Queens’ welcomes the new President
It is such a privilege and delight to be back at Queens’. I am honoured to have taken up at the beginning of October the wonderful post that the Fellows elected me for.

My primary objective is to work very hard with students, Fellows and staff to enable them to do even better what each already does well. By building on what was achieved during Lord Eatwell’s successful 23-year tenure as President, Queens’ will unleash more transformational educational and research opportunities for a larger and more diverse set of current and future members.

With all the Covid-related disruptions in the United Kingdom and around the world, the start of my tenure has been very different from what I had anticipated when elected last year. Working with an incredibly talented and committed College leadership team and with superb student leaders, the immediate challenge has been to provide a safe environment for students, Fellows and staff while not losing sight of the longer-term strategic objectives that are key to the continued success of the College.

After some initial bumps at the beginning of term, we were able to maintain a relatively healthy community due to our collective deliberations, efficient information flow and timely decision-making. The cooperation of students has been critical in this regard, as has the comprehensive two-way flow of information – all serving to make Queens’ one of the best-performing Colleges in terms of managing this horrid virus.

With students, Fellows and staff adapting quickly to “living with Covid,” we have been able to maintain engaging supervisions and, with our impactful JCR and MCR Committees playing a pivotal role, significantly expand on-line offerings. This has included regular MCR-SCR and SCR seminars to share the exciting research being pursued by our postgraduates and Fellows, as well as several new initiatives for undergraduates.

We were delighted that Professor Julia Gog, the David N. Moore Fellow in Mathematics and our Director of Studies, was awarded an OBE for her “services to Academia and the Covid-19 response.” On top of being a brilliant educator/researcher and serving on SAGE (the UK Government’s Scientific Advisory Group for Emergencies), Julia is a wonderful colleague who never shies away from taking on important College responsibilities. Julia was one of several Queens’ Fellows receiving awards and other important external recognitions.
In addition to immediate challenges, Covid has also exposed structural fragilities that can no longer be handled through ad hoc approaches. This is particularly true for our financial situation which, as you can imagine, has taken a big multi-year hit due to the sharp reduction in the revenues from banquets and corporate events that helped us cover our students’ educational, catering and residential costs. Indeed, if it weren’t for the incredible response and generosity of our donors, the College would have faced a very difficult financing situation this year already – let alone be able to meet the increased student need for financial assistance and tutorial support. All of Queens’ joins me in expressing deep appreciation and gratitude for your timely and thoughtful support.

Our focus on navigating well the landscape disrupted by Covid is being accompanied by an intention to grasp the silver linings to ensure that we continue to enhance Queens’ ability to deliver outstanding education and conduct exciting research. This crisis has already prompted important evolutions in how we teach, communicate internally and externally, enable research and unleash even more of our students’ ingenuity. It has also opened the door wider for important conversations and actions to strengthen Queens’ intellectual society; deepen and widen our access, participation, diversity, and inclusiveness initiatives; pursue long-term sustainability and financial viability; modernize aspects of our governance; and ensure an even more enabling and coherent physical infrastructure. I look forward to sharing with you the exciting progress we make in these areas.

In closing, allow me please to thank you all for your support of Queens’. We face a generation-defining moment. We are committed to navigate these unprecedented challenges well and emerge a stronger College. Your insights, guidance and philanthropic backing play a critical role in ensuring that we continue to achieve academic excellence while broadening access and deepening our diversity, inclusion and sustainability.

Wishing you and your families the very best,

Dr Mohamed A. El-Erian
PANDEMIC UPDATE

Pandemic Update

In March, at the start of lockdown, Queens’ decided very quickly to send the students who could return home back to their families. We committed to accommodate all those who could not return home – for travel or family reasons.

Easter term & summer holiday

• We housed the 50 remaining students in Cripps building and ensured no student would pay more for this.
• Provided free lunch and dinner to those students in residence over Easter term.
• Set up opportunities for ‘purposeful activity’ with these students, knowing that lockdown was lonely and potentially unhealthy, mentally, for those on site. Staff numbers were reduced, though, through furlough and the restructuring that the College had to undertake.
• Started fundraising to cover extra-ordinary costs for those students in need, resulting in the COVID-19 Student Support Fund.
• This covered equipment for home-working, IT support and one-off grants for rent payments and quarantine accommodation.

We are most grateful to the 110 donors, including alumni, Fellows and friends, whose generosity has made it possible to raise more than £200,000.

Michaelmas term

• We provided as much face-to-face small group teaching as possible, but with no student or supervisor required to attend or give in-person supervisions. University lectures were held online.
• Set up one-way systems around the site.
• Made use of additional spaces (including Old Hall) for study.
• Ran a takeaway service for lunch and dinner in the cafeteria, with students bringing their own plates, as well as a delivery service for self-isolating students.
• Organised a network of student volunteers to help those in self-isolation, and arranged outdoor spaces for them to exercise without endangering others.
• Arranged furniture around College, including this marquee in Lyon Court, for students to socialise as safely as possible outside, rather than in their rooms.

The student experience

“Over the last few months, I have had to change the way I was learning material – it has been a learning curve. However, the printer, wifi-extender and one-time rent grant massively helped alleviate the stress and support my learning. For this I am immensely grateful to the donors who have so generously supported us through this period.”

