

# **Pre-meeting workshop II: Supporting doctoral candidates at risk**

EUA-CDE Annual Meeting, 22-24 June 2022, Manchester

# cara

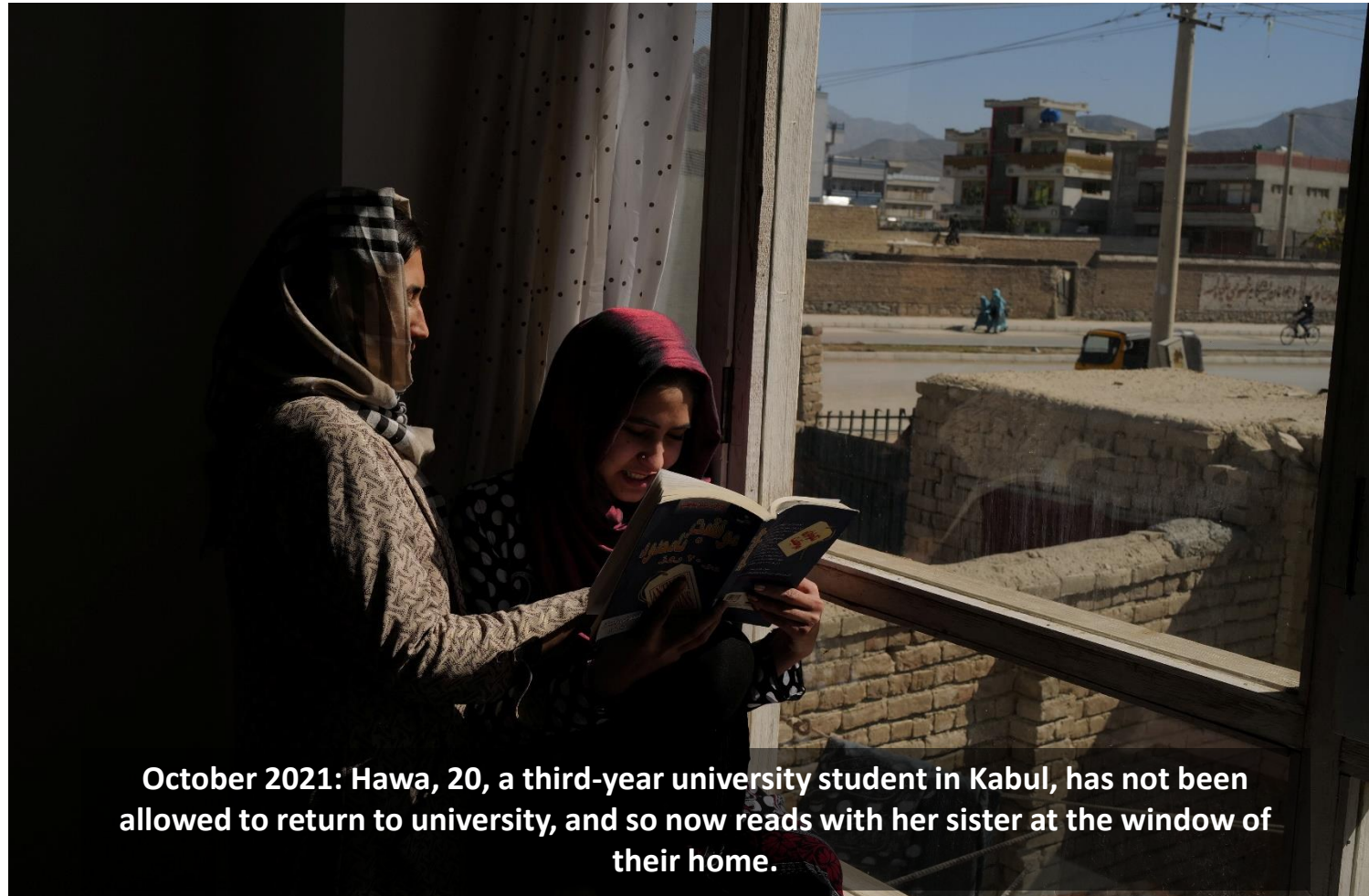
a lifeline to academics at risk



University students, engineers and teachers and others march on 4 April 2021 to protest against the military coup in Myanmar

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**October 2021: Hawa, 20, a third-year university student in Kabul, has not been allowed to return to university, and so now reads with her sister at the window of their home.**



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2 March 2022: Firefighters work to extinguish a fire at the Kharkiv National University building.

