**SARAH J. PITT PRINCIPAL LECTURER, MICROBIOLOGY School of Pharmacy and Biomolecular Sciences, University of Brighton**

**ACADEMIC QUALIFICATIONS**

1987 BSc(Hons) Microbiology, University of Bristol

1996 MSc Applied Parasitology and Medical Entomology, Liverpool School of Tropical Medicine

2001 PhD, ‘Managing for Quality in Clinical Microbiology Services’, Liverpool John Moores University

2002 Postgraduate Certificate in Teaching for Further and Higher Education, Liverpool John Moores University

**PROFESSIONAL QUALIFICATIONS**

1988 Registration with Council for Professions Supplementary to Medicine; transferred to Health and Care Professions Council register April 2002

1990 Fellowship of the Institute of Biomedical Sciences

2018 Senior Fellowship of the Higher Education Academy

**CAREER HISTORY**

April 2013 to date:

Principal Lecturer, School of Pharmacy and Biomolecular Sciences, University of Brighton

April 2011 to March 2013:

Senior Lecturer, School of Pharmacy and Biomolecular Sciences, University of Brighton

August 2004 to March 2011:

Sussex Pathology Network Training Facilitator Brighton and Sussex University Hospitals NHS Trust and Uni versity of Brighton

From 1st September to 31st October 2003

Locum Biomedical Scientist, Virology Department, Royal Liverpool University Hospital, Liverpool, UK.

From 1st November 2002 to June 2004:

Sessional lecturer, Microbiology and part-time researcher, Biomedical Sciences, Liverpool John Moores Uni versity, Liverpool, UK.

From July 2002 to March 2003:

Short term contract to analyse data from IBMS CPD review questionnaire survey

From 1st August 2001 to 31st October 2002:

Lecturer in Biomolecular Sciences (part-time post), Liverpool John Moores University, Liverpool, U.K.

From 4th January 1998 to 30th June 2001:

Sessional lecturer, Microbiology, Liverpool John Moores University, Liverpool, UK.

From 21st November to 3rd December 1997:

Consultant, World Health Organization (European office), Tajikistan Programme

From 27th July to 6th October 1997:

Malariologist, Medical Emergency Relief International, Tajikistan Programme

From 21st April to 18th July 1997:

Locum Medical Laboratory Scientific Officer, Microbiology Department, All Saints Hospital, Chatham, Kent. U.K.

From 7th October 1996 to 12th April 1997:

Locum Medical Laboratory Scientific Officer, Virology Department, Manchester Public Health Laboratory, Withington, Manchester, U.K.

From 13th December 1993 to 31st July 1995:

Medical Laboratory Scientific Officer 2\*\*\*, Virology Department, Royal London Hospital NHS Trust, Whitechapel, London E1, U.K. (merged with St Bartholomew’s NHS Trust on 1st April 1994)

From 1st August 1993 to 10th December 1993:

Locum Medical Laboratory Scientific Officer, Virology Department, Bristol Public Health Laboratory, Kings down Bristol, U.K.

From 16th January 1991 to 31st January 1993:

Medical Laboratory Technologist, Silveira Hospital, Private Bag 9021, Masvingo, Zimbabwe (‘voluntary work’: sending agency: Volunteer Missionary Movement)

From 1st August 1987 to 30th June 1990:

Medical Laboratory Scientific Officer (trainee and 1), Virology Department, Royal Postgraduate Medical School, Hammersmith Hospital, London, W12, U.K.

Between July 1982 and September 1986 (before going to university and while a student): Auxiliary Nurse, Eal ing Hospital, Uxbridge Road, Southall, Middlesex, U.K.

**TEACHING and RELATED EXPERTISE and EXPERIENCE**

1991-1993: Teaching laboratory staff and student nurses in basic laboratory techniques, Silveira Hospital, Masvingo, Zimbabwe

1993 – 1994: Teaching a trainee medical laboratory scientist; lecturer on MSc Medical Microbiology , Royal London Hospital

1997 – 2004: Liverpool John Moores University, sessional / part time lecturer in Medical Microbiology (special ising in parasitology and virology), teaching students on undergraduate and postgraduate programmes in bio medical sciences

2004 to date: Brighton University, lecturing in microbiology (specialising in clinical and diagnostic virology and parasitology ) and biomedical science professional studies. Contributions to modules from undergraduate first year ( level 4) through to Masters level ( level 6). Module leader for BY362, level 6 Clinical Microbiology and Immunology.