Blandine Jacquet
(Natural Sciences & former George Phillips Organ Scholar)

While alumni have been supporting our students, the students in turn have been fundraising to support the most vulnerable in society and most impacted by COVID-19. The JCR launched a fundraising programme including a raffle, a sponsored run (with a group of members aiming to collectively run 1448 miles) and head-shaving – see Blandine’s before and after photos…
A-Level roller coaster: Queens’ responds

from the Admissions Tutor, Dr Andrew Thompson

We made the decision that, on principle, no applicant would be disadvantaged due to circumstances beyond their control.

Every year, as a matter of course, Queens’ and the University make contextual decisions when applicants have not made their grades, to decide whether to confirm their place.

This year was no different. As soon as the results were issued, we began this process and confirmed a significant number of offers well before the reversal to Centre Assessed Grades was announced.

In fact, the number of state-educated students and those from low-participation neighbourhoods remained largely unchanged after the U-turn, as so many of these students had already had their offers confirmed.

All of this has meant that our current first year is larger than the standard cohort. We had originally been planning to take a smaller cohort this year, as social distancing reduced the number of rooms available, but decided to expand the intake to ensure no applicant would be unfairly disadvantaged, taking more than 30 additional students.

Despite this, all undergraduates who wanted to live in College accommodation are doing so.

No student, either at Queens’ or across the University, has been made to defer. There will, therefore, be no shortage of places next year; the next admissions round will be unaffected.

Looking forward, interviews and assessments in the upcoming admissions round will take place remotely, with candidates either at home or in their schools. We are committed to finding the best technological platforms to bring online many activities that would normally be done in person.

166 first-year students

Our target for this year was previously 135

70% of incoming first-years from state schools

The highest proportion in 25 years

55% of the incoming cohort are women

1 in 5 of the incoming students have a contextual flag*

* These flags look at the context in which the student is achieving their results, based on their local area higher education data, school/college data and any personal extenuating circumstances.
From our Alumni

The Queen’s Birthday Honours

Five Queens’ alumni have been recognised in The Queen’s Birthday Honours, in addition to the OBE for Fellow Professor Julia Gog (read more on page 16). Congratulations to:

Joanna Crellin (1995): CMG in the Order of St Michael and St George (Diplomatic Service) for services to trade and investment. Joanna is H. M. Trade Commissioner for Latin America & Caribbean and Consul-General in São Paulo, Brazil.

Mike Biggar (1968): MBE for services to Charity and the NHS during the COVID-19 response. Inspired by Colonel Tom Moore, Mike, who has been reliant on a wheelchair for the last ten years, challenged himself to take 500 steps in a month to raise money for NHS Charities. Mike came up to Queens’ in 1968 to read Law, won a Blue for rugby and later captained Scotland, for whom he was capped 24 times. He was severely injured in a car accident in 1992 and has suffered recent, additional health setbacks. He raised an astonishing £76,000 from more than 2,000 supporters, including many Queens’ alumni.

Professor Yadvinder Malhi FRS (1987): CBE for services to Ecosystem Science. Yadavinder is Professor of Ecosystem Science at Oxford, researching the interactions between forest ecosystems and the global atmosphere, and looking to understand how natural ecosystems may be responding to global atmospheric change.

Professor Mark Wilson (1995): OBE for services to Charity and the COVID-19 response. Mark is co-founder and Director of GoodSAM, a platform using smartphone technology to assist people calling 999 by providing further information, such as location and camera access. This platform has been powering the NHS COVID-19 Volunteer Responder scheme.

Mark Enzer (MBA, 2003): OBE for services to the National Infrastructure. Mark is chair of the Digital Framework Task Group, advising the Treasury how data, AI and machine learning can help us predict and meet the UK’s construction needs.

If you have been listed in The Queen’s Birthday Honours, or a previous Honours list, but have not received a congratulatory letter from the College, please let us know.
Queens’ Medics at work…

Professor David Menon (Fellow) has been a Principal Investigator of a trial at Addenbrooke’s Hospital giving antibody-rich plasma to people who are struggling to develop an immune response to the disease, as part of a larger trial run nationally by the NHS.

Dr Sophie Fletcher (1995) is Clinical Director of the Respiratory Department at University Hospital Southampton and was Principal Investigator for her hospital’s participation in the national RECOVERY trial. This trial reduced risk of death by up to one third for patients on ventilators and one fifth for those on oxygen, by using low doses of a widely available steroid drug, dexamethasone.

FROM OUR ALUMNI

Dr Charlie Bell (2008) is currently the National Medical Director’s Clinical Fellow at the House of Commons Health & Social Care Committee in the UK Parliament, leading on their coronavirus work.

We also record our thanks to Dr John Harvey (1964) and Mrs Pamela Harvey, who have been providing funding for the last six years through the John Cuthbert Harvey Memorial Fund to provide equipment including stethoscopes and lab clothing to all Medicine and Veterinary Medicine students at Queens’.

Alumni Highlights

We are delighted that Robin Millar CBE (1970) has been appointed Chair Designate of the disability charity Scope. Robin has the progressive condition Retinitis Pigmentosa and was registered blind at 16 years old. He read Law at Queens’ and is an internationally renowned British music producer. Robin recently gave an inspiring talk to the MCR on the topic ‘Risk is a dirty word.’

Congratulations to Professor Daniel Karlin (1971) who has been elected Fellow of the British Academy. Daniel read for a BA, Master’s and PhD in English at Queens’ and is Winterstoke Professor of English Literature at the University of Bristol.

Dr Paul Ellison (1978) has been appointed 36th President of the Association of Anglican Musicians, a group of almost 1,000 church organists based in the United States. He recently became co-editor of the Beethoven Newsletter and teaches musicology at San José State University in California.

