

Starting out in academia

Dr Carol Munro

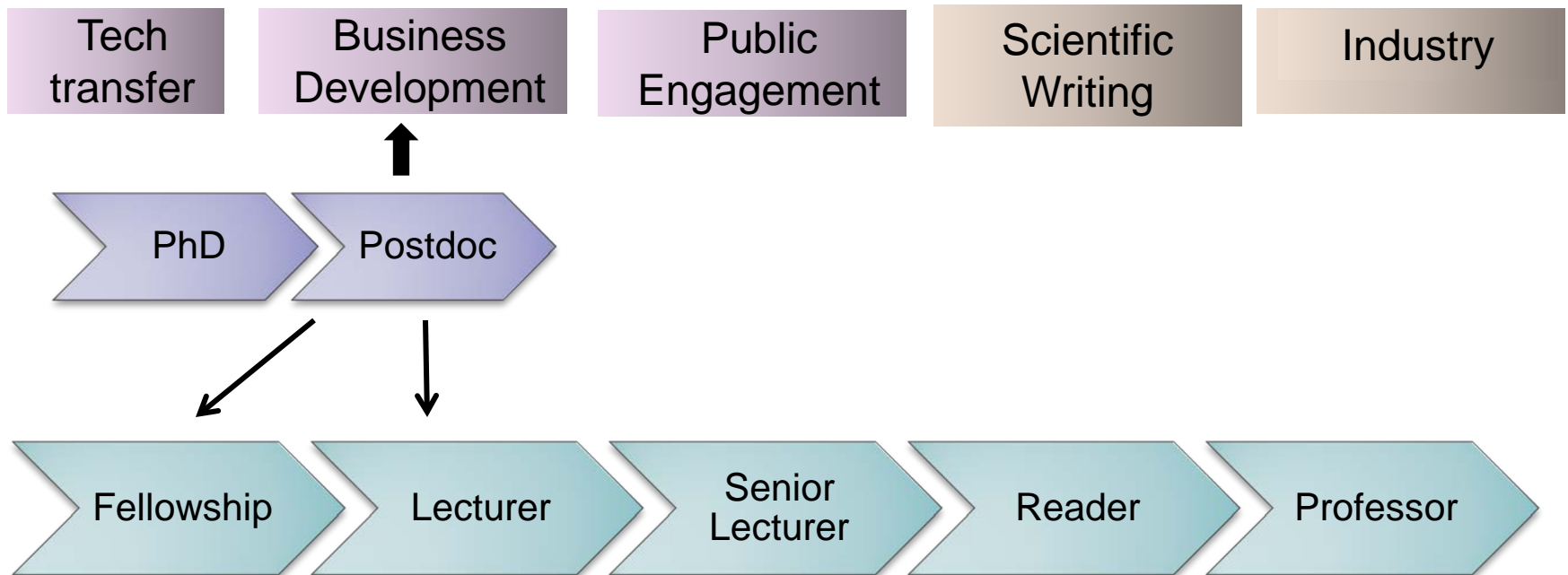


My life as a scientist

Dr Carol Munro



SCIENCE CAREERS IN ACADEMIA





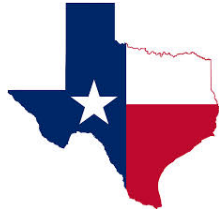
What got me started in science?

