



University of Manchester Postdocs

Meet...

Hamied Haroon

Where are you based?

Division of Neuroscience & Experimental Psychology (SBS, FBMH); physically, in the Centre for Imaging Sciences in the glorious Stopford Building

Describe your research in one sentence.

Biomedical magnetic resonance imaging and analyses to study health, ageing and disease.

How long have you been a Postdoc?

A long, long time! (14 years)

Tell us a little bit about yourself before starting as a postdoc.

BSc in Physics at UMIST (no longer exists) 1998, MSc in Medical Physics at UoM 2000, PhD in Medical MR Imaging in Cancer at UoM 2005.

What do you love about being a Postdoc?

Coding and actually doing the research!

What do you find most challenging about being a Postdoc?

Writing papers! My biggest flaw. I'm easily distracted by more analyses.

What was your biggest achievement?

Having my exciting new research work showcased by Philips on their booth at the International Society for Magnetic Resonance in Medicine.

What is part of your job other than research?

I teach MBChB undergraduates (which I love), supervise MSc students, co-supervise a PhD student, and support other students and colleagues with their research. I also help organise public engagements events.

What are your career aspirations?

I would love to be a senior independent academic one day.

What's your passion besides research?

Disability equality activism. While studying at UMIST, I did a bungee jump in my wheelchair on the side of Oxford Road to protest against the lack of access in campus buildings!

I was the **founding Chair of UoM's Disabled Staff Network** when it was established in 2006/7 and campaigned for our University to be one of the first to provide dedicated support for disabled staff alongside the provision already in place for disabled students. We held a national conference at UoM in June 2014 for disabled staff at HEIs entitled "What Are We Hiding?" exploring hidden impairments (invisible disabilities, such as mental health conditions) and the hidden contribution that disabled people make to the economy and society at large. At this conference I launched the **National Association of Disabled Staff Networks (NADSN)** and became its Chair. NADSN is a super-network that connects and represents disabled staff networks primarily in the tertiary education sector but open to any individual or organisation interested in the equality of disabled staff. I met with the Chair of the newly-established LGBT+ Network of Networks in Higher Education (NoN) last summer to talk about how we could work together. We decided to join forces and, with support from the Wellcome Trust D&I Team, The University of Manchester and Manchester Metropolitan University (MMU), held our first Joint National Intersectionality Conference entitled "**Unearthing the hidden voices: intersectionalities in higher education**" on 20th June 2019 at MMU, exploring the intersectionality of disability, sexuality and gender identity and other identities. Around 150 people attended and successfully built momentum for future work.

What's your favourite book or film?

Star Trek and Harry Potter

What keeps you awake at night?

Bugs in my code

Who are you? (Describe yourself in 5 words)

Cheeky. Determined. Friendly. Thorough. Frustrated by injustice.



Going down: physics student Hamied Haroon bungee jumped in a wheelchair from the UMIST students' union in Manchester last week to protest at its lack of a lift. Disabled Mr Haroon had to be winched to the roof for the jump. UMIST says that it may bid for Lottery money to improve the building.