**Director of the Research Center**

**Head of the Department**
John D Isaacs (Professor of Clinical Rheumatology)

**Institution**
Musculoskeletal Research Group
Newcastle University and the Freeman Hospital
Newcastle upon Tyne

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**Members of the Center**

**Head of Department**
Professor John Isaacs

**Professors**
Prof Tim Cawston
Prof David Deehan
Prof Helen Foster
Prof John Isaacs
Prof John Loughlin
Prof Andrew McCaskie
Prof Wan-Fai Ng
Prof John Robinson
Prof Drew Rowan
Prof Jaap van Laar

**Professors**
Professor of Rheumatology
Honorary Clinical Professor of Orthopaedics
Professor of Paediatric Rheumatology
Professor of Clinical Rheumatology
Professor of Musculoskeletal Research
Visiting Professor
Professor of Rheumatology
Professor of Immunology
Professor of Molecular Rheumatology
Visiting Professor

**Readers**
Dr Andy Gennery
Dr Catharien Hilkens

**Readers**
Clinical Reader
Reader in Immunotherapy

**Senior Lecturers**
Dr Mark Birch
Dr Harrish Datta
Dr Sophie Hambleton
Dr Desa Lilic
Dr David Young

**Senior Lecturers**
Senior Lecturer
Clinical Senior Lecturer
Clinical Senior Lecturer
Clinical Senior Lecturer
Senior Lecturer
Honorary Senior Lecturers/Consultants

Mr Steve Aldridge  Consultant Orthopedic Surgeon
Mr John Andrews  Consultant Orthopedic Surgeon
Dr Terry Aspray  Metabolic Bone Consultant
Mr William Bliss  Consultant Orthopedic Surgeon
Mr Nigel Brewster  Consultant Orthopedic Surgeon
Mr Peter J Briggs  Consultant Orthopedic Surgeon
Dr Fraser Birrell  Hon Clinical Senior lecturer
Mr Paul Fearon  Consultant Orthopedic Surgeon
Mr David Fender  Consultant Orthopedic Surgeon
Mr Craig Gerrand  Hon Clinical Senior lecturer
Mr Antoine de Gheldere  Consultant Orthopedic Surgeon
Mr Mike Gibson  Consultant Orthopedic Surgeon
Mr Andrew Gray  Consultant Orthopedic Surgeon
Dr Bridget Griffths  Consultant rheumatologist
Mr Munawar Hashmi  Consultant Orthopedic Surgeon
Mr Philip Henman  Consultant Orthopedic Surgeon
Mr James Holland  Consultant Orthopedic Surgeon
Dr Lesley Kay  Hon Clinical Senior lecturer
Dr Martin Lee  Consultant Rheumatologist
Dr Alice Lorenzi  Consultant Rheumatologist
Miss Shauna Murray  Consultant Orthopedic Surgeon
Dr Pam Peterson  Consultant Rheumatologist
Mr Omar Sabri  Consultant Orthopedic Surgeon
Mr Paul Sanderson  Consultant Orthopedic Surgeon
Mr Malik Siddique  Consultant Orthopedic Surgeon
Mr Paul R Stuart  Consultant Orthopedic Surgeon
Dr Ben Thompson  Consultant Rheumatologist
Mr Paulo Torres  Consultant Orthopedic Surgeon
Dr David Walker  Hon Clinical Senior lecturer
Mr David J Weir  Consultant Orthopedic Surgeon
Mr John Williams  Hon Clinical Senior lecturer
Mr Peter Worlock  Consultant Orthopedic Surgeon