Many congratulations to Richard Tilbrook (1980) who has been announced as Appointments Secretary for Diocesan Bishop and Crown Deanery appointments.

Girish Shivakumar (MPhil, 2015) has been running a podcast on clean technology, covering stories on the global transition to a zero carbon economy.

James King (2010) has been raising money for the NHS, keeping spirits up and providing much-needed income for freelance musicians with a new initiative, Personalised Music Messages.
Among the 1980 matriculants of Queens’ were, for the first time, 42 women: 39 undergraduates and three postgraduates.

40 years later, it is hard to tell that the College was ever single-sex, as our President told a Zoom reunion of the 1980 female matriculants recently. The President thanked these women for being pioneers of the change and diversification in the Queens’ community that continues to this day: 55% of the 2020 first year cohort are women.

The guest of honour on the call was Professor Naomi Segal (Honorary Fellow), the first female Fellow of Queens’.

Earlier this year, a conference kicked off the anniversary celebrations, organised by Professor Jackie Scott (Life Fellow), featuring talks and discussions with a number of Queens’ Fellows, students and alumni on topics of feminism, sexism, and equality.

We will be marking the anniversary in a number of ways:

- The Fellowship will be commissioning new portraits of ground-breaking Queens’ women. This will be funded entirely from philanthropy and donations would be most welcome; if you would like to support this project, please contact Ann Cernek on development@queens.cam.ac.uk.

- An exhibition of photographs of inspirational Queens’ women, as voted for by the current students, will be displayed in Cripps Hall.

- A special series of profiles will feature on the College website, social media and in The Bridge (read on...)
Profile: Professor Naomi Segal (first female Fellow & Honorary Fellow)

Professor Naomi Segal joined the College in 1979 as a Tutor and supervisor in French and German.

Why did you answer the call to come to Queens’?
They were advertising for a very specific role, for someone to teach French and German, and comparative posts were rare. Also, I had been a student at Newnham so I knew Cambridge well – it was a delight to come back.

How was the admission ceremony in Chapel adapted for you?
The admission ceremony had to change slightly for me because socius (Fellow, masculine) had to be changed to the feminine (socia). In addition I asked for the phrase referring to ‘Father, Son and Holy Spirit’ to be changed to in nomine Dei (in the name of God), because I am Jewish.

Life at Queens’
The tutorial arrangements after the College went mixed were very well thought through by the then Senior Tutor, John Green. I was not assigned all the female students; instead, each Tutor had a group of both sexes but all the students were told that if, for any reason, they would like to speak with a different Tutor, they would be welcome to. So that allowed the women to see me if ever they needed it, but did not assume that they always would.

The Oxbridge tutorial system really is incredibly good at helping students on a one-to-one basis and providing a very hands-on form of care. In my six years at Queens’ there were some very dramatic crises – in some ways, the College’s handling of them was us at our best – but of course this is not something we can talk publicly about.

I greatly enjoyed the teaching aspect of the job. The thing about supervisions is that the students have to answer your questions – there is nowhere to hide. Small-group supervisions are a wonderful teaching method – though very time-intensive.

Any amusing anecdotes? The Queens’ labels...
The Tutors would take it in turns to stay in College on Saturday nights to break up the odd party. One memorable evening in my first year, I was staying over and was called to Jesus College, where I was told that a student from Queens’ was lying on the ground, drunk and incapable. I got a taxi over and the driver and I walked all over Jesus – searching the enormous grounds! – until we found this first-year student. He was lying on the gravel with a policeman standing there, looking down at him.

I asked what we should do. The taxi driver wouldn’t take him, but the policeman said he could keep him in overnight and send him back to College in the morning.

So, first thing the following morning the student came up to my office and knocked on the door, all bright-eyed and bushy-tailed, and apologised.

The funny thing was, how did they know he was from Queens’? His mother had sewn labels into his jacket, saying not just his name but also the name of his college!
1980: Memory Lane...

Dr Georgia Kaufmann: Valkyries, Blades and The Duchess of Malfi

Life at Queens’ was the only time in my life when geography has been so determined by geometry. In 1980 I found myself on the horizontal plane, an Erasmus corridor. Surrounded by 3rd year blokes who gleefully told tales of the infamous College Stag Do mourning/celebrating the end of the monastic lifestyle of Queens’. And then life went vertical; my second year was spent on Cripps CC stairwell and then in my final year to N11 I seemed to be endlessly journeying up and down to the loo and showers. I will never forget the views. Being among the first 39 women undergraduates the College ever had, meant that I took part in many firsts. I spent a large part of my leisure time sliding up and down metal runners in the first Eight, then the first Four the College ever put on the water with women in it (Diana McLaren, Louise Dolman, me and Nichola Davis). That has stayed: my prize possession at home is a water rower. It was a surreal life: on the one hand as part of the first Womens’ Group, I campaigned to get the College to provide all women with rape alarms and, on the other, I indulged in the forensic discussions about the design of the Valkyrie scarf. There was some indignation that mixed couples were not permitted to share sets in the second year; the argument was practical, not moral – what happens if they break up?

Louise Sealy (née Dolman): Astronauts, College pranks and lifelong friends

I remember arriving at Queens’ on my first day and carrying my belongings across Walnut Tree court to Erasmus. I had packed a large trunk, a legacy of my years at boarding school, which Dad and I managed to carry to the bottom of Erasmus stairs. As we stood there wondering how we were going to get the trunk up two flights of stairs, another first year, Charles Morrice, came by and offered a helping hand. Gratefully received and the start of a life-long friendship.

