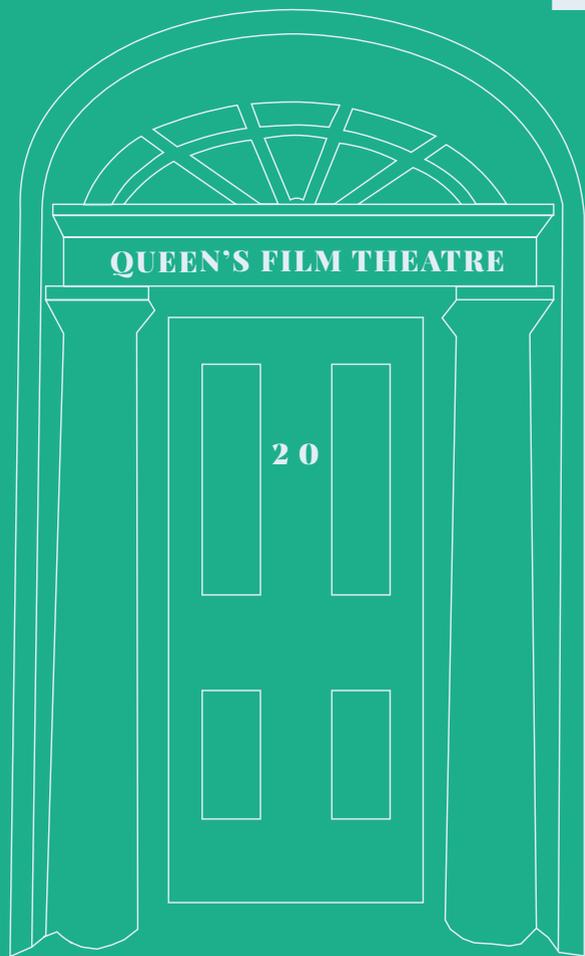


THE GRADUATE

THE MAGAZINE FOR GRADUATES AND FRIENDS OF QUEEN'S UNIVERSITY BELFAST



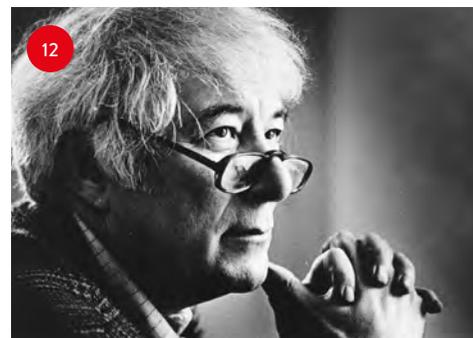
How Queen's
became the UK's
number one for
research spinouts



The Home of Independent Cinema in Northern Ireland

20 University Square, Belfast, BT7 1PA
Book online queensfilmtheatre.com

CONTENTS



Professor Helen McCarthy,
School of Pharmacy

Editor: Gerry Power
editor@qub.ac.uk

REGULARS

- 10 **WRITER'S ROOM**
At home with the novelist Glenn Patterson
- 44 **MY QUEEN'S**
The inside track on the rich heritage of motorsport
- 46 **EVENTS AND BENEFITS**
The latest on what's on offer to graduates
- 48 **STUDENT LIFE**
Taking the long view with the Student Managed Fund

FEATURES

- 12 **LEADING LIGHTS**
Celebrating 175 years of famous Queen's alumni
- 20 **SCHOOL OF THOUGHT**
The impact of shared education around the world
- 28 **COMMERCIAL BREAK**
How QUBIS leads in commercial research
- 34 **FIRST RESPONDERS**
The Queen's community's response to Covid-19

The Graduate is an informal magazine published annually by the Development and Alumni Relations Office, for alumni and friends of Queen's University Belfast. Extracts from the magazine should not be published without the approval of the editor. While every effort is made to ensure the accuracy of printed information at time of going to press, no responsibility can be accepted for any errors or omissions. Advertisements are carefully vetted, but the University can take no responsibility for their content. Any views expressed by the contributors are not necessarily those of the University or the editorial team. Produced on behalf of Queen's by YBM Ltd (www.ybm.co.uk). © Development and Alumni Relations Office 2020.

NEWS AND VIEWS

ROUND-UP

All the latest developments from the Queen’s community and beyond. To find out more, visit www.qub.ac.uk/News



STAY IN TOUCH

[@QUBAlumni](https://twitter.com/QUBAlumni)

QUB Alumni

www.qub.ac.uk/alumni

BELFAST REGION CITY DEAL

PARTNERS IN GROWTH

Queen’s and Ulster University (UU) have launched a website to showcase the universities’ joint efforts to act as catalysts for business growth.

The initiatives are part of the Belfast Region City Deal (BRCD), an £850m co-investment package of funding aimed at helping to accelerate growth in the area. The BRCD includes 22 integrated projects, of which Queen’s and UU are leading on five under the Innovation and Digital Cog.

According to Queen’s President and Vice-Chancellor, Professor Ian Greer: “The City Deal is a once-in-a-generation opportunity that will open up new innovation horizons and define our economic future.”

www.brcd-innovation.co.uk



CHANCELLOR

CLINTON “PROUD”

As Secretary Hillary Rodham Clinton approaches the end of her first year as Chancellor, she says: “It is a great privilege to be the Chancellor of Queen’s University, a place I have great fondness for and have grown a strong relationship with over the years. The University is making waves internationally for its research and impact, and I am proud to be an ambassador and help grow its reputation for excellence.”



ALUMNI SURVEY

Alumni are overwhelmingly proud and positive about their Queen's experience, according to the recent alumni survey.

Thirty three per cent of respondents were interested in supporting their alma mater by volunteering, and 44 per cent said they would be happy to respond to short monthly surveys.

There was good interest in accessing alumni benefits, such as discounts on further study and access to career development for life, and although three-fifths of responding alumni know that Queen's has a Charitable Foundation – and 33 per cent of them have given to Queen's – less than a third know that 100 per cent of donated funds are spent on its projects and initiatives.

Half of those surveyed said they were still in contact with more than six other graduates showing that lifelong friends are made at Queen's!

www.daro.qub.ac.uk/AS2020



Through this research, it is my goal to make [wireless network] delays a thing of the past and enable truly instantaneous communications.

DR NIDHI SIMMONS

from the Centre for Wireless Innovation, on receiving a five-year fellowship from the Royal Academy of Engineering daro.qub.ac.uk/Making-5G-faster



GLOBAL PIONEER

SMARTT WORK RECOGNISED

Professor Stephen Smartt from the School of Mathematics and Physics has received the highest recognition of scientific endeavour in the UK, being elected a Fellow of the Royal Society.

Professor Smartt is a global pioneer in the field of stellar evolution, supernovae and time-domain sky surveys. He directly discovered the stars that explode as supernovae for the first time using the Hubble Space Telescope.

“Science impacts on all our lives, no more so than at present,” says Professor Smartt. “It is a huge privilege to join other scientific giants who have been appointed to the society over the years, in recognition of my work and the level of scientific achievement at Queen's.”

VICE-CHANCELLOR

A YEAR LIKE NO OTHER

Professor Ian Greer says he's excited about the opportunities to deliver outstanding education and research.

In the 175 years of its existence, Queen's has withstood a great many challenges. However, 2020 has been a year like no other, as we have dealt with the Covid-19 pandemic.

At Queen's, we have a leadership role to play in tackling the challenges posed by this pandemic, from using our research expertise to support advances in science tackling Covid-19, to supporting those sectors of our economy that will be widely impacted.

We have worked closely with the Department for the Economy in developing postgraduate opportunities, across a range of strategically relevant economic sectors, for those who have been affected. And we are particularly conscious of the significant impact of the pandemic on our young people. Our decisive action in confirming offers ahead of the publication of A-levels in July paid particular attention to widening access, and we saw a 39 per cent increase in students from a widening participation background securing a firm offer via this process.

Our guiding principle throughout this difficult period has been to adopt a student-focused approach. We have worked closely with government departments to agree flexibility in our student numbers cap and to secure additional numbers in quota-controlled healthcare subjects.

At the same time we have been working hard to support our international students and grow



Our decisive action saw a 39 per cent increase in students from a widening participation background securing a firm offer

PROFESSOR IAN GREER

our international student numbers. We were the first UK University to arrange charter flights to bring cohorts of some of our international students direct to Belfast.

As we begin the new academic year, many challenges remain, but also many opportunities as we all work together to deliver outstanding education and research. We will continue to keep you updated through the eGraduate which we send on the first Tuesday of every month. If you do not currently receive this, please do contact alumni@qub.ac.uk.