Love of the outdoors and nature

Enthusiastic biology teacher Mr Brian Innes



CAREER TIMELINE



**Technician
post, USA
1990-1992**

**ASO
Rowett**

**Teaching
Fellow/
Fellowship/
Postdoc**

**Independent
Research
Fellow
2005
MRC NIA**

**Promoted
to senior
research
fellow
2008**

**Reader
2013**

**Graduated
BSc(Hons) Biochemistry
1st class
1993**

**PhD
Molecular
Biology
1998**

**Senior
Lecturer
2008
permanent**



**UNIVERSITY
OF ABERDEEN**



EARLY DAYS

**Assistant Scientific Officer
Microbial Biochemistry
Rowett Research Institute**

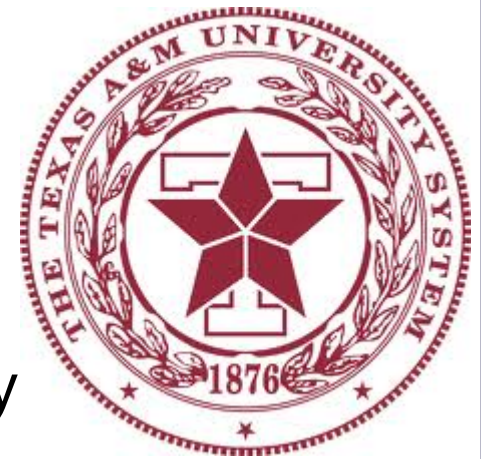


- Learning new techniques/increasing background knowledge
- Promoted to SO
- 9 publications
- Part-time studies ONC/HC at Robert Gordons
- Awarded Preece Prize by Institute of Biology for Best Scottish Student
- 1989/1990 Became full time student BSc Biochemistry



RESEARCH EXPERIENCE IN USA

- Research technician Texas A & M University

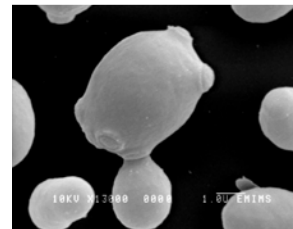
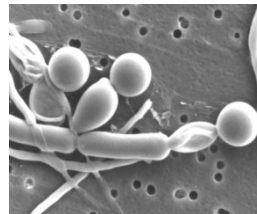
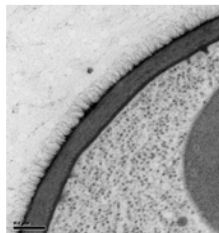
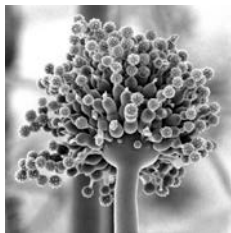


**1990-1992 Molecular characterization
of eggshell proteins of the liver fluke
*Fasciola hepatica***



RETURN TO ABERDEEN

- Completed Bsc Hons Biochemistry 1st Class
Awarded Leonard Simpkins Prize
- PhD studies on Molecular Analysis of Chitin
Synthesis of *Candida albicans* (1998)
- 13 Publications
- Teaching Fellow 1998-1999



POSTDOCTORAL EXPERIENCE — BUILDING UP MY CV

- **Medical Research Fellowship 1998-2001** Therapeutic efficacy of anti HIV protease inhibitors in reducing oral thrush and oral *Candida* carriage
- **Attended 3 week residential course MBL, Woods Hole, USA in 2000**



POSTDOCTORAL EXPERIENCE – BUILDING UP MY CV

- **Wellcome Trust Postdoctoral Fellow 2001-2005**
Promoted to Grade II, October, 2003
- **6 week consultancy at Genome Therapeutics Corporation, Waltham, MA, USA**
- **Co-supervised 2 PhD students (with Neil Gow)**
- **26 publications**