I also had a surprise visit from the brother of a great friend of mine. This was Mike Foale (1975), then studying for his Astrophysics PhD, who went on to become a NASA astronaut. He was kind enough to let me know which room he was staying in and to say if I ever needed anything to give him a shout. So already Queens’ was living up to its student handbook profile – friendly and welcoming.

I was keen to be treated as an equal and to get involved in the fabric of the College. For me, that went hand in hand with rowing (which has remained a life-long pleasure). It was one of the few ways to be sure of
I still remember the frisson of excitement when Emma Thompson headlined the BATS production of *The Duchess of Malfi* in Cloister Court, and elsewhere watching Tilda Swinton playing naked in the Round with Roger Hyams in Fugard’s *Statements After Arrest* and realising that most of the audience were there just to see her without her wardrobe. It was a brilliant, brave performance by both of them. How we knew then who would become household names I don’t know, but they were already marked.

A few years after going down, I returned and walked the cloisters and courtyards. I realised that it was not the bricks and mortars that had made it my home for three years but the people. Old as Queens’ is, it belongs to the now, to today’s students and Fellows. I was like a ghost out of time. There were no names I recognised on the boards, no reason to climb any staircase.

Most of my memories of my time at Queens’ are of interests shared and lifelong friendships forged. Three years, all spent in College; what a joy and a privilege. Wandering around the grounds, seeing the College through different seasons, looking up at the old brickwork, thinking of all the other students that had passed the same way and will do so in the years to come. I sincerely hope, Covid-19 aside, that in another 40 years, this year’s new arrivals will be able to look back as fondly as myself on their time at Queens’.

My room (mate)

**Diana McLaren** and **Lorna Denny (née Statham)**

*T6 Building*

**Diana:** Lorna and I met in the Porters’ Lodge on 8 October 1980. We had arrived early, as the linguists had to sit oral exams. Our first conversation was about the formal invitation to drinks in the President’s Lodge that we’d found in our pigeon holes. We were a bit flummoxed. So my mother, an ace on social etiquette, explained how to reply correctly in the third person.

**Lorna:** In our second year we shared T6, a double set in Fisher. It was right next to the Porters’ Lodge, and in the days before mobile phones, it was easy for people to drop by and visit.

The room was fairly stark, with white walls, bare floorboards and a large rug. We set about putting up posters and a colourful Indian wall hanging. The main feature of the room was the wooden mantelpiece, with its gas fire where we toasted crumpets. There was also a large gas ring, which sat directly on the wooden floor – unlikely to have survived into these more safety-conscious times. That’s where we cooked our favourite supper (Diana’s recipe – she had done the Pru Leith cookery course) of red lentils with carrots and onions. Most sustaining!

**Diana:** The sitting room had two huge armchairs and two desks. There was also a small bedroom with two single beds. We promptly moved one of the beds into the living room, where it doubled as a sofa, and provided for all eventualities.

**Lorna:** Our ancient bedder was very relaxed about the furniture, but remained convinced that ‘young ladies’ should be able to do their own washing up. Largely we didn’t. The armchairs and ‘sofa’ offered plenty of space for visitors, drinking cups of coffee from the College shop – so awful it fizzed! As did our favourite invention, the ‘Tenterhooks’ cocktail, which fuelled a number of drinks parties.

**Diana:** We spent our third year in France, then back to Queens’ for our final year, with the whole top floor of P staircase between the two of us. We both worked in the City for many years, then on to further adventures. I am now involved in raising seed financing for start-ups in the west of France, including “Diana’s Emporium,” a British-themed creative hub.

**Lorna:** And I continue to spend my time between London and Devon, working as a financial writer.

**Diana:** We’ve been back to College regularly over the years, for our own weddings, the christenings of our children and for reunions with our year group. It might have had its challenges at the time, but we both feel so blessed to have been part of that first year of women at Queens’.

*Lorna and Diana on their graduation day*
Introducing
the inaugural
John Eatwell Fellow

Dr Janet Maguire is Director of Studies in Medicine & Veterinary Medicine and Acting Dean of College.

Background

BSc, Pharmacology, University of Bristol
PhD, School of Pharmacy, University of London

Now Senior Research Associate in the Division of Experimental Medicine and Immunotherapeutics (EMIT) within the Department of Medicine at Addenbrooke’s Hospital

Elected Fellow of the British Pharmacological Society in 2019

Named as a Highly Cited Researcher in 2019 and 2020, meaning multiple papers rank in the top 1% of citations, demonstrating significant research influence

What are the challenges facing medical Fellows at the moment?
The medical and veterinary medicine Fellows at Queens’ include frontline clinicians, whose jobs are made more challenging by the current global pandemic, and active research scientists who manage research groups, prepare research grants and supervise PhD students. In addition we all have Departmental responsibilities such as committee work and examining, alongside our College teaching commitments.

How do we balance these? Honestly, with difficulty; fundamentally, we all share a strong desire to help our students make the most of the diverse academic, research and clinical opportunities available to them throughout their six years at Queens’ and beyond into their clinical careers.

