



CMIRC's successful projects on microvesicles in cancer development and metastasis and on cancer immunotherapy as well as a microvesicle-based differentiation therapy in monocytic leukaemia will continue, hopefully to publication this year.

2012 ended well for CMIRC with a paper in PLoS Biology announcing a new compendium for extracellular vesicles. This is the top ranked journal in the area of Biological Sciences (SJR ranking), IF 11.5. The year also ended on a high with **Dr. Samireh Jorfi's** (below) successful defence of her thesis in November, following on from her poster prize at 'Microvesiculation and Disease,' a meeting CMIRC hosted last September. As a direct result of this meeting, **Prof. Jameel Inal** was invited to join a consortium of pan-European microvesicle labs together with Fresenius Medical Care in Hamburg, in a project working on the therapeutic use of stem cell microvesicles in tissue injury and cancer. The consortium has submitted a Marie Curie Industry-Academia Partnerships and Pathways (IAPP) bid under the FP7 call and hopes to commence this work in the autumn. *"This is a major project," says Prof. Inal, "which will tie in fantastically well with our existing studies and take them firmly into the preclinical testing phase of development."* Prof. Inal will now be profiling CMIRC at invited seminars at the Universities of Kent, Utrecht, Torino and at the Royal Free Hospital, UCL, before the 2nd International Society for Extracellular Vesicles meeting in April, where together with **Sheelagh Heugh's** group, six abstracts will be presented.



CMIRC, has recently completed a study on Cocksackie virus and the role of microvesicles in viral transmission. Now a new grant to study another non-enveloped virus, rhinovirus (the common cold virus) will be submitted next month with **Dr. Gary McLean** and his collaborators at Imperial College. This project will have the benefit of an *in vivo* model for preclinical testing but also a human model for clinical trial development. This study will also benefit from a collaboration initiated at 'Microvesiculation and Disease' with researchers at The Johns Hopkins University, also interested in the crossover between extracellular vesicle biogenesis and viral release.

Dan Stratton from CMIRC, defending his PhD thesis in early February, has already taken up a lectureship in the Faculty and will be heading his own research group within CMIRC, working on tissue regeneration and microvesicles. Visiting researchers working at CMIRC this year will be coming from the Universities of Leiden and Brunel.

Prof. Inal says that *"Having started out from scratch in the microvesicle field in late 2007, and with the new Society not even being a year old, we can be pleased with our 12 'Microvesicles' papers (4 of which are in press) and the further 10 in the pipeline. Hopefully, 2013 will allow us the time to write these papers. We owe this to the staff at CMIRC and beyond who carried out the work."*