## How does Cara help doctoral candidates at risk?

- Since 1933 Cara has been helping academics at risk
- Today, our **Fellowship Programme** helps ‘academics’ to reach a place of safety at one of our 130 UK partner universities where they can continue their work, with their families
- Cara’s definition of ‘academic’ means that we support academics working for postgraduate degrees as well as postdocs – fills an important gap

- Not ‘refugees’ – ‘Cara Fellows’ travel on regular visas.
- No access to ‘public funds’. Mix of funding, we can contribute where necessary.
- Hosting a PhD student with a family is expensive! But universities happy to do so
- Aim is that the Fellows should return home when it is safe to do so – we are not in the ‘brain drain’ business

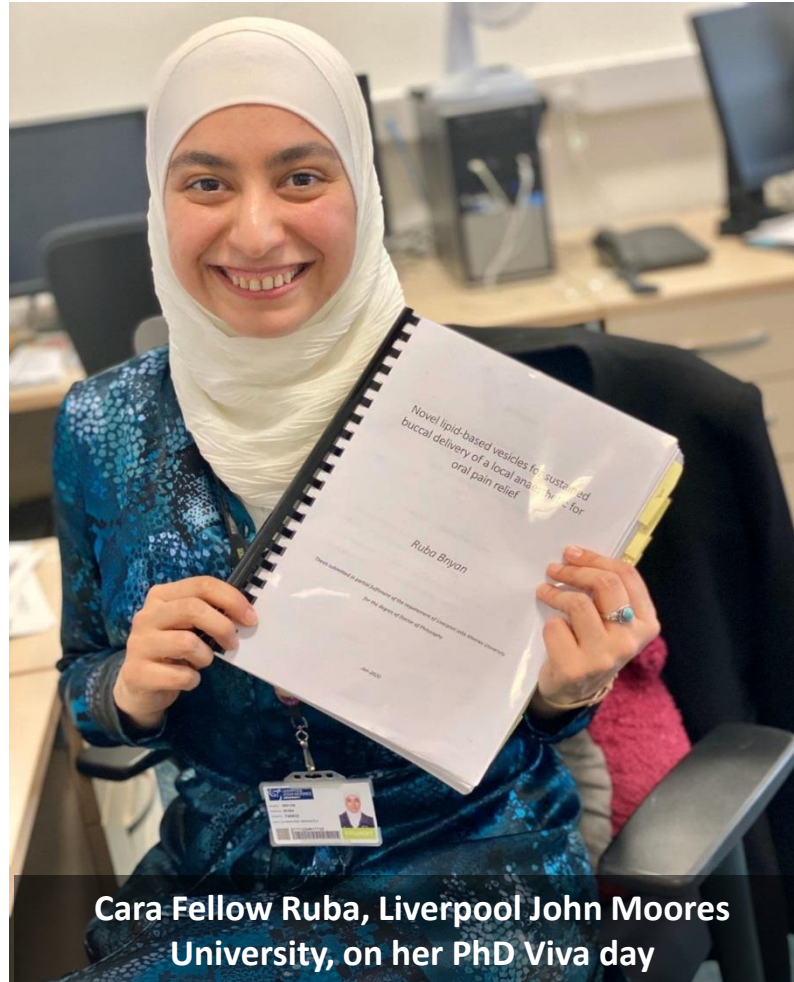
- At any time, over 100 Fellows in placements, at all levels (i.e. PhD students as well as postdocs)
- Working on 70+ new placements at any time
- Until recently, most from Middle East, particularly Syria. Many Syrian academics needed to work for PhDs
- Afghanistan – also, many with no PhD

- What if they can't go back?
- Onward placements, so those who obtain PhDs can gain further experience including outside the UK
- Over 50 onward moves being lined up at any time