In the meantime, my best wishes to our entire global alumni community.

700+

STUDENTS OF THE YEAR
The unprecedented number of students winning the AIB NI Queen's Student of the Year Award for 2020 for their work in the fight against Covid-19.

5

THINGS YOU NEED TO KNOW ABOUT QUEEN'S (SO YOU CAN TELL EVERYONE YOU KNOW)

1

IT DOES MORE WITH LESS
The model for funding NI students is different to that for England, Scotland and Wales – and that's not a good thing.

Queen's is proud to be one of the leading universities on this island. But Queen's, alongside Ulster University, receives considerably less funding per student than universities in the rest of the UK – despite the fact that we are doing as good, and in many cases, a better job than those universities. There is also a limit on the number of local students that we can recruit each year.

2

INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS ARE ON THE RISE
The number of international students at Queen's has increased in recent times.

We believe in the power of diversity – for change and for cohesion. And that's why Queen's is actively increasing the number of international students. Home students don't compete with international students for places so it's a win-win: an outstanding education for international students, and an international experience at home for students from NI.

3

IT'S SERIOUS ABOUT PARTICIPATION AND ACCESS
Queen's is working to ensure that we are open to all students, whatever their home situation.

We work with 45 schools across Northern Ireland to widen access and participation to higher education. Our aim is to ensure that the most able children in Northern Ireland, whatever their background, know that Queen's is for them. But you have to start young, so our outreach programmes start in P6.

||

The new post will drive research into patient phenotyping and clinical outcomes using AI and data science.

PROFESSOR ALAN STITT

on funding from the Belfast Association for the Blind to recruit a lecturer in Ophthalmic Data Science.

NEWS IN BRIEF

GAME PLAN SPORTS EXCELLENCE

Queen's is stepping up its support of sports programmes, with renewed investment through its Game Plan. To find out how you could help the University remain one of the premier sports institutions in the region, visit <http://go.qub.ac.uk/GamePlan>.

MANAGEMENT SCHOOL KPMG SCHOLARSHIPS

KPMG has partnered with Queen's to offer financial support and work experience scholarships for students planning to study at the Queen's Management School. The support includes an annual living allowance of £3,000, two paid summer internships, a laptop and support of a business mentor.

QUEEN'S FOUNDATION CANCER RESEARCH GRANT

Leukaemia & Lymphoma NI, Northern Ireland's only charity dedicated to blood cancer research, has awarded a £500,000 research grant to Queen's, marking the start of a new four-year package of funding. The grant will ensure the recruitment of a research fellow and a supporting technician who will be based in the Patrick G Johnston Centre for Cancer Research.

4

IT REACHES EVERYWHERE
Queen's graduates are truly global and have influence across the world.

As of this year there are 200,000 Queen's graduates and you live in more than 120 countries all over the world – so you lot certainly get around! It means the Queen's reach is further than you might think.

5

COLLABORATION IS A PRINCIPLE FOCUS
Queen's believes that we're better together, and doesn't just talk the talk...

... it walks the walk. Queen's is working very closely with other universities to deliver better cancer treatment and support across the island of Ireland – we really do believe in collaboration.



CONVOCATION

Don't miss your chance to have a voice at the top table this November, says Queen's Convocation Chair Eoin McMullan.



stuck the course and maintained its values. In 2020, working with the Development and Alumni Relations Office, we're the best way you can express your views to the University's leadership."

Why does it matter?

EM: "Convocation is part of the University's constitution and we have a seat on Senate – we're part of the functioning of Queen's. But more importantly, we're your voice at the table. Tell us what you want to talk about and we'll ensure your views are heard."

How do you reach alumni?

EM: "So that is definitely harder for me than it was for the first chair in 1846! Today we are all over the world. I work closely with the Development Office, so as well as meeting alumni in Belfast, I also attend events for alumni globally, hearing graduates' views, and spend a lot of time meeting alumni in Belfast and all over the world. We meet formally once a year at our Annual Meeting of Convocation – all graduates are entitled to attend, give their view and vote."

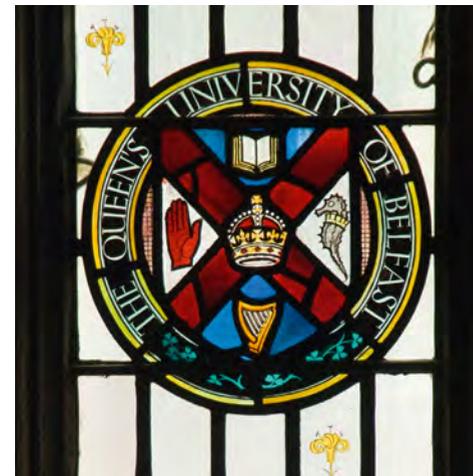
So, tell me about the annual meeting...

EM: "This year it will be delivered online as a virtual event on 12 November. Queen's President and Vice-Chancellor, Professor Ian Greer, attends with the Director of Development and Alumni Relations, Nathalie Trott. This year, the event will be digital as well as physical, so everyone will be able to take part. We can only be representative of your views if alumni of all ages and locations get involved, so don't hold back!"

How can I get involved?

EM: "Vote at the AGM! Email me. Come to alumni networking events. And – if you like what you see – volunteer. We want to ensure that our committee represents the whole of our alumni community and that we have the skills base to fulfil our objectives. So, if you think there's something you could do to support the University or feel like your cohort isn't represented, get in touch."

You can find out more at www.daro.qub.ac.uk/Convocation – or contact convocation@qub.ac.uk



INTERSIM CENTRE

Queen's is excited to be welcoming its first cohort of students to the KN Cheung SK Chin InterSim Centre in 2021. This will be one of the few in the UK to truly champion simulation-based education with an interprofessional approach. Visit <http://go.qub.ac.uk/InterSim> for more.



MANAGEMENT SCHOOL

QMS HALL EXPANSION

Plans for a new teaching centre at Queen's have been recommended for approval in a Belfast City Council report.

The expansion of Queen's Management School will see the creation of a new purpose-built teaching facility at Riddel Hall. The project will provide teaching space and ancillary research, support and social accommodation, ensuring it is fit to serve the changing needs of the postgraduate community.

THE WRITER'S ROOM

A ROOM TO MAKE MISCHIEF

At home with BAFTA-nominated writer and novelist Professor Glenn Patterson, Director of the Seamus Heaney Centre.



Glenn Patterson's home office – “a retreat into whatever world I am writing into being”.

to myself: ‘So? Make mischief!’ It’s not a bad way to pass the time.

I have had the same desk for more than 30 years – an old schoolteacher’s desk – bought in a second-hand shop in Sandy Row when I was starting work on my second novel. I don’t know how many typewriters, word processors, desktops and laptops I have set up on it in that time, though at one stage I worked out it had followed me through ten different addresses. There is an almost physical connection; something comfortingly familiar in how it catches me when I sit forward, as I do when writing is going well, just below the ribcage, or the feel of it beneath my elbows when I sit, chin on my hands reading over what I have just written. Writers are industries of one, built on habit and superstition. Whatever helps you write (or whatever you convince yourself helps you write), you make use of.

Years ago, when I lived in shared houses, I worked with earplugs in and sometimes

sound-excluding headphones over the earplugs, and sometimes with my hands clamped to the sound-excluding headphones, for added effect (though as you can imagine it made typing tricky). My mum tells me that’s the way I sat at the kitchen table when I was doing homework.

Today, my study is at the back of the house and, though family – and cats – come and go through the working day, it’s still a bit of a retreat into whatever world I am writing into being. I even have a turntable in my room now, though I will only listen to music if I am not writing fiction. And sing along – I think the word is ‘gamely’. And I have a couple of guitars, off in one corner, that I will pick up from time to time, especially at moments when I am tempted to get up and leave the room. It keeps me sitting there long enough that I feel like getting back to work, which is to say about as long as it takes me to remind myself, yet again, that I am never going to be any sort of a guitarist – so I might as well keep writing.

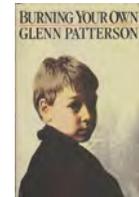
A LIFE'S WORK

Glenn Patterson has been an award-winning novelist and writer for more than 30 years.



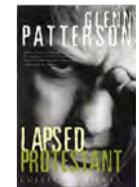
GOOD VIBRATIONS

“Funny and likeable myth-making comedy”



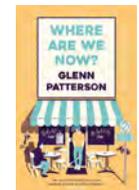
BURNING YOUR OWN

“A novel of visionary power”



LAPSED PROTESTANT

“A composite portrait of changing times”



WHERE ARE WE NOW?

