



QR Code
for panel session
question submission

Turbocharge Your Career Research Staff Conference Monday 29 January 2024

Core Technology Facility, 46 Grafton Street, Manchester, M13 9WU

AGENDA

Time	Session and Speakers	Location
9:30 - 10:00	Registration With tea and coffee on arrival	The Street
10:00 - 10:30	Research Culture and Career Development for Research Staff Professor Colette Fagan, Vice President for Research, The University of Manchester	Dalton Room
10:30 - 11:30	Exploring Diverse Career Paths for Research Staff Question and Answer Panel Session Chaired by Dr Joan Chang, MRC CDA Research Fellow, Wellcome Centre for Cell-Matrix Research, The University of Manchester	Dalton Room
11:30 - 12:00	Coffee Break	The Street
12:00 - 13:00	Parallel Workshop Sessions 1: Turbocharge Your Skillset 1.Turbocharge Your Collaboration with Dr Sarah Ashworth 2.Turbocharge Your Decision Making with Dr Anne Marie Sowerbutts 3.Turbocharge Your Fellowship Writing with Dr Gemma Muckle 4.Turbocharge Your Leadership with Debs Hirst	1.Rutherford Room 2.Innovation Suite 3.Dalton Room 4.The Boardroom
13:00 - 14:30	Lunch (30 mins protected quiet lunch time), Professional Support Services Marketplace and Guided Networking Session	The Street and Dalton Room
14:30 - 15:30	Parallel Workshop Sessions 2: Turbocharge Your Skillset 1.Turbocharge Your Collaboration with Dr Sarah Ashworth 2.Turbocharge Your Decision Making with Dr Anne Marie Sowerbutts 3.Turbocharge Your Fellowship Writing with Dr Gemma Muckle 4.Turbocharge Your Leadership with Debs Hirst	1.Innovation Suite 2.Rutherford Room 3.Dalton Room 4.The Boardroom
15:30 - 15:50	What Now, and What Next for Your Career? Professor Melissa Westwood, Associate Vice President for Research, The University of Manchester	Dalton Room





Meet the Panel

Exploring Diverse Career Paths for Research Staff



Dr Ayse Latif

Joined UoM as a PhD student in 2007. After successfully defending her thesis on breast cancer in 2010, she started her first PDRA position focusing on breast cancer at the Paterson Institute. For her last PDRA position, she moved to Division of Pharmacy and Optometry in 2014 and within this time she was promoted to research fellow by merit and subsequently secured a permanent position as a group lead and a lecturer in Division of Pharmacy and Optometry in 2019. She has been continuing her research and teaching since.



Dr Kara Filbey

Kara did her undergrad and PhD at the University of Edinburgh, focusing on the immunology of parasitic worm infection and allergy. She then moved to Wellington, New Zealand to spend 5 years at the Malaghan Institute of Medical Research. She returned to the UK in 2019, to the University of Manchester and spent almost 3 years here as a Research Associate, including time spent gaining teaching and management experience/qualifications. In 2022, she made the huge leap out of academia to try her hand at medical communications and have been with AMICULUM since then as a Medical Writer.



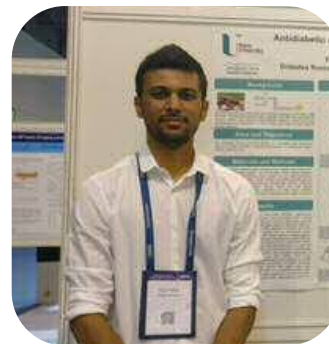
Dr Christopher Phang

Christopher worked for several years in cancer research and protein-protein interactions, first completing his PhD at the Institute of Cancer Research in 2012, then progressing to a Marie Curie COFUND fellowship at IRB Barcelona investigating novel therapies for androgen independent prostate cancer. After this, Christopher decided to follow in his father's footsteps and pursue a career in software engineering! After retraining in Computer Science, he moved to a software developer position at Codethink in 2016. Since then, Christopher has worked on several projects from developing audio processing algorithms for small embedded devices, to deploying large scale distributed systems for constructing software consisting of tens of millions of lines of code. He now works as a senior software engineer and technical lead.



Dr John Miles

Founder and CEO at Inkpath
John built the very first proof-of-concept prototype of Inkpath's professional development platform while at Oxford back in 2013 and has been developing the idea and growing the business ever since. Inkpath is now used by universities and professional bodies in the UK, Australia and the USA. Before Inkpath, John was Training Officer for the Humanities Division at Oxford and a Research Associate at Wadham College. Before that he taught Shakespeare and Renaissance Literature in the English Department at Royal Holloway, University of London, where he was Caroline Spurgeon Research Fellow.



