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Deadline Extension Announcement

The deadline for abstracts for BC-ISMRM 2018 has been extended to **9am on Monday 23rd July!**



Register NOW for BC-ISMRM 2018 – University of Oxford, 24th- 26th September

Registration is now open for the annual **British Chapter ISMRM**, which will be held between the **24th-26th September 2018** at the **University of Oxford**.

The theme of the main conference is "**Driving the Next Generation of MRI**", with the **workshop topic "Clinical Translation of Molecular Imaging"**.

This year's BC-ISMRM conference will have **loads of prizes**: winners of the **Mansfield Prize** for the best oral

presentation and the John Griffiths Award for the **best presentation on pre-clinical work** will each take home **£500**. Smaller prizes will also be awarded for top oral and poster presentations, and **travel stipends** will be available for trainee members presenting abstracts.

[Registration and accommodation are now available.](#)

Positive Spin is recruiting!



The editorial board of Positive Spin are looking for a **new trainee member!** This is a great opportunity for you to **get involved with British Chapter** and **bolster your CV**.

If you're interested, **submit an audition piece of no more than 250 words:** a history of MR research at your current institution, or an article or meeting report of your choice. Send entries to newsletter@ismrm.org.uk by 15th September. We will **announce the winners at BC-ISMRM 2018**, and the top runners-up will be published in upcoming issues of the newsletter.

PG BC-ISMRM Highlights

We kicked off this year's circuit with the postgraduate meeting in May,

organised by a fantastic joint-committee of students from Liverpool, Nottingham and London. The **postgrad-only committee** was a first for PG BC-ISMRM, so many thanks to **Matthew Grech-Sollars** and the rest of the team for such a great conference. Who needs the profs when you've got these guys?:

- Joshua Freedman (Institute of Cancer Research), Lead on Social Events
- Pete Lally (Imperial College London), Lead on Welcoming and Logistics
- Priyanka Sakhavalkar (University of Liverpool), Lead on Sponsors
- Oliver Gurney-Champion (Institute of Cancer Research), Lead on Posters
- Charlotte Pretsch (King's College London), Lead on Orals and Poster Pitches
- Jodi Watt (University of Nottingham), Lead on Prizes

Let us know if you'd like to be on the organising committee for 2019. Send an email to newsletter@ismrm.org.uk.

Congratulations to our award winners:

- Best Talk:
 - 1) Liam Young
 - 2) Sophie Schauman
 - 3) Emma Biondetti
- Best Poster:
 - 1) Karyn Chappell
 - 2) Harry Mason
 - 3) Joshua Freedman
- Best Poster Pitch:
 - 1) Harry Mason
 - 2) Karyn Chappell
 - 3) Luis Lacerda





ISMRM-ESMRMB 2018 Highlights

Hopping across the channel in June, we hit **Paris for the ISMRM conference**. Oxford's very own **Karla Miller** was this year's Program Chair. There was great science (including a particularly memorable Rick & Morty impression by Miki Lustig - [skip to 27:15 in this video!](#)) and one of the **best closing party venues ever**: an interactive funfair museum! The action moved too fast for our phones to capture, so if you have good shots please upload them to our [website](#). The annual British Chapter social hosted by **Gareth Barker** was also a big hit as usual. Thanks to all for coming out on a smokin' hot night! Montreal next year!



Update from your Student Observer

Hello Positive Spin readers!

I'm Nikou Damestani, a first year PhD student from King's College London, and I was elected at this year's PG BC-ISMRM as your Student Observer. Thank you again for this opportunity! I hope to **relay all of your opinions and ideas to the committee** and give all students the chance to **shape the British Chapter**.



My main plan this year is to **make sure students feel included** in the British Chapter. I will be running a **Slack channel** so you can contact me directly, and I am also now on the Editorial Board for Positive Spin, so please let me know of your achievements so we can make sure your hard work is acknowledged!

I will also be working on bringing more diversity and inclusion workshops to BC-ISMRM events. Please check out the segment on the **Expanding Diversity** workshop at UCL below, which was a fantastic opportunity to gain insights on the experiences of professors from a range of scientific backgrounds alongside a grant-writing workshop. Do follow **@MinoritySTEM** on Twitter for future events!

I look forward to meeting you all in September at BC-ISMRM!