“Funny, touching, topical and entertaining”

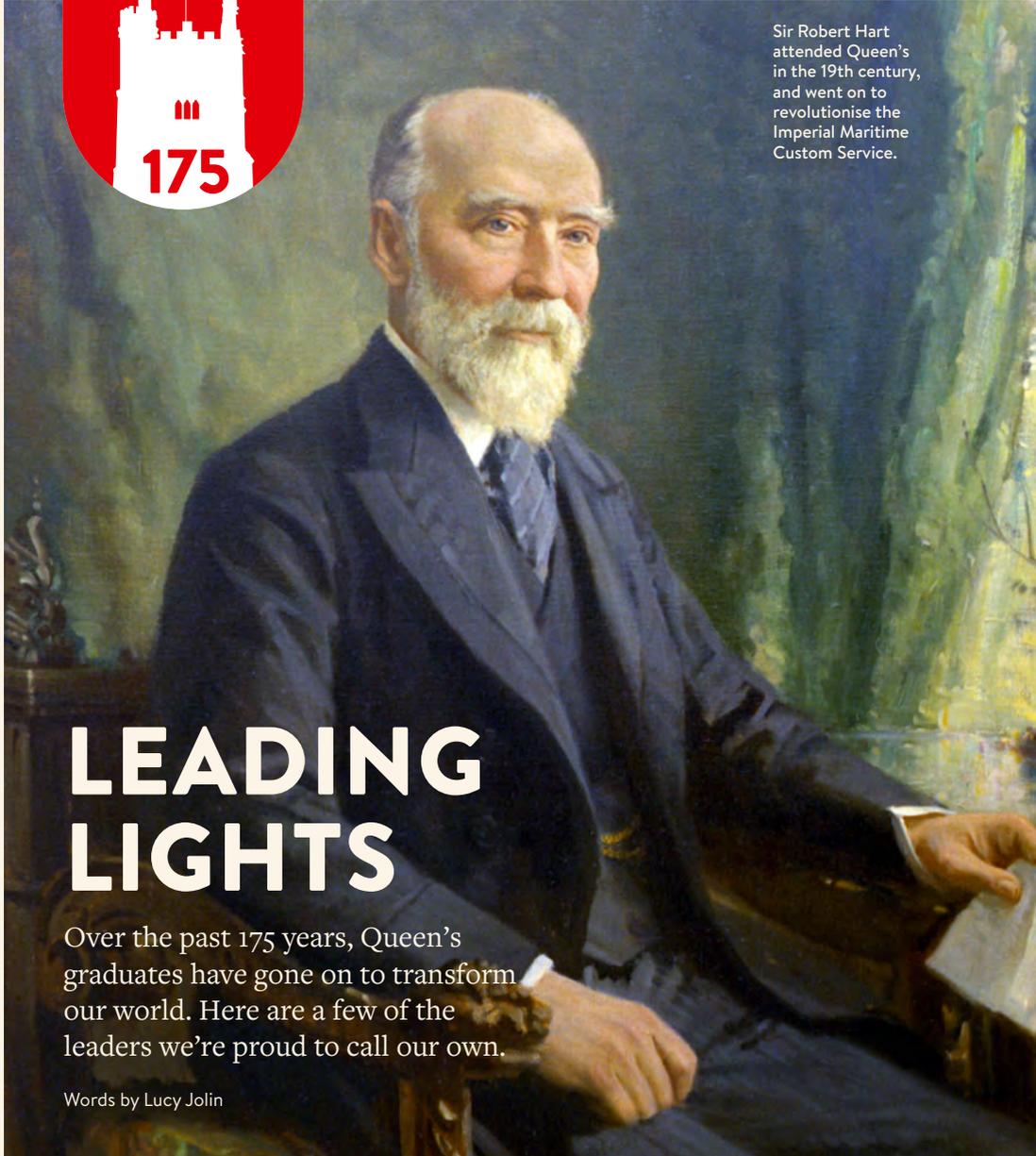
When it comes to my writing, I almost never use my office at the Seamus Heaney Centre. So, the last few months working at home have been less a case of being locked out of my writing room and rather more a case of bringing my office back to live with it. They’ve been getting on all right – for the most part. But, man, are the two of them ever untidy.

I try to start every day at my desk at home, working on fiction or a screenplay – most of my screenplay work is co-written, with Queen’s Colin Carberry. Sometimes it’s difficult to know, when you head out the front door, how the rest of the day is going to go, how much time you are going to get later. So, it’s good to have that first hour before setting out. I have a whiteboard above my desk with a quotation at the centre from Stephen Sondheim – ‘Writing is a form of mischief’ – followed by an instruction

1845 2020



Sir Robert Hart attended Queen's in the 19th century, and went on to revolutionise the Imperial Maritime Custom Service.



LEADING LIGHTS

Over the past 175 years, Queen's graduates have gone on to transform our world. Here are a few of the leaders we're proud to call our own.

Words by Lucy Jolin

P

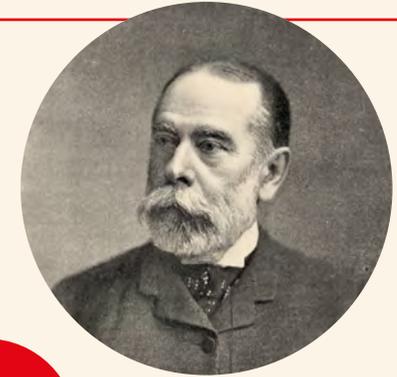
residents, Prime Ministers and Nobel Prize winners. Actors, scientists and sports stars. Commanding officers, academic heavyweights and clergymen. Over its 175-year history, Queen's alumni have made some extraordinary contributions to society, both international and local.

"This is a precious and special place," says Richard English, Professor of Politics. "There are speeches that could only have been given here, and people who would only have met and listened to each other here. We have been instrumental in bringing people together, and I have had many students who only really began to listen to someone different from themselves at Queen's."

But its reach extends far beyond. Since it was first chartered as 'Queen's College, Belfast' in 1845, Queen's has led the way, finding solutions to real-world issues and inspiring research to have real-world impact. And it has seen a long list of notable names pass through its doors.

"We're very fortunate to have so many Northern Irish students at Queen's, and are equally delighted to have a growing number of international students coming to our safe and friendly campus," says Professor English. "Our best work is done across a range of subjects, including creative writing, cyber security, conflict resolution, food security and human rights law."

As members of that community, you are part of an extraordinary history. Here, we take a look at just some of the Queen's people who have shaped our world.



1850-1900

EDWIN LAWRENCE GODKIN (1851)

Godkin worked as a journalist in London and Belfast before moving to New York. He turned down a partnership in the *New York Times*, and founded news and opinion journal *The Nation* in 1865. It rapidly became a huge success, and in 1881, he sold it to the owner of the *New York Evening Post*. Godkin edited the *Post* until he retired in 1900. He's remembered for his tireless campaigning for civil service reform, and his opposition to imperialism.

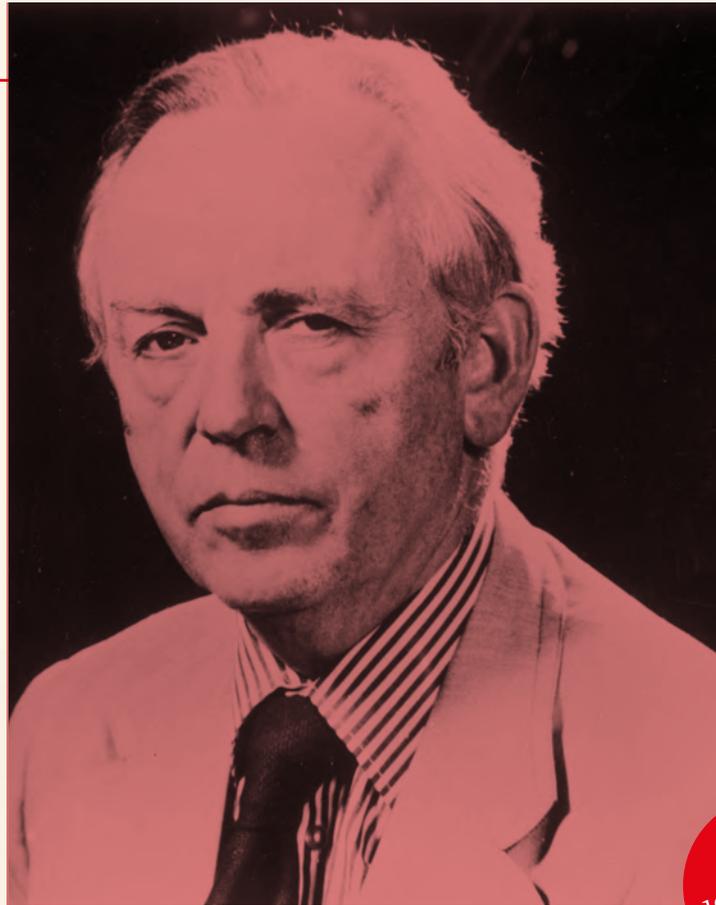
SIR ROBERT HART (1853)

