society for Virology annual conference



Nigel Temperton has been invited as a Keynote speaker to the World Society for Virology (WSV) annual conference 2027 in Rabat, Morocco: <https://conference.ws-virology.org/wsv2027/speakers>. Other keynote speakers include Vincent Racaniello from the University of Columbia, US who hosts the globally famous TWIV podcasts (This Week In Virology): <https://www.microbe.tv/twiv/> (currently at episode 1325).

Earlier this year Nigel was nominated to stand for election for WSV-President Elect. For "distinguished professional accomplishments, exemplary leadership, and meaningful contributions to the virology community". He decided however to turn this down to pursue other roles within the virology community.

Recent publications accepted (MSoP authors in bold)

Steventon R, Stolle L, Gregory R, Gaetani L, Carnell GW, McNally C, Jarvis L, **Temperton N**, Thompson CP. Development of an ELISA-based pulldown approach for functional analysis of antigen-specific antibodies. J Virol Methods. 2026 Jul;344:115406. doi: [10.1016/j.jviromet.2026.115406](https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jviromet.2026.115406). Epub 2026 May 13. PMID: 42134602.

Marotta MG, **Mapulanga T**, Maina M, Daly J, Camero M, Diemen PM, Everett HE, Montomoli **E**, da Costa **K**, **Temperton N**, Trombetta CM. Development and Qualification of a Pseudotyped Virus-Based Microneutralisation Assay for Influenza D Virus. Influenza Other Respir Viruses. 2026 Apr;20(4):e70245. doi: [10.1111/irv.70245](https://doi.org/10.1111/irv.70245). PMID: 41979029; PMCID: PMC13077565.

Recent pre-prints (MSoP authors in bold)

Serine proteases are required to activate influenza D virus haemagglutinin-esterase fusion (HEF) protein Meshach M. Maina, Junsen Zhang, **Martin Mayora Neto**, **Kelly da Costa**, Eva Bottcher-Friebertshauser, Edward Hutchinson, Maria Giovanna Marotta, Claudia Maria Trombetta, **Simon D. Scott**, **Nigel Temperton**, Janet M. Daly bioRxiv 2026.04.16.717628; doi: <https://doi.org/10.64898/2026.04.16.717628>

Antigenic seniority and convergent haemagglutinin evolution shaped the immune landscape preceding influenza B/Yamagata's extinction. R. Steventon, M. Lee, R. Gregory, L. Stolle, C. McNally, L. Jarvis, N.C. Robb, G. Carnell, **N. Temperton**, S. Cherny, U. Obolski, C P. Thompson. medRxiv 2026.05.17.26353389; doi: <https://doi.org/10.64898/2026.05.17.26353389>

Daly, Janet and Wu, Ge and Norman, Freya and Maina, Meshach M. and Kuchipudi, Suresh V. and Nissly, Ruth H. and **Scott, Simon David** and **Temperton, Nigel** and Dunham, Stephen, Limited evidence for exposure of horses in the United Kingdom to influenza D virus. Available at SSRN: <https://ssrn.com/abstract=6617738>

THE MSOP MEMO

Dr Hatem Hassan- Research Update

Congratulations to Dr Hatem Hassan who has recently contributed to an article titled "Reprogramming cancer therapeutics through artificial intelligence-guided drug repurposing: Computational innovation, experimental validation, and translational challenges", published in the journal titled 'Artificial Intelligence in the Life Sciences'. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.aills.2026.100168>

Pint of Science 2026

Congratulations to Dr Romina Vuono and all the volunteers, speakers, venues, Greenwich sponsorship and the fantastic team behind another great delivery of Pint of Science sessions.

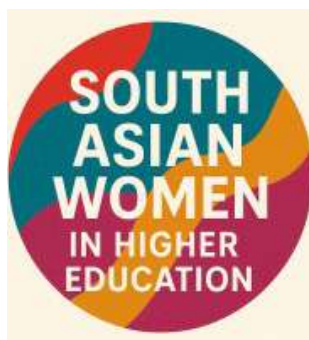


MSOP provided speakers on the following dates:

- **18 May** - Living Well with Chronic Pain & Plastic Antibodies @ Medway [Ethel Jardim & Dr Andy Hall]
- **19 May** - Why Snoring Matters & What Fruit Flies Teach Us @ Medway [Uche Ani & Dr Fani Papagiannouli]
- **20 May** - Gut bugs, Robots & the Science of Living Well @ Canterbury [Anastasios Tsaousis, Giovanni Masala & Ioanna Giorgi]

All sessions were well attended and the last one even featuring in the local [BBC news](#).

