

Congratulations to the Medway School of Pharmacy Class of 2026!



On 29th July 2026, our academic team came together to celebrate another memorable Medway School of Pharmacy Graduation Day, a proud occasion marking the achievements of our students.

It was a privilege to be part of this milestone and celebrate the dedication, perseverance, and success of every graduate.

Congratulations to the Class of 2026 on the successful completion of your studies. We wish our graduates continued success in their future endeavours.

Congratulations to Dr Gauri Thapa!

A proud moment at the Medway School of Pharmacy Graduation Day on 29th July 2026 marking the successful completion of years of dedication, resilience, and excellence in research.

Congratulations to our PhD graduate, Dr Gauri Thapa, on the successful completion of their doctoral journey and defence of their thesis, Unravelling the risk factors and long-term health consequences of long COVID in the UK population. We also extend our congratulations to their supervisor Dr Romina Vuono, whose invaluable guidance and mentorship have been instrumental throughout this research journey. We wish Dr Gauri Thapa every success in the next chapter of their career.



The Guardian Best UK Universities 2027 rankings

We are delighted to share that within the subject area of Pharmacy and Pharmacology our School has moved in [The Guardian's Best UK Universities 2027](#) rankings from 21st position in the 2026 rankings to 15th in 2027. More importantly, when we look back over the past three years, the School has improved its position by an impressive 17 places overall.

This is a fantastic achievement and one that we should all be proud of. It reflects the collective effort, commitment and dedication of staff and students, as well as the support we have received from the Faculty and the Universities.

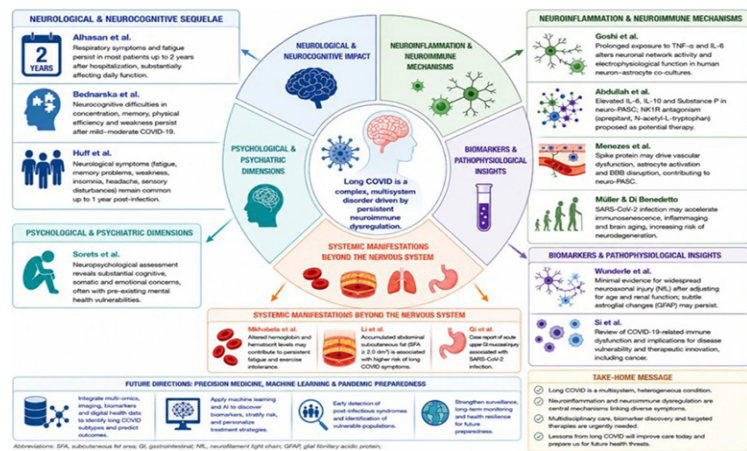
Subject Area: Pharmacy & Pharmacology

Academic Year	Publication	No. of schools on list	League Table Position	Difference from previous Year	Overall Guardian Score	Difference from previous Year
2025/26	2027	42	15	+6	80.7	+3.3
2024/25	2026	40	21	+6	77.4	+13.9
2023/24	2025	38	27	+5	63.5	+11.0
2022/23	2024	40	32		52.2	

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Research News

Unraveling the Long-Term Effects of COVID-19



Dr Romina Vuono and Prof Nigel Temperton are delighted to share the publication of the editorial, Unraveling the Long-Term Effects of COVID-19, in *Frontiers in Cellular Neuroscience* (Cellular Neuropathology section). <https://doi.org/10.3389/fn-cel.2026.1926660>

This publication highlights the success of a collaborative effort between researchers from Medway School of Pharmacy, University of Cambridge, and University of Verona. The Special Issue has been exceptionally well received, with the journal recognising its scientific impact by inviting the editorial team to lead a second volume, which will explore the role of Artificial Intelligence in Pandemic Preparedness.

We look forward to continuing this exciting collaboration and warmly encourage colleagues to consider contributing to the forthcoming Special Issue. Further details will be announced soon - watch this space!

Publications (MSoP authors in bold)

"Exposure of dogs to influenza A and B viruses"

Claudia Maria Trombetta, Maria Giovanna Marotta, Serena Marchi, Francesco Bonfante, Silvia Maniero, Alessandra Napolitan, Ana Moreno, Chiara Chiapponi, **Nigel Temperton**, **Simon Scott**, Janet M. Daly, Alessandro Manenti, Emanuele Montomoli, Gianvito Lanave, Michele Camero, Vito Martella, *One Health*, Volume 23, 2026, 10153, ISSN 2352-7714, <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.onehlt.2026.101537>. (<https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S2352771426002211>)

"Divergent antibody-mediated population immunity to H5, H7 and H9 subtype potential pandemic influenza viruses"