Hart began his career as a British consular official in China, then worked his way up to become inspector general of the Imperial Maritime Custom Service. Writer Jung Chang has credited Hart with turning the service "from an antiquated set-up, anarchical and prone to corruption, into a well-regulated modern organisation, which contributed enormously to China's economy." Born in Portadown, Hart attended Queen's at the age of 15. ▶

**JAMES FRANCIS
'FRANK' PANTRIDGE**

(MD 1946)

Pantridge invented the portable defibrillator, a literal life-saver. As consultant physician at the Royal Victoria Infirmary in Belfast, he established a renowned cardiology unit to fight an epidemic of heart disease. It was here that he came up with the first portable defibrillator – which operated from car batteries and weighed 70kg – along with technician Alfred Mawhinney and senior house officer John Geddes. In his BMJ obituary, he is remembered for his 'staccato delivery and quickness of wit'.



1900-1950

JACK KYLE

(MB BCH BAO 1951)

Kyle was a beloved Irish rugby international player and also a dedicated doctor. He led Ireland to a grand slam in the 1948 Five Nations Championship, where the team defeated England at their home ground of Twickenham. But he then spent much of his working life in a small hospital in Chingola, Zambia, where he was often the only surgeon for several hundred patients.



**PROFESSOR MARY GRAHAM
'MOLLIE' MCGEOWN**

(MB BCH BAO 1946)

Professor McGeown was a pioneer in dialysis and kidney transplantation, despite facing massive prejudice. After graduating, she was refused a job at Royal Belfast Hospital for Sick Children because she was a married woman, so turned to research. In 1959, she was appointed head of Northern Ireland's first kidney dialysis unit. She was named as one of the 50 women who had contributed most to the success of the NHS.



1950-2000



PETER RICE

(BSC ENGINEERING 1956)

Rice was a structural engineer and architect who worked on some of the most ingenious and iconic buildings of the 20th century – architectural critic Jonathan Glancey called him 'perhaps the James Joyce of structural engineering'. Rice's first major assignment was the roof of the Sydney Opera House, but he went on to contribute his skills in materials, geometry, analysis and computer programming to buildings all over the world, including the Pompidou Centre in Paris. ▶



TENGGU RAZALEIGH HAMZAH
(BSC ECONOMICS 1959)

As a former Minister of Finance and Minister of Trade and Industry, Razaleigh has been called the “father of Malaysia’s Economy” for playing a key role in establishing and implementing key foundations and policies in the country’s economy. As well as being the founding Chairman and Chief Executive of Malaysian oil PETRONAS and formerly having senior roles at the World Bank and IMF, he is now the longest serving member of parliament in Malaysia.



TAN SRI DATUK RAFIAH SALIM
(LLB 1971)

Rafiah Salim is the first Malaysian to be appointed Assistant Secretary-General for Human Resource Management at the United Nations (from 1997 to 2002). She was instrumental in the UN’s reform agenda in five core missions: peace and security; economic and social affairs; development cooperation; humanitarian affairs; and human rights. She is currently Chairman of Allianz Malaysia Berhad and Allianz General Insurance Company (Malaysia) Berhad, and serves as a director of several public-listed companies.

MARY MCALEESE
(LLB 1973)

McAleese served as the eighth President of Ireland from November 1997 to November 2011 – the first President to come from Northern Ireland. The theme of her presidency was ‘building bridges’. A barrister and experienced Professor of Law, she is an accomplished broadcaster, and has a longstanding interest in issues concerned with justice, equality, social inclusion, anti-sectarianism and reconciliation. In 1994, she became the first female Pro Vice-Chancellor of Queen’s University.



SEAMUS HEANEY
(BA ENGLISH 1961)

Heaney is one of the 20th-century’s most influential and highly regarded poets, playwrights and translators. He was the author of more than 20 volumes of poetry and criticism, and edited several widely used anthologies. He won the Nobel Prize for Literature in 1995 “for works of lyrical beauty and ethical depth, which exalt everyday miracles and the living past”. Heaney also taught at Harvard University and served as the Oxford Professor of Poetry.



THE RT HON. THE LORD TRIMBLE
(LLB 1968)

Trimble was the First Minister of Northern Ireland from 1998 to 2002 and leader of the Ulster Unionist Party from 1995 to 2005. As joint winner, with John Hume, of the Nobel Peace Prize in 1998, he was lauded for his “great political courage when, at a critical stage of the process, he advocated solutions which led to the [Good Friday] peace agreement”. ▶

PAUL MULDOON**(BA ENGLISH 1973)**

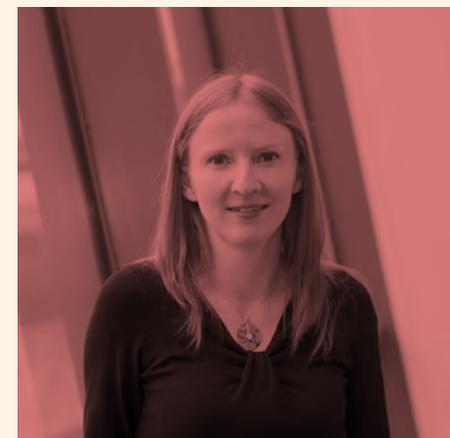
A Pulitzer Prize-winning poet, Muldoon has published numerous poetry collections, one of the best-known being *Moy Sand and Gravel* (2002), which won the Pulitzer Prize and the Griffin Poetry Prize. His other works include criticism, children's books, opera libretti and song lyrics. He now lives in America, where he is Howard G.B. Clark Professor of the Humanities and Founding Chair of the Peter B. Lewis Center for the Arts at Princeton University.

**DAWSON STELFOX MBE****(BSC ARCHITECTURE 1980)**

Stelfox is the first person from Ireland to climb Mount Everest, and the first from Britain or Ireland to do so via the North Ridge. As an architect, he has worked on buildings such as the Parliament Buildings, Stormont, Belfast's Christ Church and the Odyssey Arena. He is past President and current Board Member of Mountaineering Ireland and was President of the Royal Society of Ulster Architects from 2008 to 2010.

PROFESSOR MÁIRE O'NEILL**(MENG 1999)**

The youngest ever engineering professor at Queen's, Professor O'Neill is a world-renowned and award-winning cybersecurity expert who is currently Director of Queen's Institute of Electronics, Communications and Information Technology and the Research Institute in Secure Hardware and Embedded Systems.

**ELIZABETH (LISA) MCGEE****(BA DRAMA 2002)**

McGee is the creator and writer of the hugely successful Channel 4 comedy series *Derry Girls*, set in Derry in the 1990s and currently awaiting its third series. The series, loosely based on McGee's own experiences at a convent school in Derry, has been nominated for and won numerous awards, including the Royal Television Society's award for best scripted comedy. McGee was listed as one of the BBC's 100 inspiring and influential women in 2018. ●

Find out more about Queen's alumni at www.daro.qub.ac.uk/NotableGraduates





SCHOOL OF THOUGHT

From Jerusalem to Los Angeles and from
Lebanon to the Balkans, wherever communities
are divided, education acts as a lightning rod.

Could a unique, international project
at Queen's provide a new way forward?

Words by Hazel Davis



Professor Joanne Hughes says kids are starting to think of identity in new and different ways.



The goal was to create new relationships between students, teachers and parents. The outcomes have rewritten the narrative and become core policy

It's not separate. It's not integrated. It's shared. An education that demands nothing less than collaboration between entire networks of schools, with teachers working together to deliver classes and share expertise. And it's unique, because this approach – developed, trialled and assessed over the past decade at Queen's – moves the focus solely from the children to include the teachers.

The concept was borne out of the limitations with initiatives undertaken during The Troubles, including new curriculums, contact programmes and integrated schools. "Short-term contact initiatives from the Department of Education provided some support for schools to go on a day out, or meet to do extra-curricular activity," says Professor Joanne Hughes, Director of the Centre for Shared Education at Queen's, "but these tended to be one-off, not curriculum-based. So, although they were symbolically important, teachers tended to adopt a light touch approach."

