

## Newsletter



## Coronavirus (COVID-19)



Dear Readers

The Coronavirus pandemic has had an impact on all of us, both on our personal and professional lives. It is important that we support each other in these unsettling times and focus on our health and mental well-being. We would like to wish you and your loved ones a safe passage through this period. If you need anything (shopping, supplies or anything else), please do get in touch. Together, we will get through this.

With best wishes

The Genever Lab

## Working from home

Although all lab activities have been shut down, we are keeping active and continuing with the research as best we can. We are analysing data, reviewing the literature and writing papers. We stay in touch through regular video meetings (photo below). Like many other scientists across the world, we have volunteered to help the [research effort against Coronavirus](#). We were recently asked to produce a literature review on the potential of mesenchymal stem cells to suppress the “cytokine storm” that is so dangerous in critically ill patients. We have donated some kit and personal protective equipment (PPE) to York Hospital and signed up to help with Coronavirus testing. We wish we could do more.

## News on our students

Study is very different for our undergraduate and postgraduate students now. All teaching and exams will be online and the summer Graduation Ceremony, a wonderful occasion of celebration, sadly had to be cancelled. As an update:

- David has now submitted his PhD thesis and started working with us as a post-doc. David's work will be looking at how we can scale-up the therapies we are currently developing for patient delivery.
- Our Masters students Kirsty and Laura have now finished their projects and are writing up their dissertations.
- Our Bachelors students Polina, Jessica, Megan and Bethany have also finished their projects and will be submitting soon. Bethany produced a [survey and an educational video](#) to help improve awareness of post-menopausal osteoporosis.

## Getting through the lockdown

Alasdair came up with a series of indoors activities to liven up the mood and keep us entertained whilst we are in quarantine. They include games and online tours of parks, museums and art galleries. They're fun and often educational too. If you are interested in giving them a go, they are listed below (just click on the links!). Stay safe, stay active and we'll see you all again when this is over.

1. **Virtual Tours:** [Buckingham palace](#), [Chester Zoo](#), [US national parks](#), [Museums, theme parks and many more](#)
2. **Games, Geography,** [This is a game called GeoGuessr](#) Guess where you are dropped off!
3. **Theater, performances, music and opera!** [Metropolitan Opera](#), [LE NOZZE DI FIGARO Mozart – Garsington Opera](#), [Operavision - website with plenty of free opera with subtitles](#) - highly recommended for a great variety of operas!
  - A classical music playlist: [The London Symphony Orchestra live at the Barbican](#)
  - [Andrew Lloyd Webber shows free on YouTube](#)
4. **A million sunflowers** to brighten up the mood during COVID19! [#MillionSunflowers](#) Information on [Seeds](#), [Planting Guidance](#), and how to tweet your weekly plant progress! [Post your weekly plant progress!](#)



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