Lecturers

Dr Carole Proctor  Lecturer
Dr Kenneth Rankin  Associate Clinical Lecturer

Research fellows/associates

Ms Valerie Affleck  Research Assistant
Dr Amy Anderson  Research Associate
Dr Kenneth Baker  Wellcome Trust Academic Clinical Fellow
Dr Matthew Barter  Research Associate
Dr Gillian Bell  Clinical Research Associate
Dr Graig Bullock  Research Associate
Dr Chun Ming Chan  Research Associate
Mrs Sarah Charlton  Research Assistant
Dr Marzena Ciechomska  Research Associate
Dr Liz Coulson  Clinical research Fellow
Dr Mary Cruikshank  Clinical Research Fellow
Ms Katie Crossland  Research Assistant
Dr Karin Engelhardt  Research Associate
Dr Jane Falconer  Associate Researcher
Dr Fiona Gee  Research Associate
Dr Rodolfo Gomez Bahdmonde  Visiting Researcher
Ms Katie Hackett  Allied Health Professional Fellow
Dr Rachel Harry  Research Associate
Ms Ruth Hart  Research Fellow
Dr Wang Hui  Research Associate
Dr Anja Krippner  Research Associate
Miss Sheryl Mitchell  Honorary Research Associate
Dr Julie Musson  Research Associate
Dr Rachel Oldershaw  Research Fellow
Dr Steven O’Reilly  Research Associate
Dr Arthur Pratt  Academic Clinical Lecturer
Miss Madhu Ratnayake  Research Assistant
Dr Gary Reynolds  Wellcome Trust Academic Clinical Fellow
Dr Louise Reynard  Research Fellow
Dr Sarah Richardson  Academic Clinical Fellow
Dr Amy Rowan  Clinical Research Associate
Dr Michael Rushton  Research Associate
Dr Colin Shepherd  Research Associate
Dr Tarana Singh Dang  Research Associate
Dr Eve Smith  Clinical Research Associate
Dr Nicola Smith  Research Associate
Dr David Swan  Research Associate
Dr Nishanthi Thalayasingham  Wellcome Trust Academic Clinical Fellow
Dr Glenda Watson  Research Associate
Dr Joseph Willet  Research Associate
Mr Steven Woods  Research Assistant

Students
Miss Shereen Al-Ali  PhD Studentship
Mr Najla Al-bourae  PhD Student
Mr Jonathan Baker  PhD Student
Miss Heather Bromby  PhD Student
Mr Matthew Buck  PhD Student
Mr Andrew Butcher  PhD Student
Dr Faye Cooles  PhD Student
Miss Katherine Crossland  PhD Student
Dr John Paul Doran  MD
Miss Angie Habgood  PhD Student
Mr David Hodgson  Mres/PhD Student
Miss Kath Johnson  PhD Student
Miss Nicola Manney  PhD Student
Miss Siti Mohamad  PhD Student
Mr Simon Partridge  PhD Student
Miss Natsha Price  Mres/PhD Student
Miss Emma Raine  PhD Student
Miss Madhu Ratnayake  PhD Student
Dr Ramsay Refaie  MD
Miss Emma Rogers  PhD Student
Miss Shereen Al-Ali  PhD Student
Miss Jessica Tarn  PhD Student
Mr Chris Tibbitt  PhD Student
Miss Ria Toumpanari  PhD Student
Mr Dimitra Tsompani  PhD Student
Miss Sandy Tse  PhD Student
Mr Shane Walsh  PhD Student
Miss Vicky Whittle  PhD Student
Mr David Wilkinson  PhD Student
Mr Yaobo Xu  PhD Student
Miss Jie Zheng  PhD Student

**Support Staff**
Dr Sarah Brockbank  Project Manager
Miss Claire Clubbs  Research Technician
Miss Julie Diboll  Senior Technician
Miss Nicola Ellis  Technician
Miss Lucy Gentles  Research Technician
Mrs Angela Grainger  Research Technician
Mr Ben Hargreaves  Database Manager
Mrs Janet Herdman  Secretary
Dr Dennis Lendrem  Project Manager
Dr James Locke  Research Technician
Ms Marilena Patsalidou  Research Technician
Mrs Kate Rennie  Research Technician
Mrs Ann Marie Smith  Education Development Co-ordinator
Mr Philip Stocks  Research Technician
Mrs Lisa Tait  Project Administrator
Mrs Sharon Watson  Histology Technician
Mrs Carol Waugh  Secretary
Mr Michael Ward  Technician
Mr Tim Williamson  Technician

**Current Fields of Research**
Immunology and immune modulation. Paediatric rheumatology. Educational research.
Tissue engineering. Osteoarthritis genetics.

See our key research themes [http://www.ncl.ac.uk/icm/research/musculoskeletal/](http://www.ncl.ac.uk/icm/research/musculoskeletal/)

**Clinical studies:**
Autologous tolerogenic dendritic cells for rheumatoid arthritis (phase I). Arthritis Research UK funded
Fibroblast-targeting therapy for refractory RA (phase IIa). Medical Research Council/Biomedical Catalyst funded
Numerous commercial phase I-III studies
Biomarkers in early RA.
Biomarkers in primary Sjogren’s Syndrome
Outcome measures and disease assessment in Primary Sjogren’s Syndrome

**Animal studies:**
Matriptase inhibitor for osteoarthritis. Medical Research Council funded
Selected Publications (2012/13)

http://www.musculoskeletalresearch.com/p/some-recent-publications.html

2012


European multicenter study (EUMYONET) and review of the literature. *Medicine (Baltimore)* 2012, 91(4):206-211.