Starting with a pilot Shared Education programme of 12 schools in 2007, the Queen's initiative aimed to bridge the gap between short-term opportunities for contact, and full immersion, integrated schools. It offered curriculum-based interaction between pupils attending all school types, aimed at promoting the type of contact likely to reduce negative social attitudes and ultimately contribute to social harmony. The broader goal was to create new relationships between young people, teachers and parents in local

communities by binding the schools together in collaborative networks.

The outcomes have rewritten the education narrative and become a core pillar of education policy and practice, as recognised by the Queen's Anniversary Prize which was presented to the University in 2019. The pilot has grown to now incorporate more than 700 schools, and more than 60,000 pupils now share regular classes and activities with schools of different denominations.

"Pupil and teacher movement between schools is the new norm," says Hughes, who was appointed to a UNESCO chair on Globalising a Shared Education Model for Improving Intergroup Relations in Divided Societies in 2016. "Kids start to think of identity in different ways to the monolithic Catholic and Protestant identities – there's evidence that through shared education they're starting to think in terms of common interests in things like music or sport." In addition, they've seen parents in Northern Ireland attending evening classes in subjects such as computer literacy.

The Centre for Shared Education was established in 2012, to provide a focus for research and dissemination of the model. Today, it is working with partners in Israel, ▶



Tony Gallagher's work focuses on the role of education in divided societies and ethnic conflicts.

the Balkans, Lebanon, Jerusalem and Los Angeles, as well as having discussions with academics and educators in Cyprus and other post-conflict regions.

"We were running a conference in Queen's and two Israeli participants approached us, one Jewish, one Palestinian," says Professor Tony Gallagher of the School of Social Sciences and Social Work, whose work has focused on the role of education in divided societies and ethnic conflict. "There are a very small number of bilingual Hebrew/Arabic schools in Israel, but they felt the idea of common schools becoming widespread in the foreseeable future was unlikely, so they were interested in the collaborative model we had developed. Following this we were invited to speak at a seminar in Nazareth, and visit schools to meet with teachers, academics and policymakers." From these initial conversations we have now established regular exchanges to share experience and expertise, and develop our mutual learning.

The process has taken time, says Professor Gallagher, "but at its heart, shared education is based on a simple idea. If you start to think of schools as an interdependent network, then it starts to make more sense to find ways to promote positive interdependencies through cooperation for the wider common good."

An important feature of the work in Northern Ireland is that school partnerships have to be tailored to their local circumstances. Professor Gallagher and his colleagues have always emphasised the need to tailor partnerships to local circumstances – rather than simply translate what has been done in Northern Ireland – when the model is considered for adoption in other conflict zones. One important aspect of this arises from the work of social psychologist Gordon Allport in the 1950s when he found that effective intergroup contact had to involve equal status between the groups involved in the encounter, allied with institutional or authority support.

Against these odds, Jerusalem is something of a success story, says Myriam Darmoni Sharvit, Director of Democracy and Citizenship at the Education Center for Educational Technology in Tel Aviv. "In Jerusalem, there was almost no contact between educators from both sides of the city; after five years we now have 100 principals on board and more than 4,000 kids who study together – they even continued to study together online during lockdown."

But, unlike in Northern Ireland, the economic gap between Jews and Arabs in Jerusalem is very wide. The motivations are also different. "The motivation of the Jewish educators is for their kids to be more tolerant and to address expressions of racism. But for the Arab teachers, they're looking for opportunities for enrichment and opening their minds, and access to things they can't otherwise be a part of."

However, in order for shared education to work properly, says Darmoni, "it's important to understand that challenges are part of the process." To this end, the teachers themselves go through something of a process. "Our purpose was that these educators could work together and trust each other in bad times. After all, they have to justify the fact that ▶



In Jerusalem, there was almost no contact between educators – after five years, we have more than 4,000 kids studying together – even during lockdown



Political will is essential. When the right people see this approach work, you get lightbulb moments. But getting to that stage needs bottom-up investment

they're going to collaborate and work together with people from 'the other side'"

The shared education takes place in Jerusalem with simultaneous translations. This is sometimes as a symbolic act, to create equality, but in other areas it's necessary. "When issues are loaded, if you don't use translation, people can misunderstand," says Darmoni. "For example, religious Israeli Jews might use a metaphor that would rely on a biblical story, and that would be very difficult for a Palestinian to understand."

There are also rhetorical approaches to take into account too. In conflict mitigation, there are usually two approaches; the people-to-people approach, which relies on speaking as a fellow human being and sharing things in common, and conflict theory, which relies on how one's story has been impacted by the conflict – a tense and conflictual approach.

Neither worked well for shared education purposes, so Darmoni and her team have chosen a narrative approach (developed by Professor Dan Bar-On), which uses personal stories as a means of discussion. "If I am telling the story of my life and my dad being killed as a soldier during the Yom Kippur war, they're not

listening to a Zionist narrative, they're listening to an Israeli teacher feeling some very deep pain because her dad was hurt. A Palestinian participant might talk about travelling to the nearby city and her grandmother looking at the trees her family used to own. When that person is a colleague and a friend, she's not talking about politics, she's showing how history has impacted her life."

"For shared education to work in a conflict zone, political buy-in is absolutely necessary," says Dr Padraic Quirk, Deputy Director of the Social Change Initiative, which builds a bridge between activism and philanthropy. "When you get the right people seeing it work, you get these lightbulb moments, but to get to that stage needs bottom-up investment. One of the reasons shared education worked so well in Northern Ireland was that, for the most part, they were able to secure political buy-in at localised levels."

According to Professor Gallagher, the idea of shared education can be distilled into one idea: "Separate schools create institutional boundaries between young people. For years, we argued whether we should leave those boundaries in place to protect identity, or remove them to promote cohesion. With shared education, we are saying leave the boundaries in place but make them less important, make them porous and encourage movement across them." ●

For more on the work of the Centre for Shared Education, go to www.daro.qub.ac.uk/Shared



COMMERCIAL BREAK

The inside story of how Queen's beat Oxford, Cambridge and London to become the UK's number one university for research spinouts.

Words by Sarah Woodward

PROFESSOR HELEN MCCARTHY heads a team at Queen's School of Pharmacy focused on the development of non-viral delivery systems for nanomedicine applications.

PAUL KERR
A biotech specialist
and CEO of Fusion
Antibodies.



When Helen McCarthy won the InterTradelreland Seedcorn Investor Readiness Competition three years ago, she knew straight away what she wanted to do with at least some of the €100,000 prize. “I booked a place at a commercial conference on drug delivery systems in Boston, MA. At the time, eyebrows were raised at using the budget on a trip, but marketing was crucial. I wanted to put our technology in front of the big pharma companies. On the basis of the contacts I made there, we secured multiple collaborations and commercial contracts over the next year.”

Today, as well as leading her team in the Queen’s School of Pharmacy, Professor McCarthy is CEO of pHion Therapeutics, the drug delivery company she founded and incorporated with encouragement and support from QUBIS, the commercialisation arm of the

University. Now employing 10 people locally, pHion Therapeutics recently received a £50,000 grant from the UK government’s Fast Start scheme to help work on a drug delivery programme for Covid-19.

For McCarthy, QUBIS has provided a vital launch pad. “Through their network I have met some fantastic people, including the current Chairman of our Board, Dr John Fox, who is based in Bristol. It is challenging to be a CEO, especially in the life sciences, but I have had tremendous support.” She has also been able to resist the lure of relocating to the US or England. “It would have been really easy to move to Boston, or to Cambridge. But I want to build our bio-tech business right here in Northern Ireland. You have to be a fighter to make your idea a success.”

For the CEO of QUBIS, Brian McCaul, this is just the mindset he and his team are looking



DAME ROTHA JOHNSTON
Heads the QUBIS Investment
Committee and is Chair of
Northern Ireland Screen.

capital companies, Octopus Ventures, recently put Queen’s top of the class in its inaugural ranking of the success of UK universities in commercialising academic research.

Queen’s scored especially well, beating Cambridge University into second place, when it came to the two key issues that financiers look at when it comes to backing academics – production of spinout companies from the original idea, and, vitally, successful exits relative to total funding received. McCaul puts a lot of their success down to sheer hard work with limited resources.

“Our work rate has always been a crucial factor compared to the larger universities. We may not be the size of Oxford or Cambridge but, when it comes to making money, however you cut the numbers we come out top of the pile. I think we are one of the few universities that attracts greater investment than the size of our research base, and generates more in terms of turnover annually from our spinouts than the cost of the research inputs. This is a very lean model.”