What difference will The John Eatwell Fellowship make?
The creation of this Fellowship reflects the deep respect and affection in which our former President is held. I am honoured to be the inaugural Fellow and convey my thanks to all the alumni, current members and friends of the College who have made this possible.
The strength of The John Eatwell Fellowship is its adaptability; it can provide support in any subject area, as and when need arises. This has proved invaluable for teaching in the medical and veterinary sciences. My appointment to this Fellowship has allowed me to take on more responsibility and expand my role to support the teaching team and our current cohort of over seventy students. This has been critical in the current pandemic.

How important is the supervision system and small-group teaching, especially in the face of Covid-19?

The supervision system is pivotal to teaching in Cambridge; it’s what sets Cambridge apart from most other universities. Supervisions are interactive and designed to help students develop their academic and transferable skills.

Just as important is that small group teaching allows supervisors the opportunity to get to know our students as individuals. It is a real benefit of the system that each student has a number of different Fellows to whom they can turn for advice or just to be there for a chat.

Dean of College in the 21st century...

Queens’ is a Community. The role of the Dean is to ensure our common values are upheld by all, creating a safe and supportive environment for students, staff and Fellows to flourish, as per the Queens’ motto: Floreat Domus.

Women in Pharmacology: your experience

Current statistics compiled by the British Pharmacological Society, of which I am a Fellow, report that while the genders are equally represented in the student membership there is then a decline in female membership following graduation such that less than 20% of Fellows (a senior category of membership for those demonstrating distinction in pharmacology) are women. This reflects the situation across many STEM careers.

There are a number of factors that could be influencing this, including lack of job security and unclear career pathways. The transition to research independence is extremely challenging and attrition at this stage appears to disproportionately affect women.

There are moves in the right direction, including grants from some funding bodies available to encourage women back into academia after taking time out to start a family. For my part, I have been fortunate to have very supportive colleagues.

Any advice for young scientists?

Be realistic: this can be a difficult career choice, although it can also be extremely rewarding in so many ways. My advice is to make sure that you will mostly love it and be prepared to work hard, especially when it gets tough. I would also recommend finding a good mentor.

Slugs, dahlias and zoom quizzes...

In my spare time, you will find me in my garden. It’s small, but seems to be able to produce enough weeds to keep me occupied for hours! It’s at its best in early summer when the roses are just wonderful – I only make space for the fragrant varieties. To try to extend the season, this year I planted dahlias for the first time. These have been a real success and I love their striking colours and shapes. I’ll be planting lots more next year; if I can just keep the slugs away...

I also enjoy cooking, yoga and spending time with family and friends, although Covid-19 has meant that for me, like everyone, time with family is now more often via Zoom rather than welcoming them to Cambridge for the weekend.
In focus: exploring the proteins that make medicines work, from Dr Maguire...

Pharmacology studies the interactions between chemicals and biosystems. These include transmitters and hormones produced by the body, compounds we are exposed to in the environment, substances of abuse and importantly medicines. The rapid identification of existing and experimental drugs that have improved outcomes for patients with Covid-19 brings pharmacology vividly to life in a very immediate way.

In my research I study a family of receptor proteins that are present on the surface of most cells in the body. These receptors are the means by which external chemical cues can influence the way a cell responds to its environment.

I was fortunate to be invited to help establish a small research team, based at Addenbrooke’s Hospital, with the objective to discover the role of newly identified cardiovascular peptides. These are small proteins that contribute to the normal function of the heart and blood vessels.

We focus predominantly, but not exclusively, on the human cardiovascular system. Identifying the cell types that synthesise and release these peptides helps us explore their physiological role.

Our group collaborates with chemists in Cambridge and elsewhere who can design molecules to activate or block these receptors. Our aim is to identify new targets for therapies, creating novel treatments for human diseases, especially those for which there are currently few or no effective treatments available.

My research focusses on a subgroup of the G Protein Coupled Receptor (GPCR) superfamily. These Family A GPCRs are the target for about one third of all medicines. By discovering their cellular expression and function, our research group aims to understand their role in health and disease.

With the onset of the pandemic, our team switched focus. Working with collaborators in Europe we looked for evidence to explain why older individuals or those with existing heart disease might be more susceptible to Covid-19.

What we have found is that the amount of key proteins involved in allowing Sars-Cov-2, the virus responsible for Covid-19, to get inside cardiomyocytes (the contractile cells of the heart) is increased with age and disease. We are now working with researchers on the Addenbrooke’s site to create a model to test compounds that might prevent viral entry in the heart.

Ongoing projects:

1. Approximately one third of patients with angina originating from small coronary artery dysfunction (microvascular angina) do not respond to current treatments. Our research, collaborating with colleagues in Glasgow, recently showed that patients suffering from microvascular angina were more likely to carry a particular gene variant than a healthy population, and that this variant was associated with higher circulating levels of endothelin-1, a small protein that interacts with its receptors to cause blood vessels to go into spasm and the artery wall to thicken over time.

   We demonstrated that in blood vessels obtained from these patients this spasm could be fully reversed by an endothelin antagonist, Zibotentan. Data from this study has been used to successfully obtain funding for a clinical trial, the PRIZE Study, using Zibotentan as a treatment for patients with this type of angina.

2. Glioblastoma multiforme (GBM) is the most lethal primary tumour of the central nervous system, with most patients only surviving about a year, even with current treatments of surgery, radiation and chemotherapy. In a collaboration funded by Cancer Research UK we have shown that the apelin receptor (a GPCR) is highly expressed in human GBM samples but not in the surrounding healthy brain. Apelin promotes the growth of new blood vessels required to support the growing tumour. Our aim is to design and test compounds that block the apelin receptor to obtain proof of principle for a new therapeutic strategy for GBM.