Dr Vishal Musale

After completing a degree in Microbiology in India, Vishal came to the UK in 2012 to study Biotechnology at Ulster University. In 2015, he received a Vice-Chancellor Research Scholarship (VCRS) to pursue a PhD in Life and Health Science at Ulster. Soon after completing his PhD, in 2019, Vishal joined the University of Dundee's Kang Lab as a PDRA to work on a project funded by the British Heart Foundation (BHF). Afterwards, he started working with Kings College London's (KCL) Zampetaki Lab in 2022 to study the role of microvascular inflammation in heart failure with preserved ejection fraction. In that same period, Vishal started working as an Associate Research consultant at Code Switch, where he contributed to a team that developed an e-commerce strategy for a technology-focused client. Vishal currently works as a Scientist at Hammersmith Medicines Research (HMR), a clinical research organisation (CRO), where he is responsible for the validation of various immunoassay methods.

Meet the Facilitators



Dr Sarah Ashworth
Turbocharge Your
Collaboration
Researcher Development
Officer, The University of
Manchester

I find the pursuit of research fascinating and I love working with researchers to help them make real whatever they want out of life. I started (professional) life as a microbiologist, studying first at Bristol (BSc), then at Manchester (PhD) with a couple of years in between working in the Pharmaceutical Industry (AstraZeneca).

A quick stint in a charity (Groundwork) and many failed attempts at becoming an environmental consultant saw me land what was to become my dream job in Researcher Development. You can book a one-to-one confidential appointment with me to discuss your training and/or career aspirations and I promise to listen without judgement and encourage you to celebrate all you have achieved.



Dr Anne Marie Sowerbutts
Turbocharge Your
Decision Making with
Prosper
Researcher Development
Officer, The University of
Manchester

I am passionate about people flourishing and reaching their full potential. I am a coach experienced in facilitating people to achieve their goals. I have been a senior dietitian helping patients with kidney disease, followed by a brief stint in cancer research before embarking on my PhD in theology and bioethics. I joined the University of Manchester in 2010 and have worked on mixed methods and qualitative research in cancer and parenteral nutrition. I joined the Researcher Development Team in June 2023 and I am the lead for Prosper, a valuable online resource, enabling researchers to explore their career aspirations and investigate diverse professional pathways. My role allows me to assist researchers in self-reflection as they navigate their professional ambitions and take action.



Dr Gemma Muckle
Turbocharge Your
Fellowship Writing
Researcher Development
Officer, The University of
Manchester

I joined UoM as a Researcher Development Officer in 2008 and I am currently focussing on enhancing the relationship between researchers and their supervisors.

I started my PhD (in Soil Ecology at the University of Sheffield) intending to become a lecturer, but completed the PhD in 2003 having discovered that people are my first passion (not fungi) and choosing another career path. I have worked in a range of educational and developmental contexts, including Playwork, Environmental Education, long-distance and face-to-face Undergraduate tuition (Open University and University of Sheffield), Youth Work and adult training in the voluntary sector. I have designed and led training for groups of participants aged 4 to 84, including continuing professional development for my peers at regional and national level.

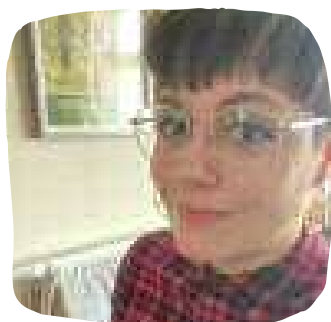


Debs Hirst
Turbocharge Your
Leadership
Personal Development
and Leadership Coach

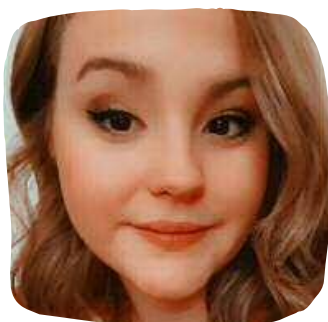
My background is in Organisational Development, with over 19 years' experience of working with individuals and groups achieve their outcomes and become more productive and effective. I have successfully led and managed several teams. I began working for a large organisation and after a few years I gained promotion and found myself managing staff for the first time, most of whom were older than me. I found that tough, trying to find the balance of being assertive and confident and feeling anything but. My manager at the time was a coach and instead of giving me the answers (which I so desperately wanted) she asked questions about what I wanted to do, how I wanted to feel and how I was going to approach the management of my staff. She empowered me to make my own decisions and with that my confidence and belief in myself grew.

Wellbeing Support

If you have any questions or needs for your physical and mental wellbeing during the Research Staff Conference, any of the colleagues below will be available to support you:



Dr Amy Smith
Researcher Development
Manager,
The University of
Manchester



Teri Gosling
Researcher Development
Administrator,
The University of
Manchester



Shazia Dar
Researcher Development
Administrator,
The University of
Manchester



Dr Antoinette McKane
Researcher Development
Officer,
The University of
Manchester

Quiet Space



The Blue Room will be available as a quiet space and there is no need to ask to use it.