**Members' News -
Expanding Diversity at**



UCL

by Yolanda Ohene (UCL)

Slowly but surely, **'equality, diversity and inclusion'** is becoming a priority for many universities and academic societies, including ISMRM. At **this year's meeting in Paris, there was a dedicated plenary session to: Research & Results on Diversity in Research Organisation.** And recently, I received a UCL Researcher-Led Initiative grant to organise a one-day symposium – called **Expanding Diversity** – to promote careers, communication and engagement of STEM PhD students from ethnic minority backgrounds.

After 6 months of organisation (which did not go as smoothly as intended!), the **event was attended by around 40 post-graduate students from across the country.** We started with personal stories from professors, including a panel discussion on navigating an academic career. Two prominent science journalists helped us hone writing skills for funding, grants and the public. The day was rounded off with a session on engaging wider audiences.

Overall the symposium was a success, with many commenting that it was good having a combination of careers talks and skills workshops. I hope there can be **more events** like this to **connect researchers**, and to continue to **strengthen and**

**improve the diversity of the
scientists in the UK.**

Zoom in on... Birmingham



In this issue we've followed the lead of [Telly Savalas](#) and **headed to Birmingham**. He highlights not only architectural masterworks such as the Bull Ring and the Inner Ring Road, but also its role as a **culinary capital**: "You can really eat in this town: You can chew Chinese, feed French or ingest Indian, guzzle Greek, intake Italian or digest Danish".

In the early years, work on the high-resolution NMR spectrometers in the [Henry Wellcome Building](#) focused on protein structure, but has more recently expanded to include carbs (metabolism and tracer studies). Currently it **houses several spectrometers up to 900 MHz, with a 1 GHz on the way**.

Catering for children is a speciality, with the NIHR 3TMR Research Facility in the Birmingham Children's Hospital, where **Andrew Peet** leads a group with a long history of research into brain tumours and other conditions using MRS and MRI. There are links also to the [Aston Brain Centre](#) with its own 3T scanner,

focusing on neuro-cognition and epilepsy, and the Queen Elizabeth Hospital, where interests include also brain injury and liver disease as well as brain tumours.

You can work off those calories with a spot of sports science on the 3T scanner at the [Birmingham University Imaging Centre \(BUIC\)](#). Another item on the menu is psychology, both at BUIC and in the recently established [Centre for Human Brain Health](#), where a new scanner is on the way for dessert.

So, in Birmingham there is something to suit almost anyone's taste. Tuck in and enjoy!

News from your Committee

We've nearly finished drafting changes to the bylaws of British Chapter to clarify the roles and function of the BCISMRM and its Committee. Soon we'll be asking for a vote by the membership to ratify changes – watch this space!

We're seeking a **postdoc member of ISMRM** to join the Committee. Candidates will be asked to give a short statement at the British Chapter meeting in Oxford before selection by a vote. Contact secretary@ismrm.org.uk for more details.

Facebook, Twitter and redesigning our website

Search for **British Chapter of the ISMRM**, join in, and post any news items, pictures, or other bits of gossip you think might interest us.

You can also spread the word on Twitter using the hashtag **#bcismrm**. Finally, plans are afoot to update our website (www.ismrm.org.uk), and volunteers would be greatly welcome! This would look great on a CV!

We will also be activating a **Slack channel** under **#bcismrm**, which will have subgroups for each field and a group for postgraduates to relay their requests to the Student Observer.

One of us... One of us... Join the British Chapter

Our community is growing, but we are still short of the total number of ISMRM

members with work addresses in the UK. If you aren't already a member of the Chapter, **please join** now (it's free!):

<https://goo.gl/forms/VH5Lavy49QCCp38m2>

And finally... from the Editors

Thanks again for reading! And, massive thanks to everyone who contributed to this issue's newsletter.

If you want to be featured in the newsletter, or you've got news for us, send us an email:

newsletter@ismrm.org.uk

Mary McLean (University of Cambridge)

Nikou Damestani (KCL)

Tom Roberts (KCL)

Photo credits: Oxford University – Pablo Fernandez, Birmingham University - Wikipedia , BC-ISMRM Event in Paris - Gareth Barker, BC-ISMRM Closing Party - Mary McLean, Expanding Diversity Workshop - Yolanda Ohene, PG BC-ISMRM winners - Matthew Grech-Sollars

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