© 2020 The Authors. British Journal of Pharmacology published by John Wiley & Sons Ltd on behalf of British Pharmacological Society
10,000 Not Out: The History of The Spectator 1828 – 2020

Dr David Butterfield (Fellow & Praelector)

There is no journal with a livelier and richer history than The Spectator. As well as being the world’s oldest current affairs magazine, none has been closer over the last two centuries to spheres of power and influence in Britain. First issued in 1828, during the dying days of the Georgian era, The Spectator came out ready to spar – with the Tories and their Prime Minister, the Duke of Wellington, with a corrupt political system, and with the lacklustre literary world of the day. Over the subsequent 54 Prime Ministers, The Spectator has not only watched the world change but waded into the fray: it has campaigned on consistently liberal lines, fighting for voters’ rights, free trade, the free press and the decriminalisation of homosexuality, while offering open-minded criticism of every modern taboo and orthodoxy.

10,000 Not Out celebrates the 10,000th issue and recounts the turbulent and tortuous tale of 192 years chock-full of crises and campaigns, of literary flair, barbed wit and societal despair.

Not Quite Behaving

Michael Dawes (1966)

In the “Roaring Twenties” three young ladies, Penrose, Clara and Tamora are preparing to be presented as débuteuses for the London Season. There they meet Noel, Daniel and Neville (a Queens’ undergraduate). Society requires that débuteuses and their families be of impeccable character and background. Will their dreams be shattered when Clara’s father befriends a night club hostess who is later found murdered? And their own antics may just cause a few problems...

Points of Attack

Dr Mark de Silva (MPhil & PhD, 2000)

This collage of critical reflections looks into matters of both common curiosity and special concern in America today: technological evolution, virtuality, terrorism, the future of the self, the individual’s place in a globalized society, the species’ place in the natural world, the state of the arts, and the animadversions of the sciences.

Not Quite Behaving

Michael Dawes (1966)

In the “Roaring Twenties” three young ladies, Penrose, Clara and Tamora are preparing to be presented as débuteuses for the London Season. There they meet Noel, Daniel and Neville (a Queens’ undergraduate). Society requires that débuteuses and their families be of impeccable character and background. Will their dreams be shattered when Clara’s father befriends a night club hostess who is later found murdered? And their own antics may just cause a few problems...

Points of Attack

Dr Mark de Silva (MPhil & PhD, 2000)

This collage of critical reflections looks into matters of both common curiosity and special concern in America today: technological evolution, virtuality, terrorism, the future of the self, the individual’s place in a globalized society, the species’ place in the natural world, the state of the arts, and the animadversions of the sciences.
College Highlights

Fellows

Many congratulations to Professor Julia Gog, David N. Moore Fellow in Mathematics, who has been awarded an OBE in the Queen’s Birthday Honours for her “services to Academia and the Covid-19 response”. Julia is a leading expert in the use of mathematical modelling to understand and help control the spread of infectious diseases and has served on SAGE throughout the pandemic.

Earlier this year, she also received the prestigious Rosalind Franklin Award and Lecture from the Royal Society. This award will fund the creation of resources for use in schools on infectious disease modelling, to share the humanitarian side of mathematics. By showing school pupils the mathematicians and scientists involved, Julia also hopes to challenge preconceptions of who STEM researchers are.

Professor Andrew Rice, Hassabis Fellow in Computer Science, has been promoted to a Professorship at the Department of Computer Science & Technology. Andrew has been a Fellow of Queens’ since 2010 and is currently Director of Studies for first year Computer Science students.

Professor Lisa Hall has been awarded the 2020 Oxburgh Medal from the Institute of Measurement & Control, for outstanding contribution in the field of environmental science and engineering.

An inscription in The Round was unveiled in recognition of Lord Eatwell’s Presidency of Queens’ and as a personal gesture of thanks from the Fellows. The then Vice-President, Professor Richard Weber, said:

“Lord Eatwell initiated a project in 2008 to transform the Round from a puddle-strewn car park to the beautiful College entrance and way to the Mathematical Bridge that it is today. It is the most traversed part of the College and the perfect place to mark his stewardship of Queens’.”

Welcome to our two new Junior Research Fellows, who joined Queens’ this October: Dr Rosa van Hensbergen (English) and Dr Elsa Noterman (Geography).
**Joshua King Prizes**

Congratulations to the 72 third and fourth year undergraduates who were awarded Firsts and Foundation scholarships this summer, and especially to the three winners of the *Joshua King Prize* for academic distinction: Tom Chesworth (Music), Max Jones (Natural Sciences) & Paul Norris (English).

Tom is now studying for an MA at Manchester in Gender, Sexuality & Culture, researching the tensions between transgender rights activism and post-structuralism.

Max is working as a Senior Lab technician in the Department of Plant Sciences (Cambridge), researching disease resistance in bananas. He starts a PhD in wheat genetics at the John Innes Centre (Norwich) in February.

Paul is working as a pastoral assistant at Fisher House, the Roman Catholic chaplaincy in Cambridge.

“**The English degree is already proving very helpful, giving me confidence in writing, editing and delivering sermons. More importantly, it’s allowed me to entertain different ideas with some critical detachment, keeping me from becoming complacent or dogmatic. I’d like to direct my future career towards writing, particularly about the environment.**”

In Memoriam

We deeply regret to announce the death of His Honour Judge Stuart Bridge (1977).

