

# MACS Athena SWAN Newsletter

Issue 6 – February 2023

The Athena SWAN (Scientific Women's Academic Network) Charter was established in 2005 with the aim of “*Encouraging and recognising commitment to advancing gender equality*” within STEMM subjects, i.e., science, technology, engineering, mathematics, and medicine. The Athena SWAN agenda has grown overtime to promote equality in general.

## 1. A Celebration for International Women’s Days – Wednesday 8 March, between 1.15pm and 3pm

All students and staff are invited to join the MACS celebration for International Women’s Day on 8 March. The event starts at:

- **1.15pm** with a lunch in the **Earl Mountbatten Building** (i.e., “Learning Zone” and 1.82) followed by:
- **“A personal journey within the academic world”** a talk by **Professor Beatrice Pelloni** at **2.15pm** in **Lecture Theatre LT3**.

This is a free event, BUT numbers are limited so book today to avoid disappointment via **Eventbrite** – see QR Code below:



*A School of MACS sponsored Athena SWAN Event*

## 2. MACS Athena Swan Summer Undergraduate Bursary Scheme 2023

The aim of the “Athena Swan Summer Undergraduate Bursary” scheme is to help improve gender equality across our three disciplines. It ran for the first time over the summer 2022 and supported two students from Computer Science. The call for proposals for this summer will go out at the start of March. Bursaries will be worth £1000 and paid directly to the project students. Up to 4 bursaries will be awarded for the summer of 2023.

## 3. Maxwell Institute graduate School event devoted to Neurodiversity in academia

The ED&I teams of MIGS and MAC-MIGS, and the PGR director of MACS are organising an event on neurodiversity in academia. The speaker, Sara Rankin is a professor of Leukocyte and Stem Cell Biology at the National Heart and Lung Institute, Imperial College London. She is a well-regarded public speaker and the creator of several STEM outreach initiatives. Professor Rankin identifies as being neurodiverse. She is the founder of 2eMpowerUK, which runs STEM workshops for neurodiverse teenagers. She will speak about her experience as a neurodiverse scientist. Further information can be found via the QR Code opposite:



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In consideration of the broad interest in this topic, the participation has been extended also to academic staff. If you are interested in attending, please email Katy Cameron for registering [Katy.Cameron@ed.ac.uk](mailto:Katy.Cameron@ed.ac.uk), mentioning MACS Athena SWAN (registration is free, but necessary due to limited space).

**Date:** Friday 24 February - 11:00-12:00

**Location:** 40 George Square Lower Teaching Hub, Room LG.09

**You can also join on Zoom:** <https://ed-ac-uk.zoom.us/j/89109037487>

Meeting ID: 891 0903 7487

Passcode: MIGSwshop5

## 4. MACS School Officer and MP Open Drop-in Sessions

During semester 2, the MACS School Officers and MP will be available to students and staff via drop-in sessions, i.e., Thursdays between 12-1pm in weeks 1, 3, 5, 7, 9 and 11. The location is the “Learning Zone” (a.k.a. “Crush Area”) outside classrooms EM 1.82 and EM 1.83.

- Zander Kasparian - *School Officer for AMS*
- Christie Robertson - *Deputy School Officer for AMS*
- George Kitsios - *School Officer for CS*
- Jake Douglas - *School Officer for Maths*
- Lucy Welford - *MACS MP*



### MACS SCHOOL OFFICER AND MP OPEN DROP-IN SESSIONS

COME CHAT ABOUT YOUR ACADEMIC  
EXPERIENCE SO FAR

SEEK HELP AND/OR ADVICE

PROVIDE FEEDBACK TO YOUR  
SCHOOL OFFICER OR SCHOOL MP

BOTH MACS STUDENTS AND STAFF WELCOME!

1ST FLOOR EM  
CRUSH AREA  
(NEXT TO EM182  
AND EM183)

THURSDAY 12PM-1PM  
WEEKS 1, 3, 5, 7, 9 & 11  
OF SEMESTER 2



## 5. The award of an honorary degree celebrates outstanding contributions of individuals

The award recognizes academic as well as wider societal contributions. Part of our MACS Athena SWAN Action Plan is to increase the number of MACS female honorary graduates. Anyone can propose an individual for an honorary degree; simply complete the nomination form on the University web page – see QR Code opposite:



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If you have suggestions or questions related to Athena SWAN, or an event that you would like to advertise, then please send them to us via [athena-macs@hw.ac.uk](mailto:athena-macs@hw.ac.uk). In addition, if you would like to be part of the MACS Athena SWAN Team (i.e., officially known as the SAT (Self-Assessment Team)) then please do get in touch.

*Audrey Repetti and Andrew Ireland*

**(MACS Athena Swan Coordinators)**