The QUBIS archetype for success is a team of four: an early career researcher supported by the professor behind the idea in the background; an external entrepreneur; and a tech transfer company. “Academics have multiple competing priorities,” McCaul points out, “and they don’t always have the space needed to focus full time on driving the business forward as well.

“It takes a village to raise a startup and it is important that everyone involved has some skin in the game. There can be some delicate conversations along the way as we bring in external management and investment, although every so often a high-flying academic takes the lead.”

Often, though, QUBIS finds itself acting as an executive search company, bringing in the right individual to take the company forward to the market at the right stage. McCaul points to the recent successful seed funding achieved for



The benefits of the strategic investments Queen’s made 12 years ago are being felt now. It’s not just part of the economic system, but a key driver

DAME ROTHA JOHNSTON

for. “People recognise the importance of building more tech companies here in Northern Ireland, and as well as internal support our academics receive plenty of backing from local entrepreneurs. But we also recognise the importance of international links and collaborations, so we always look outwards as well as inwards.” Their work has been so successful that one of Europe’s leading venture



BRIAN McCAUL
CEO of QUBIS and an experienced technology and knowledge transfer professional, with more than 20 years of experience starting and creating new businesses.



It takes a village to raise a startup – it's important that everyone involved has some skin in the game

BRIAN McCAUL

Re-Vana Therapeutics, a University spinout drug delivery company focused on the treatment of chronic eye diseases such as age-related macular degeneration and glaucoma.

Alongside early investors QUBIS and Invest Northern Ireland, three specialised US ophthalmic venture capital funds came together as backers in the US\$3.25m two-tranche funding round. "This was the first time all three of these specialised funds had invested in the same company," says McCaul.

But to get to that stage a great deal of work has to go on behind the scenes – and it takes time. Dr Paul Kerr is CEO of Fusion Antibodies, a listed company which was born 20 years ago in Queen's laboratories. He met the company's founder, Professor Jim Johnston, soon after graduating with a degree in Veterinary Science from Greenmount (now CAFRE). "I went for a post doc interview and came away as Fusion

Technologies' second employee. And QUBIS were with us from the very beginning, right through to our successful IPO in 2017."

From the outset, Kerr remembers, QUBIS asked the right question – why? "Professor Johnston had been working in the US and had seen the future of precision medicine in oncology. But it was early days and the people from QUBIS made us focus on specifics: who will the patient be in seven years time? How will doctors use it? We really had to think about how our discoveries fitted into the medical world, not just academically but commercially. And to keep control – patent before publication, which is not the natural academic way. The science has to be good, but you also have to learn to sell your wares."

When the credit crunch hit in 2008, QUBIS was by Kerr's side. By the time he became CEO in 2011, the company was pivoting

to become a service provider in contract research for antibody engineering. "We were able to learn from protocols already in place. QUBIS are in it for the long term, unlike the typical venture capital firm, but they knew how to talk to other investors and introduce us to the right people. They have been steadfast, but it is a symbiotic relationship. The University benefits from our success."

The success of QUBIS feeds into that of the entire Northern Ireland region, and from the outset the University has put its own money behind the University spinouts. Leading local entrepreneur and Chair of Northern Ireland Screen, Dame Rotha Johnston CBE (BA Italian 1983; LLD 2016), had just graduated from Queen's when QUBIS was founded in 1984. Today she leads its Investment Committee, taking vital decisions as to which ideas to back with the University's cash.

"As a student back in the 1980s, I was aware of the University's mission, to contribute to the social and economic benefit of Northern Ireland. But my recent key takeaway from the Octopus Report was just how far-sighted Queen's was 12 years ago in deciding to put £2m into equity in University spinouts.

"The benefits of those strategic investments are being felt right now. There is a very solid social network in Northern Ireland and Queen's is a not just a part of the economic system but a key driver. It plays a very important role in attracting inward investment to the region."

By the time Dame Rotha's Investment Committee becomes involved, their eye is on viability, impact on society and the potential stream of revenue generation from the spinout. A solid track record builds its own success, she says.

"And I have first-hand evidence of how a lot of that is down to how QUBIS operates, managing the process to create the right team for a successful spinout, which in turn gives confidence to potential investors."

There is no doubt it is tough for academics to succeed in a competitive marketplace, says McCaul. "Of the hundreds of ideas that come to us, there is a heavy attrition rate. Only one in perhaps 30 even make it through to the first stage. But we have participated in five deals this year, with at least five more on the stocks. We have created three new spinouts already and plan to create another two at least. So, I have no reason to believe that the trend will not continue for a while yet!" ●

For more on commercialising research and innovation, go to www.qubis.co.uk

FIRST RESPONDERS

From leading the public health response and developing treatments, to clinical trials and experimental work, the Queen's community has led the response to Covid-19 regionally, nationally and on the international stage.

Words by Lucy Jolin
Illustrations by Paddy Mills



Caroline McElroy is Director of Public Health at New Zealand's Ministry of Health, and says dealing with Covid-19 has been the challenge of her working life.



**It's been a roller-coaster ride
– but also eye-opening to
see what can be achieved in a
very short space of time**

Stephen Wright
Genentech/Roche



On 6 January 2020, Caroline McElnay (Medicine, 1984), Director of Public Health at New Zealand's Ministry of Health, opened an email from the World Health Organization. It detailed the emergence of a novel coronavirus in the Chinese city of Wuhan – and it immediately rang alarm bells. “Those of us working in public health have always been aware of the potential for a pandemic,” says McElnay who admits dealing with the pandemic has been the challenge of her working life.

“For an eight-week intensive period, I was just living, breathing and dreaming Covid-19,” she says. “The stress comes when you know that if you get it right, it will have a huge impact – and if you get it wrong, it will also have a huge impact. But somebody's got to provide advice and make the decisions – and I just happened to be in this job, at this moment.”

New Zealand closed its borders to China in the first weekend of February, staying in constant contact with colleagues in Australia, as many Chinese tourists fly to Australia first, before flying on to New Zealand. Once the focus shifted to Iran and Europe, mandatory quarantine from those places was also put in place. “Then,” as McElnay vividly recalls, “in the middle of March the government closed the borders to all but returning New Zealanders. Shortly after that, we went into full lockdown.”

It worked. While other countries saw death tolls rising in the first few months, New Zealand

recorded just 1,549 cases – with 22 deaths in a population of five million. But, of course, the fight isn't over. The strategy now is to keep Covid-19 off the islands and stamp out any new cases as fast as possible, armed with all the knowledge and experience acquired over the past few months. With more than two decades of work in public health, McElnay is well-placed to face the ongoing challenges, but admits there's “no training can really prepare you for what it's actually like tackling a pandemic”.

Another Queen's graduate who found himself at the sharp end of the pandemic is Stephen Wright (Medicine, 1998). As Group Medical Director and Lifecycle Leader at Genentech/Roche in California, he is responsible for Actemra, a medicine which was approved 10 years ago for treatment of patients with rheumatoid arthritis, and children with certain forms of arthritis. Even before New Zealand and the rest of the world was locking down back in February, he was aware of information coming out of China indicating that Actemra was being used to treat people hospitalised with Covid-19, even though there was no evidence to support its use in this setting.

In order to scientifically investigate Actemra in Covid-19, his team put together a Global Phase 3 study in just four weeks (the normal timeline is six months or more). “We announced the trial on 19 March and had our first patient enrolled on 3 April,” says Wright. “And that was made possible from a desire to do this ▶

incredibly important thing, but also a huge amount of collaboration with health authorities.” For Wright, too, the last four months have been hugely challenging – “a roller-coaster ride,” as he puts it. But, he says, it has been an eye-opening experience to see what can be achieved in a very short space of time.

The program has rapidly expanded to four Roche/Genentech sponsored studies and more than 10 supported studies around the world. It’s hoped that the drug may interrupt the process of ‘cytokine release syndrome’ (CRS), a form of serious inflammatory response that can occur as a complication of some infections.

“It’s great to know that we’re helping to answer the question that everyone wants to know the answer to, and underlining the importance of scientific rigour while we do it,” he says. “There’s pressure, of course, in terms of the urgency to get the right answer, whatever that might be. But it doesn’t feel like a burden. It feels like a real privilege to be part of something which is hugely important for society.”

Back in Europe, members of the Queen’s community have been mobilising. Professors Danny McAuley and Cecilia O’Kane, from the Wellcome-Wolfson Institute for Experimental Medicine in the School of Medicine, Dentistry and Biomedical Sciences, also quickly recognised that their expertise would have a part to play. McAuley is a specialist in the treatment of Acute Respiratory Distress Syndrome (ARDS). “Normally, your lungs are

like a dry sponge,” he explains. “Air can get in and out easily. But whenever you get sick, your lungs become like a wet sponge. They fill up with fluid and you can’t breathe – and that’s when you need to go on a ventilator.”