DECISION TO APPLY FOR FELLOWSHIPS – ESTABLISH MY OWN GROUP

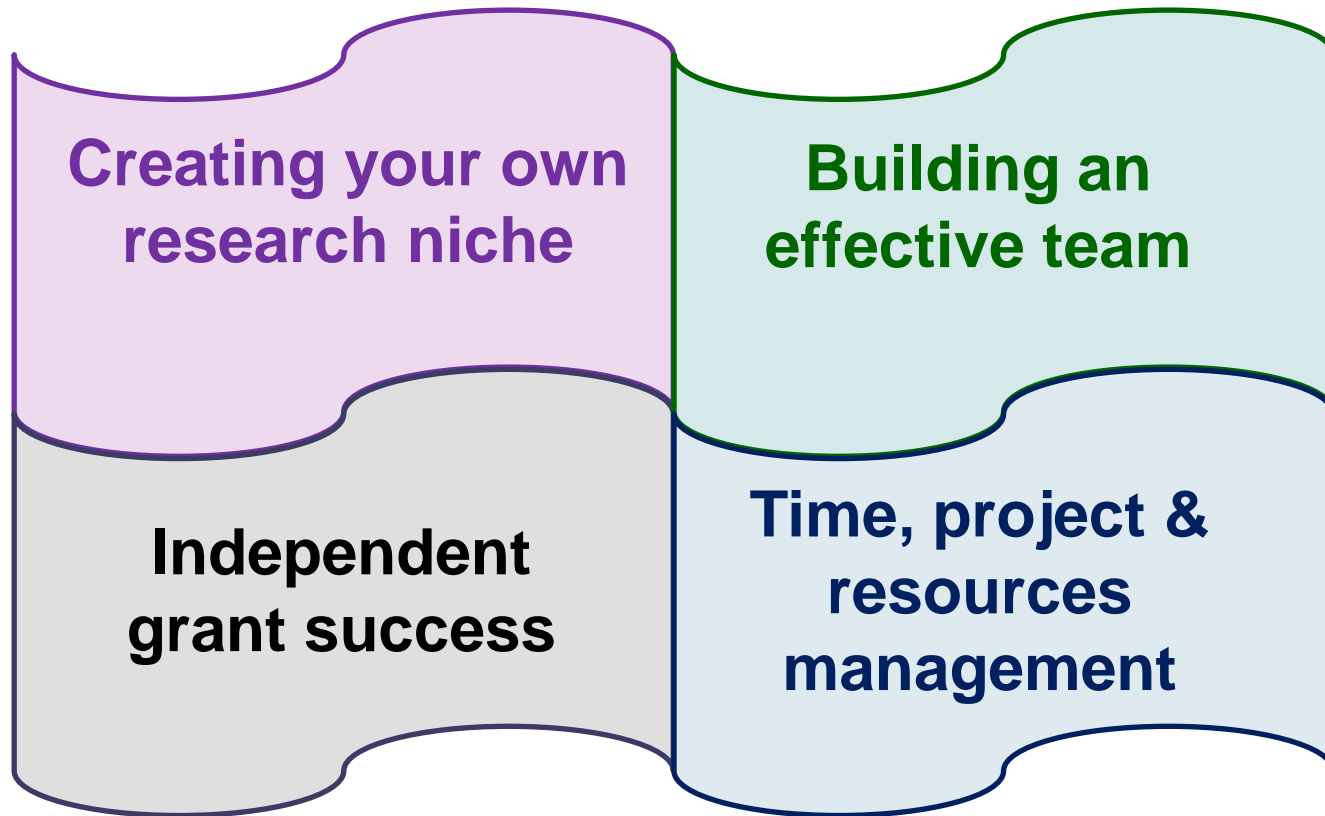
- 2005-2008 MRC New Investigator Award
[unsuccessful applications to WT, Royal Society]
 - ~£235K – covered my salary
 - 1st PhD student 2006-2010 Kerstin Nather



- August 2008 Promoted to Senior Research Fellow
- September 2008 Permanent position as Senior Lecturer
 - Teaching Load
 - Administration
- August 2013 Promoted to Reader