Stuart was a distinguished and long-serving member of Queens’ as an undergraduate, Fellow, Admissions Tutor and, latterly, Life Fellow. The thoughts of everyone at Queens’ are with Stuart’s widow Professor Beverley Glover (Fellow) and their family and friends.

There will be a memorial service for Stuart at Queens’ when it is appropriate to host full numbers in the College Chapel again.

“Mairi is such a special person; she combines endless love and care for the students and our community with her dedication over many years at Queens’.

As the pandemic took hold we called on Mairi to support us even though she was retired. Mairi not only came to help, but added her wise and compassionate experience. Her planning has helped us make the College as safe as it is.

One night I was in College at about 10pm, attending to a student who was in trouble, and I saw Mairi in the Health Centre, still working to make things just right. If I had not been there nobody would have known! She embodies humility and dedication.

Whilst pondering how we could acknowledge her service and say thank you to her publicly, I floated the idea of an Honorary Fellowship. There was not only uniformity in agreement but a sense that there could be nobody who would more deserve to be the first staff member in living memory to receive this honour. I know many will feel like I do; that we are blessed to have worked with Mairi.”

From The Revd Tim Harling, Head of Welfare & Dean of Chapel

We are delighted that Mairi Hurrell has been elected to an Honorary Fellowship. Mairi joined as the College Nurse in 1993 and became the Welfare Adviser in 2013. She retired in 2015, but returned for six months in 2020 to provide cover. The *Mairi Hurrell Fund* is now open to donations which are specifically to help students with their mental and physical health (more information on page 23).
Shruti returned home to India as the scale of the COVID-19 crisis became apparent and is now living with her parents, trying to complete her PhD whilst dealing with food rationing and intermittent electricity and internet.

After a 28-day quarantine period in a private house near my city, I reached home in April. Since my hometown is a tiny valley in the Indian Himalayan state of Uttarakhand, it has been difficult adjusting to the change in place and resource access – internet and electricity are two very big issues on a daily basis, but I am sure there are many who have it worse still in the developing world. We had food rationing all through April to June due to supply chain disruptions, but the basic good supply of rice and lentils was ensured by the government.

During this Covid period, I have, to an extent, witnessed a strange practical relevance of my research: how much disconnected rural mountainous communities are dependent on their remote village networks for survival and that in turn is what makes them independent and protects them from physical and calamitous shocks such as a pandemic.

When I returned to India in March, I was set to submit my thesis by summer, but reality has a way of changing the best laid plans. The lack of net connectivity for weeks and lack of access to reference and reading materials, has made me extend my submission for a semester which has been disappointing. Cambridge seems very far away when you do not have a working phone or internet connectivity or electricity to charge your laptop for weeks at a time. I shifted to writing my thesis by hand and doing referencing without bibliographical software for most of the chapters.

Life works at a different pace here in the remote Himalayas where our days reflect the sun’s movement and working overnight is almost impossible due to the electricity cuts – some days it is very difficult to remember and go back to the pace of work at Cambridge. But life keeps moving and I am taking one day at a time. I am waiting for a better time when travelling to the nearest city for work and study does not mean that I am bringing a virus home to my vulnerable family.

Meanwhile I am sending the University and Queens’ lots of blessings and strength. Being at Queens’ and at Cambridge has also been about knowing another way of life and some days it gives me strength and hope to keep going. I hope to return soon to receive my degree.
The part-time, mature student & business professional

Yvonne Lardner

Background

BA, English, Linguistics & Sociology
Career in brand management & corporate communications
MSc, Biomimicry, Arizona State University
Business Strategies License for Social Impact, Wharton School of the University of Pennsylvania
Mentor at Cambridge Social Ventures, Judge Business School

Yvonne Lardner is Head of Group Communications at Engine UK and studying for a Master’s in Social Innovation. Her dissertation is on race and power, focussing on the experiences of Black organisational leaders.

Why return to education now?
The part-time course meant I could visit Cambridge every term for my residential and at least once a month to attend lectures, workshops, debates and, on occasion, formal dinners.

COVID-19 moved our Lent and Easter residential online. While I was able to return to Cambridge for the Michaelmas residential, many in my cohort were not due to international travel restrictions. Sitting in the Fadi Boustany Lecture Theatre (Judge Business School) in a facemask and engaging with my peers via Zoom is certainly a memorable experience.

Why Queens’?
I gave great consideration to my College; I liked the idea of being in an older college with a mix of undergraduate and postgraduate students. It was also important that my College had a great atmosphere and attracted students from diverse backgrounds. Queens’ was a great fit for me, and the fact that the College was founded by two women was an added attraction.

How has the focus on the Black Lives Matter movement affected your research?
When the protests began, I was preparing a critical case study on Equal Justice Initiative’s Legacy Museum, From Enslavement to Mass Incarceration, in Montgomery, Alabama.

Doing that research and witnessing the appalling killing of George Floyd by an officer of the law, followed by protests that shone a light on the structural and systemic racism and discrimination that Black people experience was very overwhelming to say the least. I found myself grappling with a wide range of emotions: heartbreak, sadness, exhaustion, scepticism, hope – there is no playbook for how one should feel during these moments and I am grateful to family, friends and peers for constantly reminding me that it was okay not to be okay.