Lucas Stolle, Jai S Bolton, Rebecca Steventon, Reanna Gregory, Hannah Klim, **Cecilia Di Genova**, Luke Haddock, Aishwarya Bhatta, **George Carnell**, Caolann Brady, Kelly Da Costa, Matthew Edmans, Kate Calliss, Peter Simmonds, Edward M Hill, **Nigel Temperton**, Sarah C Hill, Lisa Jarvis, Carol McNally, Joe James, Ashley C. Banyard, Miles Carroll, Uri Obolski, Teresa Lambe, Alex Spencer, Anita Milicic, Nicole C Robb, Craig P Thompson https://www.researchgate.net/publication/395452841_Divergent_antibody-mediated_population_immunity_to_H5_H7_and_H9_subtype_potential_pandemic_influenza_viruses

"Self-Calibrated Hyperspectral Neural Radiance Fields for 3D Reconstruction of Bone and Bone Analogue"

Congratulations to **Dr Sadaf Ashraf** who has had an article published in collaboration with Professor Gianluca Tozzi at University of Greenwich. It focuses on a novel method of imaging bone structures in 3D, with a superior image quality to existing methods. This 3D spectral visualisation of bone has potential applications in image-guided orthopaedics, biomechanics and advanced tissue assessment. <https://www.biorxiv.org/content/10.64898/2026.06.17.732938v1.full.pdf>

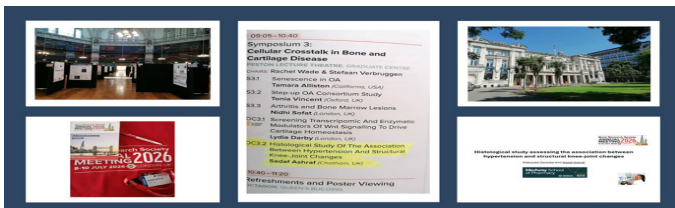
Conferences

At the CONWISE meeting (consortium for the standardisation of influenza seroepidemiology), held 29 Aug 2026 in Washington DC. **Professor Temperton** delivered a joint Medway School of Pharmacy VPU/VisMederi Group presentation within the latest developments in laboratory assays for sero-epidemiology section: "Current landscape: variability across neutralization, binding, and functional assays". Info on CONWISE can be found at: <https://conwise.influenza.hk/>



At OPTIONS XIII **Professor Nigel Temperton** presented a paper "An integrated serological platform for airway-delivered next gen and universal vaccine and mAb immunogenicity readouts". The conference was held at the Washington DC Convention Center on August 30 – September 2, 2026.

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Dr Sadaf Ashraf was invited to deliver an oral presentation on the link between "Hypertension and Structural Knee-Joint Changes in Osteoarthritis" at the recent Bone Research Society Meeting (8-10 July 2026) at Queen Mary University of London.

Dr Sukvinder Bhamra recently chaired a session on Natural Products at the Academy of Pharmaceutical Sciences 17th PharmSci International Conference on Wednesday 9th September 2026 in Newcastle. Dr Bhamra also co-leads the 'Drugs from Natural Sources' focus group for the Academy. <https://apsgb.co.uk/focus-groups/drugs-from-natural-sources/>

Celebrating Student Innovation in Healthcare Simulation

A huge shout out to four of our Year 4 students: **Demilade, Daniela, Daelynn** and **Davina** who took on an exciting challenge over the summer by entering a national healthcare simulation competition. The competition invited students to design a clinical simulation scenario relevant to their field, with a focus on enhancing the capabilities of the future health and social care workforce. Entries were judged by a panel of experts, with the four winning teams receiving tickets to the prestigious ASPIH conference and the opportunity to present their scenarios live.

There were an impressive number of entries from across the UK and, although our students did not make the final on this occasion, their achievement and hard work deserve to be celebrated. They invested considerable time and thought into developing their scenario and gained valuable experience along the way. Their scenario, "Same Standards, Different Approach: Autism-Informed Care in Practice," is designed for Year 3 and 4 MPharm students. Set in a GP practice, it follows the hospital discharge of a 67 year old autistic woman who was admitted following medication-related falls. The scenario explores the complexities of providing care for neurodivergent patients in primary care, including the interaction between physical health, mental wellbeing and integrated care.

We won't give away too many details just yet, as we are now hoping to incorporate the scenario into teaching on the MPharm programme. This is a fantastic example of students taking an active role in shaping their own learning and contributing ideas that could benefit future cohorts. Experiences like this not only help prepare our students for professional practice but also demonstrate the valuable contribution students can make to the development of their programme.

Well done, **Demilade, Daniela, Daelynn** and **Davina**! -Dr Jo Dockwray

MSoP Staff Awards 2026

On Tuesday 8th September, as part of our annual Education & Student Success Staff Conference, the winners of the MSoP Staff Awards were announced. The first two awards listed are based on student-led feedback from module evaluations. Thank you to all of our students who contributed and made these awards possible, and congratulations to our winners.