Challenges to becoming an independent PI



MY ROLES TODAY

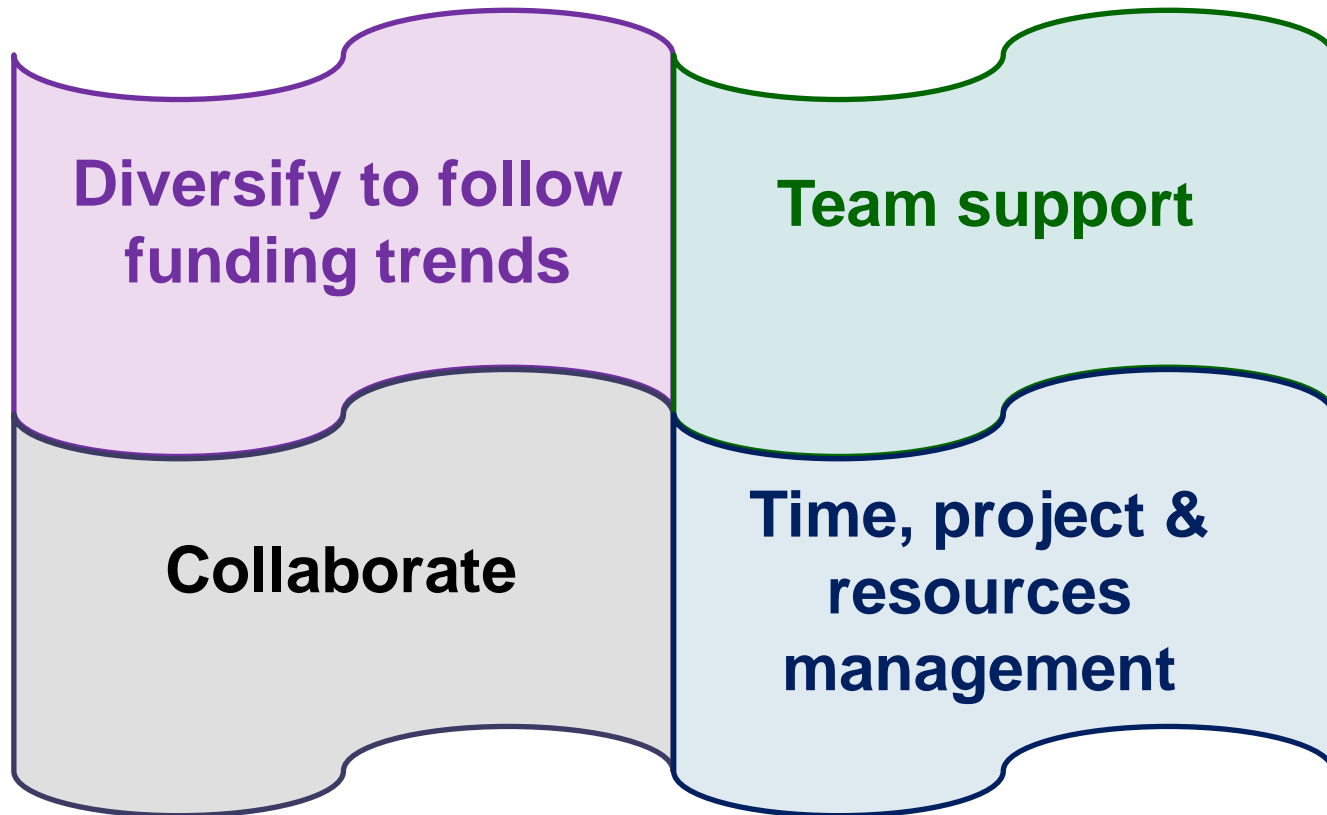
- Manage my research group [1 postdoc, 6 PhD, 2 MSc, 2 UG students]
- Teaching >100 contact hours
- Postgraduate Research Coordinator (0.5 day/week)
- SMS school executive
- Kosterlitz Centre Advisory Board
- Editorial duties: FEMS Yeast Research (deputy Editor-In-Chief), Microbiology, Fungal Genetics & Biology, Eukaryotic Cell
- Grant reviews & PhD/MSc examiner



Kosterlitz Centre
for Therapeutics



Challenges to maintaining your research group - sustainability



ACHIEVEMENTS

- 70 talks, 80 publications, 30 grants
- 7 PhD and 11 MSc students graduated
- Fellow of Royal Society of Biology
- Programme Committee ASM Candida & Candidiasis bi-annual meeting
- Organising SGM focussed meeting on Infection Models in London, November 2014
- Hosted BSMM annual scientific meeting 2015, Aberdeen
- Successful collaborations/industrial partnership



NEW CHALLENGES

- **Chair Programme Committee American Society for Microbiology Candida & Candidiasis Conference 2016, Seattle, USA**
- **Chair of FEBS Advanced course 2017, Nice, France**
- **Co-ordinating EU Innovative Training Network application (10 partners- industry & academia)**
- **Seeking external funding**



HINTS & TIPS

- Take advantage of every opportunity
- WHO you know is as important as WHAT you know – NETWORKING (at the bar)

- Be collaborative
- Diversify
- Good communication
- Find a good mentor
- Challenge yourself
- My challenges
 - Proving Independence without moving
 - Juggling workload & demands on your time

Support network



Take Home Messages



Be Creative



Build a strong team



Communication



Time management



Collaborations & networking



Grab every opportunity