There is no denying that this has been an immensely challenging year; however, it also represents a big opportunity to reimagine approaches to social, economic and environmental challenges. With this in mind, I am reminded of the inspirational words of writer and civil rights activist, James Baldwin: “The world changes according to the way people see it, and if you can alter, even by a millimetre, the way people look at reality, then you can change the world.”
Queens’ by numbers

4th biggest College
(by student numbers)

- Undergraduates: 538
- Postgraduates: 520

Endowment:
- 2006: £49m
- 2020: £93m

Lower third of 31 colleges

Expenditure £15,310,000

- Teaching £3,103,000
- Tutorial £1,792,000
- Admissions, widening participation, bursaries & awards £1,284,000
- Research & other education facilities £1,032,000
- Accommodation for College members & conferences £7,211,000
- Other £888,000

Income £16,793,000

- Academic fees £4,111,000
- College accommodation, catering & conferencing £4,713,000
- Investment income £3,683,000
- Donations £3,782,000
- Other £504,000

For the financial year 2019-20

23% of Home & EU undergraduate students received a bursary in the 2019/20 academic year

1st Cambridge college to pay all staff the Living Wage

100% of our investment income is dedicated to teaching current students

Pandemic impact on Queens’

£2.64m projected cost to the College 2020-21

The conferencing and catering business that helped subsidise the students’ education has collapsed and is unlikely to revive in the near future. Staff numbers have reduced.

The pandemic is proving to be a great un-equalizer: we must ensure that students from low-income backgrounds do not lose out. So we remain focused on safeguarding the world-class teaching and the life-changing pathways the College can offer for everyone.

Philanthropy funded initiatives such as a partnership with IntoUniversity in Bradford to widen access, and a project to enhance the Cambridge bursaries on offer, are in place. The need facing the College to maintain these and other programmes is now critically significant.
The power of more alumni helping the College would be transformational. The short-term target is to get to a participation rate of at least 28% and be the top college for alumni support in Cambridge. Please consider joining The 1448 Society – every £14.48 helps.

Total amounts received via donations (2010 – 2020) * £45,400,000

*1st January 2010 – 5th November 2020

Teaching & Research: £19,300,000
Student Support: £11,500,000
Unrestricted: £7,700,000
Access & Outreach: £1,300,000
Buildings: £4,300,000
Endowment: £1,300,000

We are so grateful to the 14% of alumni donating to Queens’.
Participation has doubled over the last decade from 7%.

11,000
the number of Queens’ alumni

Costs of education to an undergraduate 2020-21
Living: £9,670
Tuition: £9,250 (College share is £4,625)
The College subsidises each undergraduate by £3,800 p.a.

£3,500
the maximum possible Cambridge tuition bursary (if your household income is £25,000 p.a. or less)
£797,575
Spending by Queens’ on bursaries, top-up bursaries, hardship funds & widening partition in 2019/20

The College has endowed 21 of the 60 official Fellowships.
76 teaching Fellows supervise our students.
204 donors contributed to The John Eatwell Fellowship, reaching its £2.5 million target back in June. The College decided to use the Fellowship in the first instance to enhance its medical provision, given the current pandemic. Dr Janet Maguire was appointed as the inaugural John Eatwell Fellow, thereby adding support for medicine and veterinary medicine teaching at Queens’.

A further two Fellowships have also been endowed recently. The Robin Walker Fellowship in Computer Science has been established in honour of our long-standing Fellow of the College, who retired in the summer from the Governing Body and becomes a Life Fellow. The Bradley Fellowship in Chemistry has been endowed by Trevor Bradley (1989), who has also given money to support the combined Men’s and Women’s Football Club at the College.

Support from alumni and friends has enabled the College to endow 21 Fellowships in total – more than one third of the Official Fellowships.

Provision of postgraduate funding is one of our top priorities at Queens’ for the coming years. As such, we are delighted to announce a new partnership with the American Stamps Scholars Programme to create Stamps Scholarships at Queens’.

These are post-matriculation awards designed to provide support towards fees and maintenance costs, as well as a stipend for enrichment activities such as studying or volunteering abroad, conducting research, or participating in a leadership programme or academic conference. The programme seeks to attract the most promising PhD candidates from the United States and foster their academic and personal development throughout their time at Queens’.

The first recipients are Jerry Chen and Gerard Kuenning.

“Receiving this scholarship has been tremendously exciting; it has secured my ability to continue my research and finish my degree, for which I am greatly indebted to the Stamps Scholarship. I feel very honoured to have been selected by this group to be part of their organisation and community, and to represent them. I love their emphasis on leadership and personal growth; it is very important to them, as an organisation, that you are maturing as an individual. To them, the life experiences the scheme offers are just as important as the academic work.”

Gerard Kuenning (PhD, Land Economy on the opioid crisis, and Goldie boat rower)

The Henry Bullock Scholarship for Graduate Studies in Classics has been established anonymously by the parent of a former Classics undergraduate, in appreciation of everything the College and Dr David Butterfield (Director of Studies in Classics) did for the student during their time at Queens’. The Scholarship is named after Henry Bullock, a former Fellow of Queens’ and one of the major figures in starting Greek studies in Cambridge before his early death in 1526.
“Having support from the College to me is a uniquely Cambridge feeling. This grant allowed me to have a once-in-a-lifetime experience travelling to Miami with the University Football Club and cemented my starting place in the Blues team. I am extremely grateful for this support from the College, which has meant I could achieve a dream of playing Blues football.”

Ryan Hoffmann
Alexander Crummell (1819-98, Queens’ 1849-53) was the first black person to receive a degree from the University of Cambridge. His portrait now hangs in the Long Gallery of the President’s Lodge. He was a leading figure in the movement for black rights at different times in the United States, Britain and Africa.