From 2008 -2012: Course Leader part time MSc Biomedical Science; from 2012 to 2017 academic year, course leader for three part time programmes: MSc Blood Sciences, MSc Cellular Sciences, MSc Infection Sciences

2006 to 2010: External Examiner for BSc Applied Biomedical Sciences and BSc Biomedical Sciences pro grammes, University of Lincoln

2006 to 2009 External Examiner for Clinical Placement Module, Applied Biomedical Sciences BSc programme, University of Surrey

 2009 to 2012 : External examiner for BSc Applied Biomedical Science, BSc Biomedical Science and MSc Medical Microbiology programmes at Middlesex University

2010 to 2012 : External examiner for BSc Applied Biomedical Science, BSc Biomedical Science and Under graduate Masters M Biomed Sci programmes at University of Hull

2011 to 2015: External examiner for MSc Medical Microbiology programme at Westminster University 2013 to 2017: External examiner for BSc Biomedical Science, BSc Biological Science and MSc Biomedical Science programmes at University of Greenwich

2015 to date: External examiner for Applied Biomedical Science, Cardiff Metropolitan University 2016 to 2019: External examiner for Applied Biomedical Science University of Malta 2018 to date: External examiner and visiting professor for Biomedical Science, Management and Science Uni versity, Malaysia

**RESEARCH**

Research interests: Novel antimicrobial agents in mollusc mucus; comparison of hand drying methods and ap plication to infection control in the clinical setting; persistence of microorganisms on digital devices ( mobile phones, computer keyboards) in relation to transmission of potential pathogens; students’ engagement with their academic subject; implementation of new technologies and assays, particularly Point of Care tests to en hance diagnostic microbiology; factors affecting the quality of clinical pathology services; how biomedical sci entists’ experiences in the workplace affect their careers; the application of microbiology to forensic investiga tions ; evaluation of biomedical scientists’ training and education including students’, trainers’ and employers’ experiences of undergraduate pre-registration courses;

Successful supervision to completion of award of 13 MSc student projects and 2 MRes students. Also internal assessor for MRes programme and internal examiner for PhDs at University of Brighton. External examiner for Res ( University of East London). Supervisor for over 100 undergraduate projects in the areas of clinical bio medical science (all pathology disciplines), clinical microbiology and infection control.

IBMS Research Grant, 2004

Society for Applied Microbiology Research Development Grant, November 2015: £2,370 University of Brighton Rising Star award, February 2016 : £5,800

IBMS Research Grant 2019: £4,500

University of Brighton Impact Development Fund : £3,500

**IMPACT**

From February 2020: Press releases through Institute of Biomedical Science , articles in national newspapers and The Conversation to discuss novel coronavirus SARS-CoV-2 and COVID-19. Contributing to information and policy relating to laboratory testing through the IBMS. Interviews on BBC local Radio stations across whole UK ( including BBC Scotland, BBC Wales and BBC Foyle), national radio ( BBC Five live, LBC,. Talk Radio, Global) and local TV (BBC Southeast Today, ITV Meridian), national TV ( BBC News channel) and international TV (BBC World Service TV, TRT Turkish TV).

Interview on BBC Radio Wales to present snail mucus research August 2019.

Articles in the *Brighton Argus, Metro, Daily Mail* and *Times* newspapers August 2019.

Appearance on BBC South East Today evening news and interview on BBC Radio Sussex Drivetime evening programme (by invitation) to present snail mucus research, June 2019.

2019 : Articles for *The Conversation* on various topics including the change in uptake of screening programmes and ancient remedies which have translated into clinically useful medicines.

Interview on BBC Radio Sussex to present research in hand drying methods ( by invitation) September 2018

Appearance on Channel 4 TV programme: ‘Superfoods the Real Story’ to present research on snail mucus (by invitation) September 2017

**PUBLICATIONS**

Pitt, S., Pearcy, B.E., Stevens, R.H., Sharipov, A., Satarov, K. and Banatvala, N. (1998). War in Tajikistan and re-emergence of *Plasmodium falciparum.* Lancet **352**: 1279

Pitt, S. (1999). Are Biomedical Scientists Valued? *Biomedical Scientist,* **43,** 200-202

Pitt, S.J. (2000). Benchmarks: Importance of staff Job Satisfaction in provision of a high quality microbiology service. *Communicable Diseases and Public Health* **3:** 313-314.