McAuley rapidly repurposed his own work to investigate the effect stem cell treatment might have on Covid-19. The new trial, REALIST COVID-19, uses allogeneic mesenchymal stromal cells (MSCs), which are derived from human tissue such as bone marrow or umbilical cord (usually discarded after a baby is born) to treat Covid-19 patients with lung damage. It’s hoped that this initial study will provide enough evidence to see whether or not the treatment can be taken forward.

Queen’s has always been at the heart of its community, and faculty and students alike came together in the local and national fight against the pandemic, and to keep each other safe. “We’d been through both SARS and MERS, which are related coronaviruses, and I remembered the preparations that we made at that time,” says Professor Stuart Elborn, faculty Pro Vice-Chancellor at the School of Medicine, Dentistry and Biomedical Sciences and a consultant in respiratory medicine, “Early on, we thought this would be probably in China and neighbouring countries. But by the end of January it was becoming clear that it might well start spreading.”

As it became clear that the pandemic would affect Northern Ireland, the Major Incident Team put plans into action to get students ▶



The new trial...uses allogeneic mesenchymal stromal cells...to treat Covid-19 patients with lung damage

Danny McAuley
Queen’s/Royal Victoria Hospital



The whole ecosystem of students and staff focused on supporting the healthcare system

Stuart Elborn

School of Medicine, Dentistry and Biomedical Sciences

home safely, support faculty with taking learning online, and ensure they kept in touch with those international students who were unable to go home. “The Major Incident Team worked tirelessly and kept us ahead of the curve, so we were well prepared for both the shutdown and repurposing our labs,” says Elborn. “Our staff have been exemplary in supporting local and international students – including a few who were unable to get home – and in responding to the challenges of a new way of working.”

QUB was also able to swing into action to support the healthcare system, working closely with local trusts and the NHS to move student nurses and doctors into practice early. Academics in medicine, pharmacy and nursing also stopped doing academic work to focus on clinical work. “The whole ecosystem of students and staff focused on supporting the healthcare system,” says Elborn. “Some were employed, for example, to help manage non-Covid-19 patients, because ordinary disease is still happening. That freed up more experienced personnel to support Covid-19 patients.”

Other experts across the University were also quick to realise how their areas of expertise could apply across Covid-19 research. Professor Judy Bradley and her team, along with collaborators from Ulster University, are working to understand how Covid-19 patients can best be rehabilitated, both physically and mentally. Dr Jenny Groarke, Dr Lisa Graham-Wisener and Dr Emma Berry from the Centre for Improving Health-Related Quality of Life in the School of Psychology have developed an online tool for people to calculate their risk of

contracting and spreading Covid-19. The tool will then offer users tailored advice based on their answers about how to change their behaviour to minimise risk to themselves and loved ones. And Professor Ultan Power is leading research to screen drugs currently approved for human use, including a number of drugs used to treat respiratory diseases, antivirals, and drugs which affect the immune system.

The Agricultural Food Sciences Institute labs, which already have capacity to test for animal viruses, are now being used to increase Northern Ireland’s Covid-19 testing capacity, adding a thousand tests per day to the system. This doubles Northern Ireland’s testing capacity in preparation for the huge amount of testing required for contact tracing and test-trace-isolate policies, vital for the re-establishment of education and business so they can maintain their workforce safely.

And as the world gears up for the next phase of fighting the virus, whatever that may be, Elborn is confident that Queen’s, its alumni, staff and students will come through stronger than ever. “We have been working together for the common good. And I believe, as we rebuild society, we can continue to build on this for the future. It’s been challenging, yes, but it’s also been rewarding. One of our main learnings is that nobody stands alone. Everything is connected. There are no global solutions without local solutions.” ●

To support Queen’s COVID-19 Rapid Response Innovation Fund go to www.daro.qub.ac.uk/Rapid

Keep in touch

for news, events, career support, networks,
discounts and other benefits



Connect
QUB Alumni



Follow
@QUBAlumni



Join
QUB Alumni

Visit www.qub.ac.uk/alumni

ALUMNI

BEST FOOT FORWARD

In an extraordinary 12 months, Queen's has managed to make leaps forward that might otherwise have taken many more years.

The past 12 months have been extraordinary. As I write, colleagues are training the next generation of doctors, working on potential treatments for Covid-19 and establishing protocols so that our students can return safely. I know, too, that many of you will have faced challenges on a scale that could not have been predicted this time last year.

And yet in the face of so much necessary – but often unsettling – change, I have drawn great comfort from the countless ways in which many aspects of Queen's life remain constant in a world in flux. This summer, more than 5,000 students from 50 different countries graduated from Queen's and, as I write, we are preparing to welcome our students back to campus.

In some cases, the events of this year have prompted us to make leaps forward that might otherwise have taken many more years. Seeing how technology can bring alumni together, regardless of geography, has been a real highlight for me. We were very sad to cancel an event planned to take place in Dublin in April, but we were thrilled to be able to bring together alumni – some of whom had graduated long before the World Wide Web was even a note on Tim Berners-Lee's desktop – from across the US and Canada. So, I hope to maintain some of the practical and inclusive benefits that digital gatherings have brought to our community.



Nathalie Trott
is Director of
Development and
Alumni Relations.

As we look forward to the coming year, I hope that you will consider how you may be able to support our newest graduates and current cohort. These young people are preparing to make their way in an uncertain labour market, where opportunities are hard to come by. If you are able to host an internship (physical or digital), offer work experience or if you have openings for new graduates, please do get in touch with Natasha Sharma on natasha.sharma@qub.ac.uk.

Finally, we would love to keep you updated in real time with news on campus and ways to get involved. So, if you don't receive our monthly e-bulletin, opt-in here: www.daro.qub.ac.uk/communication-consent-page.

If you know a Queen's graduate who doesn't receive this magazine, please do encourage them to get in touch at alumni@qub.ac.uk

LIFE IN THE FAST LANE

Start your engines! We take a look under the bonnet to see just why Queen's has such a rich heritage in motorsport.



After some quick adjustments, and a crash course in how to launch the car, the problem was solved. Collins was off. And more than a decade later, she likes to go back to the track and “remind myself of those feelings”.

It's been some decade, though, and she's carved herself an incredible career in motorsport. After graduation she joined McLaren and now works for BWT Racing Point as a strategy engineer. In her time, she's worked for Jenson Button as a performance engineer and has featured on Forbes list of 30 under 30 (for Manufacturing and Industry in Europe).

A diligent student, she recalls many a late night with her Queen's teammates in the Formula Student Team – a team of students within the School of Mechanical and Aerospace Engineering – working to complete the racing challenge. “We all loved it,

but Formula Student was hard, hard work. But I had fun. I had a taste of the teamwork and the excitement of the motor industry, and I realised that was where I wanted to be.”

Collins is by no means alone. Queen's has a rich heritage in motorsport, on both two wheels and four, and half a century before Collins's revelation, Beatty Crawford (Medicine 1965) was also taking the plunge. Although he'd grown up attending rallies across Ireland, it was only as a medical student that he took things further.

He began by co-driving for his brother [Esler Crawford, PhD Chemistry 1960], spending



Mark Gallagher worked at Jaguar Racing and Red Bull and now runs his own F1 business consultancy.



Beatty Crawford is an international radiologist who won the International Circuit of Ireland Rally.

weekends competing in events around the UK, some organised through the motorsport club. “We did everything on a shoestring,” he remembers. “I didn't get paid and had no expenses – I did it for love of the sport.” Relationships between a driver and navigator felt like a marriage, a joint effort. “Your personalities have to be complementary, and you have to have absolute trust in each other. It was quite dangerous – travelling high speed along twisty roads with high stone walls.” He went on to win the International Circuit of Ireland Rally in 1971, co-driving for Adrian Boyd.

He was in good company at the time – a Queen's contemporary and engineering student Terry Harryman became a successful professional co-driver, winning several world events with Ari Vatanen. “Queen's has an exceptionally rich heritage in motorsports,” he says, including people like Gordon Blair, Kris Meeke, John Grant and Bob Bell, who went on to senior positions in F1 at Benetton, Renault and Mercedes.”

At one stage, Crawford gave serious thought to quitting his studies and pursuing his hobby as

a navigator, “but then common sense prevailed,” he says. He has since gone on to a long medical career in the US. After retiring, Crawford returned to Hillsborough, County Down, and now organises charity motor events, and helps arrange Queen's reunions. “I don't actively compete anymore – it's a young man's sport.”