- **Best Module:** PHAR1054; Dr Media Zanganeh
- **Star Lecturer:** Georgina Gohil
- **Top MPharm/MPharm with a Preparatory Year Interviewers:** Dr Maxwell Casely-Hayford, Denise Rabbette, Teresa Benniman, Dr Veronica Chorro-Mari
- **Top Collaborators:** Lana Robinson, Dr Sandip Desai, Dr Hatem Hassan
- **Above & Beyond Award:** Dr Alison Edwards & Dr Veronica Chorro-Mari
- **Unsung Hero:** Michelle Brothers
- **Director of Education Special Recognition Award:** The Placements Team (Antonieta Maddocks, Leanne Fox, Lenore Scott, Rachel Ashtari, Abbey Adelere) & Dr Romina Vuono



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Summer work experience students hosted by Dr Sadaf Ashraf

I have been a Science Technology Engineering and Maths (STEM) Ambassador for many years. I first volunteered as a STEM Ambassador when I was doing my PhD and have passionately continued engaging with the initiative since then. Even now, as an academic, I volunteer every year, during the summer holidays (July-August) and host research placements for Year 12 students. I truly believe that "you can't be what you can't see", and through increasing visibility of real-world STEM enthusiasts and role models, we can inspire the next generation and make a difference to the lives, futures and ambitions of young people so that they can reach their full potential.



In addition, through undertaking STEM activities, we can encourage and coach young people to be critical thinkers and pioneers so they develop a growth-mindset and go beyond the need of having role-models but rather they aspire to the notion that "if you can't see it, be it".

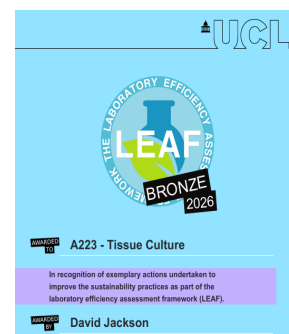
This year, I hosted James (Sir Joseph Williamson's Mathematical School, Rochester), Leah (Mayfield Grammar School, Gravesend) and Visal (The Rochester Grammar School). These Year 12 students spent two weeks learning about what Biological Scientists do in academia. They conducted a mini research project on osteoarthritis.

A huge thankyou to **Samm Crane** and **Dr Sukvinder Bhamra** who took the time out to talk to the students about their career paths, as well as our postgraduate research students Faith Zaninka Kawaddwa and Mohammed Islam and MPharm student Manki Viram. Special thankyou to Drs Michael Rivette and Iain Goodall who showed the students how research facilities and service laboratories operate within large institutes. -Dr Sadaf Ashraf

LEAF Bronze Award- Biological Sciences

We are pleased to announce that one of the research laboratories in Biological Sciences (A223- Tissue Culture) was recently awarded the LEAF Bronze award.

This is similar to the ones achieved previously for teaching labs but is the first of the University of Greenwich's research labs to achieve this. Well done to everyone involved!



Sustainability- MSOP book swap & free stationery

Thank you very much to the University of Greenwich Reuse team for sourcing us a new (old) bookcase for Anson reception to launch our new Medway School of Pharmacy Book Swap/Free stationery shelf which is accessible to all staff and students for the new academic year.

It was great to hear that we saved 22kg from waste by reusing this item, as well as avoiding 30.9kg of CO₂ emissions, not to mention the cost of procuring a new bookcase!

This joins our merry band of reused furniture in Anson reception alongside our chairs which originated in the Pembroke café. We're glad to be able to play our part in making the campus more sustainable.

If anyone would like to donate or swap a book, please feel free! All stationery available on the shelf is free to anyone that would like it- Please do help yourselves.

THE MSOP MEMO

PGR Talk Series 2025–26: Celebrating Postgraduate Research at Medway School of Pharmacy

Throughout the 2025–26 academic year, Medway School of Pharmacy hosted its successful PGR Talk Series, bringing together postgraduate researchers and staff for an engaging programme of monthly research talks and discussions. Organised by **Dr Fani Papagiannouli** and **Katrin Jones**, the series took place on Wednesdays between 1-2pm and provided a welcoming one-hour forum where up to two postgraduate research students could present their work, receive constructive feedback, and engage in lively discussions during dedicated Q&A sessions.

The talks showcased the remarkable breadth and interdisciplinary nature of research taking place across the School, spanning pharmaceutical sciences, drug delivery, cancer biology, public health, pharmacy practice, computational modelling, and biomedical research. Each session offered attendees the opportunity to learn about innovative methodologies, emerging healthcare challenges, and cutting-edge scientific discoveries while fostering collaboration across research groups.

Beyond sharing scientific findings, the PGR Talk Series created an inclusive environment where postgraduate research students could develop their presentation skills, exchange ideas, and receive valuable feedback from peers and academic staff. The interactive Q&A sessions encouraged thoughtful discussion and strengthened the vibrant research culture within Medway School of Pharmacy.