Pitt, S.J. (2001). Benchmarks: Effect of psychological climate in the microbiology laboratory on the quality of service. *Communicable Diseases and Public Health* **4:** 322-324.

Pitt, S.J. and Sands, R.L. (2002). The effect of staff attitudes on quality in clinical microbiology services. *British Journal of Biomedical Science* **59:** 69-75

Gunn, A. and Pitt, S.J. (2003). The effectiveness of computer-based teaching packages in supporting student learning of parasitology. *LTSN Bioscience education e-journal,* **1:** 1-7

Pitt, S.J. and Gunn, A. (2004). The value of computer based formative assessment in undergraduate biological science teaching. *LTSN Bioscience Education e-journal,* **3:** 3-1

Pitt, S.J. (2003) Review of the IBMS CPD scheme: Report of questionnaire survey of IBMS members conduct ed 1st July to 30th September 2002.

Pitt, S., Sutehall, G. and Rasanayagam, P. (2003) What do you think of the CPD scheme? *Biomedical Scientist*, **47:** 678-681.

Pitt, S., Sutehall, G. and Rasanayagam, P. (2004) Evaluation of the Continuing Professional Development Scheme of the Institute of Biomedical Science . *British Journal of Biomedical Science,* **61:** 133-137

Harland, J. Pitt, S and Saunders, V. (2005) Factors Affecting Student Choice of the Undergraduate Research Project: Staff and Student Perceptions *Bioscience Education e- Journal*, **5 :** 5-3

(http:// www.bioscience.heacdemy.ac.uk/journal/vol5/beej-5-3.htm)

Pitt, SJ (2007) Job satisfaction among Institute of Biomedical Science members. *Biomedical Scientist,* **51:** 518-523

Pitt S J and Cunningham JM (2009) *An Introduction to Biomedical Science in Clinical and Professional Prac tice*. Chichester: Wiley-Blackwell

Pitt S and Cunningham J ( 2010) Coterminus/integrated BSc programmes: employers’ views. *Biomedical Scien tist* **54:** 273-276

Gunn A and Pitt S ( 2010) Application of Virology to Forensic Science *Biomedical Scientist* **54:** 341-347

Pitt S and Anthony J (2010) Phlebotomy: using perception of service quality to enhance service provision . *Biomedical Scientist* **54:** 496-499

Pitt SJ and Cunningham JC (2011) Biomedical Scientist Training Officers’ evaluation of the integrated (coter minous) Applied Biomedical Science BSc programmes: A multicentre study. *British Journal of Biomedical Sci ence.* **68(2):** 79-85

Pitt SJ ( 2012) Point of Care Testing for infectious tropical diseases. *Biomedical Scientist* **56:** 33- 35 Gunn A and Pitt SJ (2012) *Parasitology: an integrated Approach:* Chichester: Wiley-Blackwell

Pitt SJ and Gunn A ( 2012) Contribution of bacteriology to forensic investigations. *Biomedical Scientist* **56:** 458-464

Gunn A and Pitt SJ (2012) Microbes as forensic indicators. *Tropical Biomedicine* **29(3):** 311 330 Pitt SJ (2012) Rabies: the background to a rare but lethal zoonotic infection. *Biomedical Scientist* **56:** 524-528 Pitt SJ (2013) Measles: potentially fatal but eminently preventable. *Biomedical Scientist* **57:** 444-448

Pitt SJ ( 2015) Oncolytic virotherapy: improved outcomes for cancer patients? *Biomedical Scientist,* **59:** 694-695.

Pitt SJ, Graham MA, Dedi GC, Taylor-Harris PM and Gunn A ( 2015). Antimicrobial properties of mucous from the brown garden snail , *Helix aspersa*. *British Journal of Biomedical Science*, **72 (4)**: 174-181

Pitt SJ and Phillips DIM ( 2017). Diagnostic virology and patient care: from vaguely interesting to vitally im portant. *British Journal of Biomedical Science,* **74:** 16-23.