Dr Bhamra- South Asian Women in Higher Education (SAWHE) Network



Congratulations to Dr Suky Bhamra who has recently been appointed as an Inner Circle Member and Country Lead for India in the South Asian Women in Higher Education (SAWHE) Network. The network was officially launched at the Manchester Museum on 5th June 2026.

Dr Bhamra is particularly grateful to the University of Kent's EDI team for sponsoring this important launch event and supporting the development of a network dedicated to empowering and connecting South Asian women working across higher education.



Dr Bhamra would also extend the opportunity to invite colleagues to join this amazing network. <https://sawhe.org/>

British Society for Research on Ageing (BSRA) Summer Studentship

The British Society for Research on Ageing (BSRA) Summer Studentship (£3000) which was recently secured by Dr Sadaf Ashraf has been awarded to Year 3 MPharm student Ms Manki Viram after an internal competition.



Manki started the 10 week placement on 1st June and is undertaking a project investigating the role of ion channels in age-associated conditions like osteoarthritis. Manki says "I applied for this placement to experience biomedical research in practice. Being able to carry-out various lab-based techniques, such as working with biological tissues, performing histological staining and analysing structural changes using microscopes will give me a deeper appreciation of how scientific discoveries are made and how they can be utilised for future treatments.

This experience has highlighted how rewarding research can be, particularly when it can have an impact on patients' quality of life through identifying novel drug targets. I would encourage other students to consider taking part in research placements, as they offer valuable hands-on experience and important insight into different career pathways within healthcare, the pharmaceutical industry and scientific research, enhances their CV and contributes to student success".

THE MSOP MEMO

Congratulations to Michelle Larbi on successful PhD Viva



Congratulations to Michelle Larbi on successfully completing her PhD viva on May 29th. This is a fantastic achievement and an important milestone following years of dedication, perseverance, and high-quality research. Michelle was supervised by Dr Stella Koutsikou (PI/Supervisor) and Dr Vadim Sumbayev (Second Supervisor).

Stella would like to extend sincere thanks to everyone who has supported Michelle throughout her PhD journey and contributed to this success. Particular thanks are extended to Dr Wenchang Li, External Examiner from St Andrews University and expert in the mechanisms underlying motor control in *Xenopus* tadpole, Dr Fani Papagiannouli, Internal Examiner, and Dr Romina Vuono, who kindly observed the viva. Very well done to Michelle and all involved!

Congratulations to Gauri Thapa on completing her PhD

Congratulations to Gauri Thapa on successfully passing her PhD viva last month and preparing to graduate in July. This outstanding accomplishment is a testament to years of hard work, resilience, and excellence in research.

Gauri was supervised by Dr Romina Vuono (First Supervisor, Medway School of Pharmacy) and Dr Athina Mylona (Second Supervisor, Kent and Medway Medical School). Romina would like to express her heartfelt gratitude to all those who have supported Gauri during her PhD journey and played a part in this success, including the Medway School of Pharmacy academic and professional services staff.



With special thanks to Dr Nicola Tyers, Dr Fani Papagiannouli, Prof Nigel Temperton, Dr Vadim Sumbayev, Dr Emma Veale, Dr Stella Koutsikou, Ms Katrin Jones, Ms Rachel Ashtari, Ms Rachel Cottam, Ms Michelle Brothers, Ms Lynn Gallagher, Dr Sarah Corlett, Dr Kelly Da Costa; Dr Ayodeji Ibitoye (University of Greenwich); Dr Athina Mylona (KMMS); Natural Resources Institute (University of Greenwich), Ms Nick Barret, Ms Jennifer Wright (University of Greenwich post room), Mr Joe Mahama (Campus FM Lead, University of Greenwich); Ms Rachael Jeremiah, Ms Tina Bailey, Biomedical Scientists, and staff at North Kent Pathology Service; Dr Julia Sanchez (Vitassay Healthcare); Dr Harriet Carroll and the Long COVID group (LCSC).

