

**NEWS RELEASE, 13 MARCH 2014**

**Funding secured for organ repair research**

Scientists at London Metropolitan University are part of an EU consortium that has secured a €1.5m funding grant to explore a new approach to repairing organ damage.

The Cellular and Molecular Immunology Research Centre (CMIRC), based in the Faculty of Life Sciences and Computing at London Met, is part of a consortium which includes the universities of Barcelona and Utrecht and the healthcare company Fresenius Medical Care.

The money will be used to investigate how a novel use of stem cells can repair kidney damage. The work will focus on microvesicles – fragments of cell membrane that are shed from almost all cells.

“Microvesicles are important as they act as a vehicle for communication between cells,” explained Professor Jameel Inal, Director of the CMIRC at London Met (pictured). “Microvesicles from stem cells head straight to the injured area of the organ and begin stimulating repair, and so our research will look at ways of using microvesicles in therapy.”

London Met is one of the leading institutions in the field of microvesicle study, which is rapidly emerging as an important area of medical research.

“We’ve known about the existence of microvesicles for two decades now, but it is only recently that their importance has been realised,” Professor Inal added. “London Met has been there from the start – there’s no-one else doing this kind of work in the UK.

“Stem cell research is going to be at the heart of the next big breakthroughs in medical science, and so it’s very exciting to be applying our microvesicle knowledge in this area.

“We are living in the century of the stem cell.”

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**Notes to editors:**

The [Cellular and Molecular Immunology Research Centre](#) (CMIRC) founded in 2009 consists of 4 research themes made up of 19 research staff and 5 associates from multidisciplinary backgrounds within biomedicine. This community of scientists together with industrial partners is 3 years into a 10-year research programme. We comprise a fairly unique grouping with a singular focus on extracellular vesicles research in biomedicine and will be proud to celebrate our first five years of research in 2014.

**London Metropolitan University**

London Metropolitan University has a rich history with strong educational roots dating back to 1848.

The University as it is today was created in 2002 with the merging of London Guildhall University and the University of North London, the first merger between two universities in the UK. Its roots however, lie firmly in the nineteenth century with the establishment of the Metropolitan Evening Classes for Young Men, in 1848.

At London Metropolitan University we believe that everyone has the right to an accessible quality education. Our students enjoy the highest levels of support and our courses recently received top marks from the UK's Quality Assurance Agency. We are proud of the diversity & achievements of our students, alumni and staff.

Here at London Met we put our students at the centre of all we do. London Met is a great place to study, located in the heart of one of the world's most exciting cities. We stand out because we offer courses of quality, in a vibrant, socially diverse environment, which will help launch your career.

We are committed to helping our students build rewarding careers. Courses are designed and updated to be directly relevant to the current employment market.

London Met is as dynamic and multicultural as the city in which it is situated. Here you will meet and work with people from around the world, who will enrich your development and learning. Since our students come from a range of backgrounds, we have always made sure that the education we offer is accessible and flexible.

**For more information:**

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