Pitt SJ (2018). *Clinical Microbiology for Diagnostic Laboratory Scientists.* Chichester: Wiley-Blackwell Pitt SJ (2018). The greatest pandemic in history. *Biomedical Scientist* March 2018 : 26-31 Pitt SJ (2018). ‘Tis the season to be queasy. *Laboratory News,* February 2018: 20-21

Pitt SJ (2018). Point-of-care testing in microbiology: an overview of current practice, *Pathology in Practice,* **19(4):** 19-22

Pitt SJ, Crockett SL and Andreou GM ( 2018). The contribution of hand drying in prevention of transmission of microorganisms: Comparison of the efficacy of three hand drying methods in the removal and distribution of microorganisms. *Journal of Infection Prevention,* **19 (6):** 310-317

Pitt SJ ( 2018). Point of Care Testing in Virology. *Hospital Healthcare Europe 2018.*

Pitt SJ (2018). Measles: the importance of vaccination, monitoring and surveillance. *Pathology in Practice*, **19 (6):** 13-16

Pitt SJ, Hawthorne JA, Garcia-Maya M, Alexandrovich A, Symonds RC and Gunn A (2019). Identification and characterisation of anti - *Pseudomonas aeruginosa* proteins in mucus of the brown garden snail, *Cornu asper sum*, *British Journal of Biomedical Science*, **76:3:** 129-136.

Pitt SJ and Gunn A (2019). Snail mucus: antimicrobial properties found in common species of mollusc. *Pathol ogy in Practice,* **20(6):**48-50

Pitt SJ and Gunn A (2019) . Slime of the Times: *Biomedical Scientist*, December 2019 : 18-21

**PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITIES**

Fellow of Institute of Biomedical Science (IBMS) since 1990

Member of IBMS Scientific Advisory Panel for Virology since 2003

Deputy Chief Examiner in Virology for IBMS 2004-2014 and Chief Examiner 2015 to date (examiner for High er Specialist Examination, involved in developing Advanced Specialist Examination, setting journal based learn ing questions for Continuing Professional Development Scheme); examiner for Virology Specialist Diploma Member of the Academy of Healthcare Science Microbiology Professional Group

Member of the Higher Education Academy since 2002

Member of the Microbiology Society since 2004

Member of the Society for Applied Microbiology since 2010

Chartered Scientist since 2003

Member of editorial board of *British Journal of Biomedical Science* since Summer 2012 Reviewer of articles submitted to the peer review journals *Journal of Clinical Pathology, International Journal of Biomedical Laboratory Science, British Journal of Biomedical Science* and the professional gazette *Bio medical Scientist*

Member of accreditation panels for IBMS accredited degrees ( have acted both as academic and professional referee) MSc Medical Microbiology, Middlesex University, 2007; MSc Medical Microbiology and MSc Med ical Virology Manchester University, 2012 ; BSc Healthcare Science (PTP) programmes Bradford University

2011-2 ( 2 visits); BSc Healthcare Science (PTP) programmes Cardiff Metropolitan University (2012); BSc Biomedical Science University of Kent 2013 ( re-visit 2014); MSc Clinical Microbiology, MSc Clinical Science ( Infection Sciences) and MSc Biomedical Science ( Medical Microbiology), Queen Mary University 2013 ; BSc Biomedical Science and BSc Applied Biomedical Science, NESCOT, 2014; MSc Clinical Microbiology and MSc Medical Microbiology, Nottingham University, 2014; MSc Virology, Liverpool John Moores Universi ty 2015; MSc Medical Microbiology, MSc Medical Virology, MSc Medical Mycology, Manchester University, 2016; BSc Biomedical Science, Liverpool John Moores University 2016; BSc and MSc Biomedical Science, University of East London, 2017; BSc Biomedical Science, Management and Science University, Malaysia, 2018; BSc Biomedical Science, University of the West of England, 2018; MSc Clinical Microbiology and Clini cal and Molecular Microbiology, University of Nottingham, 2019; MSc Biomedical Science, Wolverhampton University , 2020.

External panel member for periodic review BSc Biomedical Science and Fd Biomedical Science programmes Cardiff Metropolitan University 2013 ; external panel member for validation of BSc Bioscience programmes at partner colleges overseen by Anglia Ruskin University 2014; Chair of HCPC approval visit for IBMS Certifi cate of Competence by Equivalence , April 2015; external advisor for review MSc Virology, Liverpool John Moores University, 2016.