Last but not least, special thanks go to the external examiner, Professor Alistair Mathie (University of Westminster), and the internal examiner, Professor Gurprit Lall (University of Kent), for their time, expertise, and valuable input throughout the examination process. Thank you all for being part of such a fantastic and rewarding journey. Your support, encouragement, and contributions have played an important role in making this achievement possible.

Pharmacy students- Greenwich Students Union Top 50 winners

Congratulations to the Pharmacy students who were recognised at the Greenwich Students Union top 50 [\(SU50\)](#).



- The **MPSA (Medway Pharmacy Students Association)** who won a Student Union Award for their work and engagement with Pharmacy students.
- **Glory Folaranmi**, who won an individual award recognising all of the work she has done for the MPSA.

- **Daelynn Richards** who was recognised as part of the university basketball team and was ranked the second highest point scorer at the end of the season.
- **Dikchya Gurung** who will be given her award next week for her leadership on the Planetary Health Report Card.

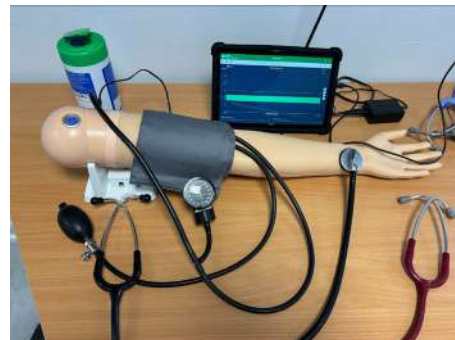
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Schools Conference 2026

Following the success of our campaign in 2025, the MSoP Schools Conference 2026 took place across two weeks in May-June and this year's theme was "Pharmacy: Where Science Meets its Medicine". We welcomed over 130 Year 12 students from schools across Kent who were interested in pharmacy, medicine or any allied healthcare profession.

The conference aimed to illuminate the critical role of pharmacy professionals within the healthcare ecosystem—following a patient's journey from diagnosis to recovery and demonstrating how science underpins every stage of medical care.

Week 1 sessions followed the life of a patient who had a heart attack and included the original diagnosis and treatment alongside lifestyle advice. It also integrated the areas of allied healthcare and pharmaceutical procedures surrounding the patient's treatment. Week 2 focused on infection and included a range of different activities from clinical skills to industrial chemistry and even creating hand sanitiser! Thank you to the staff involved for all of the hard work that went into organising and running this event.



Medway School of Pharmacy Graduation Ceremony

A reminder that our ceremony will be on Wednesday 29 July at Rochester Cathedral. We would encourage attendance to help us mark this important milestone for our students and their families. The time has been confirmed for Wednesday 29 July at 15:30.

Look out for further information regarding attendance and robing etc. Further information for final-year students is available at: www.gre.ac.uk/awards; any enquiries from students should be directed to: awards@gre.ac.uk

Welcomes and goodbyes

Medway School of Pharmacy would like to take this opportunity to say goodbye and good luck to those who have left MSoP in recent months. **Emily Bushnell** who received a promotion in her hospital role (congratulations!) and **Dr Colin Waldock** who has retired.

We would also like to welcome...

- **Dr Zeeneh Elsaid** who is our new Senior Lecturer in Clinical & Professional Practice and MPharm Programme Lead who joins us in this key leadership role in our teaching team.
- **Cynthia Akhuemokhan** who is a Medway NHS Trust Teacher Practitioner bringing valuable clinical expertise as a core member of our teaching team.

EXAMINATION RESIT INFORMATION

Resit examination timetables will be available soon now results have been formally released.

Please ensure that you have familiarised yourself with the times and locations of your examinations and arrive with plenty of time to spare with your Greenwich ID card. If you have any specific queries, please contact us at pharmacyassessments@greenwich.ac.uk

Upcoming Dates

- **Examination resit period**- Monday 13th- Friday 24th July
- **Placement remediation week**- Monday 13th- Friday 24th July
- **Admin Week for Staff**- Monday 7th- Friday 11th September
- **Welcome Week (New Y0 and Y1 Students)**- Monday 14th- Friday 18th September
- **Autumn Term**- Monday 21st September- Friday 11th December