2013


Current Funding over £100,000 by funder

National Institute of Health Research
Newcastle NIHR Biomedical Research Centre in Ageing and Age-Related Diseases (£16 million)
NIHR Diagnostic Evidence Co-operative (£282,800)

Medical Research Council
MRC/Arthritis Research UK Centre of Excellence for Musculoskeletal Ageing – CIMA (£2.5 million)
MRC/ABPI RA-MAP consortium (£2.4 million)
MICA: Targeting the RA synovial fibroblast via cyclin dependent kinases inhibition - a Phase IIa study (Isaacs) £1.1 million
MRC/DPFS - Target Validation and Lead Identification for the Development of Disease Clinical grade cell separation technologies in the Newcastle Cellular Therapies Facility (£145,337)
Identifying the biological signature of fatigue (£451,573)
Modifying Drugs in Osteoarthritis (OA) (£661,104)
UK Primary Sjogren's syndrome registry (£553,232)

Wellcome Trust
Regulation of Dendritic Cell Survival and Function by Synovial Fibroblasts (Clinical Research Training Fellowship, Reynolds) (£208,986)
Wellcome Trust Clinical Research Fellowship. Microarray analysis of the gene expression profile of peripheral blood B cells in early arthritis patients. (Thalayasingam) (£240,642)

EU funding
Restoration (£521,000)
SYBIL - systems biology for the functional validation of genetic determinants of skeletal diseases (£989,317)
FP7 - Novel diagnostics and biomarkers for early identification of chronic inflammatory joint diseases: D-BOARD (£4.9 million)

Arthritis Research UK
Centre of Excellence in Rheumatoid Arthritis Pathogenesis (RACE) (£2.5 million)
Centre of Excellence in Tissue Engineering (£2.5 million)
Chronic Arthritis Prospective study (CAPS) a multi centre UK study (£1 million)
Developing a service user-informed and evidence-based bio-psychosocial intervention in rheumatic disease using primary Sjogren’s syndrome (pSS) as a disease model (£176,122)
Educational needs of doctors working in clinical networks (£158,000)
Educational need for young adults regarding biologics (£151,651)
Education needs for carers of patients with RA (£158,000)
Epigenetic analysis of osteoarthritis susceptibility loci (£184,000)
Extended study of biologics in children with rheumatic disease (£743,000)
Functional analysis of the osteoarthritis susceptibility locus at chromosome 3p21.1 (£284,000)
Functional Analysis of the the hip Osteoarthritis Susceptibility Locus at Chromosome 6q13-q14.1 (£166,000)
Great North Experimental Arthritis Treatment Centre (£225,000)
Juvenile Idiopathic Arthritis (£139,000)
Lessening the burden of osteoarthritis: elucidating the pathogenic role of the PAR-2 pathway (Programme grant) (£1.2 million)
MicroRNAs in Osteoarthritis (£313,841)
Role of Matriptase in Cartilage Resorption in Osteoarthritis - Identifying Novel Therapeutic Targets (£366,000)
Tribbles; Novel Regulators of MMP Expression and Cartilage Destruction (£129,228)
Sir Jules Thorn Charitable Trust
Biomedical Research Award 2012 (Hambleton) £1.5 million

National Institute of Health
Large Scale Epitope Mapping Phase 2 (£548,392)

Helen McArdle Care
PhD Studentship £100,000

Higher Committee for Education Development Office of the Prime Minister of Iraq
PhD studentship (£153,000)

JGW Patterson Foundation
Investigating the role of the novel serine proteinase SPUVE in cartilage resorption in osteoarthritis (£104,621)

Pfizer
A Diagnostic Gene Signature for Patients with Rheumatoid Arthritis - A Validation study (£166,000)
Unrestricted educational grant – paediatric rheumatology toolkits (£200,000)

Wyeth Pharmaceuticals and BSPAR
National biologics and Novel Drugs Registry for children (£810,000)

Training of Fellows in Research
We have a strong track record in training clinical and non-clinical fellows in research. We were inaugural partners in the Nuffield Foundation Oliver Bird consortium of postgraduate training centres. We have a number of clinical fellows funded by Wellcome Trust, NIHR and Arthritis Research UK. We have projects available covering a wide range of topics from fundamental science (eg. immunology, biochemistry) through to clinical and educational research.

WebPages
MRGNewcastle Website
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