**ADMINISTRATIVE / ADVISORY ACTIVITIES**

Member of School of Pharmacy and Biomolecular Sciences School Academic Scrutiny Committee School of Pharmacy and Biomolecular Sciences representative on University of Brighton Academic Standards Committee and sub-Committee for Assessment

School of Pharmacy and Biomolecular Academic Health Lead

Member of the South East Region Healthcare Science Network and involved in projects including Science in Society and advising the Department of Health on the future shape of the science workforce in the NHS Previous member of: Southeast Coast Strategic Health Authority Steering Group for implementing Modernising Scientific Careers and Health Protection Agency Working group developing Health and Safety competences for dealing with Biological Agents ( projects no longer running).

**PRESENTATIONS AT CONFERENCES and PROFESSIONAL BODY MEETINGS** Regular attendance at Institute of Biomedical Science ( biennial) Congress since 1999 and regular presenter of offered short papers and posters and more recently invited speaker.

Recent activity at IBMS Congress:

IBMS Congress 2005 – Invited Speaker – “The Role of the Training Facilitator” and Chair of Virology sessions IBMS Congress 2007- Poster presenter – “Climate for Quality in the Caribbean; Is it hotter than in the UK?” and Chair of Virology sessions

IBMS Congress 2009- Invited speaker – “Multicentre Evaluation of ‘coterminous’/ integrated BSc Biomedical Science programmes and chair of Virology sessions

IBMS Congress 2011 –Invited speaker - “Point of Care Testing for Tropical Diseases during the London Olympics” and “Virology Quiz” and chair of Virology sessions

IBMS Congress 2013 –Invited speaker - “Virology Quiz” and chair of Virology sessions; poster judge IBMS Congress 2015 – Invited speaker – “ Specialist Diploma in Virology – guidance for candidates and train ers “ and “ Higher Specialist Diploma in Virology – what is in it for you” ; poster judge IBMS Congress 2015 – oral presentation : MA Graham, SJ Pitt and A Gunn “Antimicrobial properties of mu cous from the brown garden snail, *Helix aspersa.”.* Winner of submitted short paper prize in Microbiology. IBMS Congress 2017 – Invited speaker – “Point of Care Testing in Virology”, “The value of studying for an IBMS accredited BSc in Biomedical Science”; “ The impact of reconfiguration of pathology services on student placements”; poster judge

IBMS Congress 2019 – Invited Speaker – “ Point of Care Testing for New and Emerging Viruses”; session chair

Other conference presentations:

Sheffield Microbe conference 2012 – poster presenter - Pitt SJ and Hall LJ “A Survey of Microbial Contamina tion of Mobile Phones”

University of Brighton Learning and Teaching Conference February 2015: Oral presentation: “‘Topic of the Week’ : A subtle way to enhance student engagement”.

Invited Speaker, IBMS London Region Virology Discussion Group 2016: “ Point of Care Testing – The End of The Virology Laboratory?”

Invited Speaker – IBMS Scotland AGM 2019 – “Antimicrobial Resistance”

Other activities for IBMS include:

Member of review panels for accreditation of BSc Biomedical Science degrees (2019) , Higher Specialist Diploma (2019), Specialist Diploma (2020) formats. Conducted independent investigation into accreditation appeal (2019).

Regular attendance at IBMS Sussex Branch quarterly meetings; invited speaker at Annual General Meeting December 2004 ‘Coterminous Biomedical Science Degrees’; now work with committee to invite and support graduates from the Applied Biomedical Science to present their projects at AGM each year; was recently co opted onto the committee to represent the university and to help planning events for the IBMS centenary in 2012

Invited speaker: South East Regional Branch: ‘Evaluation of the Coterminous Biomedical Science degrees’ (joint presentation with Dr J Cunningham) May 2008

Invited speaker : University Placement Facilitators’ Sharing Good Practice days – December 2007, July 2010 Invited speaker : Degree Accreditation Panel Training Event, March 2016

Since 2004 regular attendance at Heads of University Centres of Biomedical Science (annual) conference and the University of Brighton Learning and Teaching winter and summer conferences.

Other conferences attended include : HEA Teaching and Learning Conference Keele, June 2007; poster present ed: Cunningham, J , Harland, J, Holmes, D, Loweth, A and Pitt S . *A learning package to develop and assess employability of students taking work placements.*