Another bitten by the bug was Mark Gallagher (Economics, 1983) who raced throughout his time at Queen's. Unlike Gaelic football, he says, motorsport seemed one pursuit that wasn't divided along sectarian lines. “And in Belfast that's one of the things you noticed.”

Motorsport was an early passion – he'd grown up attending races at County Down's Kirkistown circuit, with “vivid memories of watching F1 on telly and falling in love with the sport. I'd gone to University to study economics as part of a deal with my parents to get a decent education. The last time my father asked when I was going to get a ‘proper job’, I was 35 and on the board of Jordan.”

He'd joined Eddie Jordan's fledgling F1 team in 1991, after working as an F1 journalist in London, and became head of marketing. After time at Jaguar Racing, working on its sale and the subsequent creation of Red Bull Racing, he now runs his own Formula 1 business consultancy. “I think I got my first job on the basis that I had an education from Queen's and could string a sentence together.

“I knew going to Queen's was something to be proud of. I had an appreciation of what a historic education it is. And just like the motorsport club, there's a real sense of following in the footsteps of successful people.”



Relationships between a driver and navigator felt like a marriage – a joint effort requiring complementary personalities and absolute trust in each other

Silverstone, 2009. Student engineer Bernie Collins (Mechanical and Manufacturing Engineering 2009) is on the starting grid, counting down the seconds until she launches her F1-style racing car on to the track at terrifying speed. But there's a problem – her car has malfunctioned. Launch control has failed.

“I just remember sitting there thinking, ‘I'm not a racing driver; I've never done this before. What am I doing here?’ I'm not sure we'd really thought it through. It was an absolute baptism of fire.”

EVENTS

We might not be able to meet in person, but there's still plenty going on for the Queen's community. Visit www.daro.qub.ac.uk/Events for full details and updated information.

ALL YEAR

CAREERS EVENTS

www.daro.qub.ac.uk/Events

Look out for our top picks of careers events, including Gradfest, careers fairs, information sessions and employer panels.

ALL YEAR

VIRTUAL TALKS AND Q&A SESSIONS ONLINE

www.daro.qub.ac.uk/YouTube

Check the event web pages for the latest offerings such as Ask the Expert, Seamus Heaney Centre in Conversation with..., and Lockdown Learning. If you miss them, don't forget to visit our YouTube page (www.youtube.com/c/QueensUniversityBelfastUK/videos) to find past event recordings.

12 NOVEMBER 2020

CONVOCATION AGM

Online

Your chance to express your opinion and help shape Queen's policy, with the President and Vice-Chancellor, Professor Ian Greer, in attendance alongside the Director of Development and Alumni Relations, Nathalie Trott. Find out more about how you can get involved at www.daro.qub.ac.uk/convocation

19 NOVEMBER 2020

QUEEN'S UNIVERSITY ASSOCIATION LONDON ANNUAL DINNER

Royal Thames Yacht Club, Knightsbridge

The association aims to promote social, cultural and educational events where graduates can develop new networks and strengthen existing friendships.

20 NOVEMBER 2020

CHARTER DAY DINNER
Great Hall

Organised by the Queen's Graduates' Association, the annual black tie event celebrates the founding of Queen's in 1845 and the granting of the University's charter in 1908.

4 JUNE 2021

CIVIL ENGINEERING CLASS OF 71 REUNION
Great Hall

Celebrating their 50th anniversary, the civil engineers from the Class of 71 reunite for a grand dinner in the Great Hall.

If you would like support organising your own reunion, please email alumni@qub.ac.uk

BENEFITS

Did you know as a Queen's graduate, you're entitled to a whole array of benefits including...

CAREERS SUPPORT

The Careers Employability and Skills team offers a full programme of support to all new graduates for the first two years after graduation. The specialist team of careers consultants are here to support you with all aspects of career planning and help you develop skills which will make you stand out in the competitive global job market. Visit www.qub.ac.uk/careers for more information.

VOLUNTEERING ADVICE AND SUPPORT

Helping Queen's by volunteering also allows you to develop new skills and enhance your CV. Whether you want to run an event, become a social media ambassador or participate in a focus group, we have a range of activities to suit. To find out how to get involved, email alumni@qub.ac.uk

EXCLUSIVE EVENT ACCESS

As a member of the alumni community, you are able to receive exclusive e-notifications inviting you to a range of events taking place on campus and all over the world, including seminars, reunions and other networking events. Visit www.daro.qub.ac.uk/Events for up to date details of what's taking place.

EVENT PLANNING

Do you have a special class year anniversary coming up? Why not get in touch to organise a reunion and reconnect with your old classmates. The DARO team can provide support to make sure your event goes off with a bang. Email alumni@qub.ac.uk to find out more about how we can help you.

ONSITE DISCOUNTS

Continue to benefit from campus facilities after graduating. The Library, Accommodation Office and Queen's Sport all offer discounted rates for graduates.

STAY CONNECTED

Join the conversation and keep up to date with what's happening at Queen's through one of our social media channels. Also, keep a look out for our monthly newsletter, the eGraduate, and if you're not currently receiving this but would like to, please email alumni@qub.ac.uk. Finally, visit the DARO homepage at www.qub.ac.uk/alumni/ to find up to date news and opportunities to support Queen's and stay connected.

STUDENT MANAGED FUND

MONEY SPINNERS

With £35,000 of funds under management, it is no wonder that Queen's Student Managed Fund members take the business of investing for fun very seriously.



When the true scale of the Covid-19 pandemic became clear, stock markets plunged – but Megan O'Hanlon (BSc Finance) didn't panic. After all, as CEO and President of Queen's Student Managed Fund (SMF), she is used to taking the long view.

"We manage a long-only equity fund with a minimum term horizon of one year," says O'Hanlon. "There are risk restrictions in place, and we have learnt how to manage in a crisis. Things are turning around nicely."

With in excess of £35,000 of funds under management through the Davy Group, the SMF

is dealing in real money. And with more than 150 members, O'Hanlon has had a lot to manage, funds aside. "Our first-year students are research analysts and we require them to produce an equity research report in the second term. Some do drop out when the hard work comes in, but that self-selection is better for us. The members that remain are genuinely interested; there is great attendance at the employer events we regularly host – though we'd love to work with more alumni wherever possible."

In their second-year, students can apply to become senior analysts or sector heads. Just like at an investment firm, they manage teams of anything between eight and 25 students. "We are the only society at Queen's which doesn't elect their Executive Committee. We are managing real money, so choosing the people in charge can't just come down to popularity among other students."

"So many students tell us that their experience at the SMF is the highlight of their graduate interview. It's often the only thing recruiters want to talk about!" With former members now working at investment firms including Blackrock, Morgan Stanley, Rothschild & Co and BNY Mellon, they are in demand.

O'Hanlon, herself, has started an internship at Davy Group. "I wouldn't say it was a given that I would end up here. But from my CEO interview they knew what they were getting – and I knew what it was like working with them." It's what her fellow investors – in the jargon of the markets – would probably call a win-win situation.

For more on Queen's Student Managed Fund go to www.daro.qub.ac.uk/SMF



QUB Scrubs Society Supported by the Queen's Annual Fund



Graduate donations support life-changing opportunities for hundreds of students each year via the Queen's Annual Fund, from mental health initiatives to sport, arts, science and more.

Contact Stephen O'Reilly
Regular Giving Manager
stephen.oreilly@qub.ac.uk

Support student projects at
go.qub.ac.uk/AnnualFund



BECOME PART OF THE SOLUTION

You can inspire the greatest minds and invest in world-class research.

A gift in your will to a registered charity is a tax-effective and unique way for you to support those causes that you are passionate about, without affecting your finances in your lifetime. Legacy gifts to The Queen's University of Belfast Foundation, both big and small, are instrumental in pushing boundaries for solutions to global challenges in areas such as medical research, cyber-security, cognitive impairment, global food security and conflict resolution.

We understand that the causes closest to your heart are often personal, which is why you can choose to fund the area of research or education that means the most to you.

Become part of the solution.

Contact Susan Wilson Legacy Manager
Development and Alumni Relations Office,
Queen's University Belfast, Belfast BT7 1NN

T: +44 (0) 28 9097 3162

E: susan.wilson@qub.ac.uk

www.queensfoundation.com/legacygifts

Registered Charity Number: NIC 102044



**QUEEN'S
UNIVERSITY
BELFAST**

**QUEEN'S
FOUNDATION**