A huge thank you goes to all of our student presenters for sharing their fascinating research throughout the year, and to everyone who attended and contributed to the stimulating discussions. Special thanks also to **Dr Fani Papagiannouli** and **Katrin Jones** for organising another successful series.

We look forward to welcoming everyone back in the new academic year and can't wait to hear more about the exciting progress our postgraduate researchers will make in 2026–27.

Welcome and congratulations!

Medway School of Pharmacy would like to take this opportunity to congratulate...

- **Dr Media Zanganeh** and her husband on the arrival of their baby daughter, Mia during the summer break.
- **Georgina Gohil** (née Gillard) and her husband who got married in August.

We would also like to welcome...

- **Dr Blessing Ukoha-Kalu** who is our new Senior Lecturer Clinical and Professional Practice and academic Placements Lead
- **Shameera Chandrarajah** who has joined us as a Teaching Practitioner
- **Amanda Riley** who joins the postgraduate team as HCPC lead

Upcoming Dates

- **Autumn Term**- Monday 21st September- Friday 11th December
- **UG Open Day**- Saturday 17th October
- **Year 4 Placements Week**- Monday 26th- Friday 30th October
- **Year 3 Placements Week**- Monday 2nd- Friday 6th November
- **Year 2 Placements Week**- Monday 9th- Friday 13th November
- **UG Open Day**- Saturday 21st November

GETTING TO KNOW US

DENISE (DEE) RABBETTE

Could you tell us about your journey in education and employment to becoming a Senior Lecturer at MSOP?

Shortly after qualifying and starting my Pharmacist career in Community Pharmacy I was asked to run education sessions for pre reg students in secondary care and I also became part of a project where pharmacists visited GPs to update them on clinical areas and clinical trials. I loved these roles and so I always hoped eventually I would get a role in education. It just took longer than planned. I have worked in Community, in Primary Care as Head of Meds management, I have worked with the Metropolitan Police in developing PGDs in custody suites, and I have also worked as Director of Primary care. I then 'retired' to Egypt and worked on Sharm Reality magazine writing health related articles primarily for ex-pats so education from a distance I suppose.



I qualified as a prescriber in 2015 at Medway School of Pharmacy with my Atrial Fibrillation scope and applied for a role as a support lecturer shortly afterwards, and so ultimately I had my dream job, and yes it remains my dream job!

I hope I bring my various experiences from my previous roles to my teaching role and I still work one day a week in a GP practice so I do use my qualification for the benefit of patients. It also helps me in my teaching role as I hope it allows me to bring real world examples from practice into my teaching role because I promise you that no patient is a textbook one.

You have a very varied role spanning across undergraduate and postgraduate, medicines optimisation and short courses, as well as overseeing fitness to practice. What does a typical day in your life look like?

Every day is different and that is one of the things I love about the job. At this time of year I am preparing the MSOP1017 module with the rest of the team and as we have changed the scope this year we have a lot of preparation to do! Our postgraduate prescribing courses (meds opt, short courses and prescribing) run all year round so I usually have at least a few meetings a week with students to discuss their progress, and if I am not meeting then I am reading their reflections or marking.

I frequently have teaching sessions for our postgraduate students and I focus on evidence base and influences on prescribing and I love these sessions as they are really interactive and engaging and it really gives students an opportunity to reflect on their future practice and you can see their mindset change from practitioners to prescribers in real time.

Fitness to practice is a role I really enjoy, it allows me to work with a variety of lecturers that I would not see day to day. More importantly it allows me to engage with students who may not always fully understand the GPhC standards for Pharmacy professionals. I appreciate that students are rightly anxious about being invited to discuss fitness to practice issues but this gives me the chance to remind people that FtP aims to support students, we may be able to offer support if you are having difficulties- we can only help if we know. The other important element is that MSOP is your safe space so if issues arise it is much better that it happens here than once you qualify. The other real benefit is that it allows us to develop as a school. So sometimes these meetings identify gaps in our processes or teaching and I can then make sure these are acted on. Ultimately the driver for FtP is to learn and improve and that works both ways

What's one memorable or funny moment that you've had since working at MSOP?

Not sure I can even mention this, but one memorable moment was watching a student blow their nose on their T shirt while invigilating an exam, we usually have tissues (well I certainly do now!) so please ask!

If you weren't in pharmacy, what would your dream job be?

I would be running a cat sanctuary on a Greek island.

What is your favourite animal?

Sloths, I just think they are adorable and they are about as animated as I am in the morning before my first coffee. Closely followed by cats, they definitely have servants, not owners, and as someone who has adopted 4 rescue cats but somehow appear to be looking after 7 in the last few years, I am a firm believer in cat distribution theory.