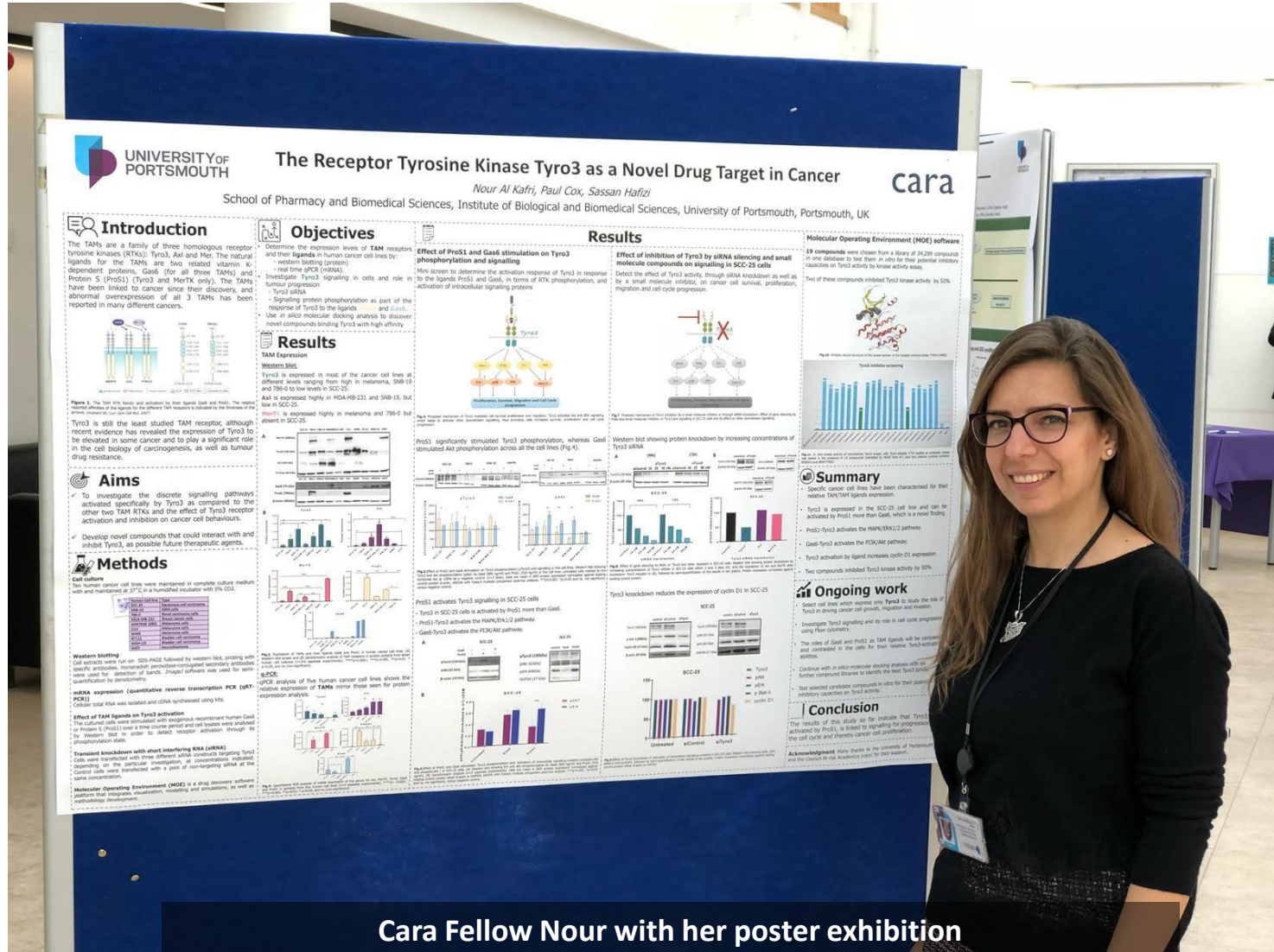


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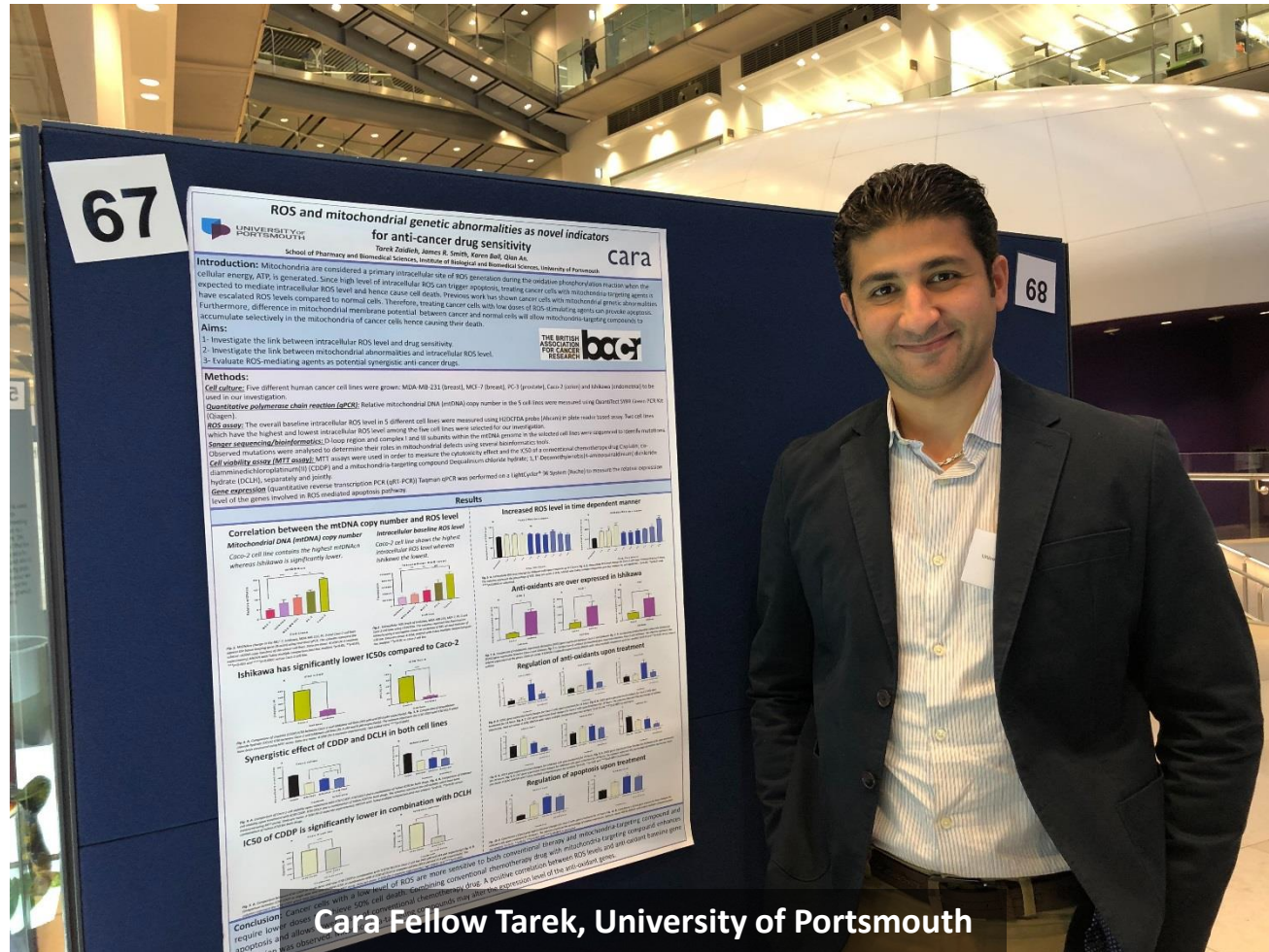


**Cara Fellow Ruba, Liverpool John Moores University, on her PhD Viva day**



Cara Fellow Nour with her poster exhibition





Cara Fellow Tarek, University of Portsmouth

## **‘Researchers at Risk’ scheme, 2022**

- A response to events in Ukraine
- UK Govt funding - £3m, + £0.5m from Nuffield Trust
- Modelled on PSI, around 40 2-yr awards, focus on Ukraine
- ‘National academies’ and Cara
- Likely to become permanent, hope it can broaden out to include postgraduate ‘academics’ as well as postdocs

- Work closely with other partners –e.g. ‘Universities of Sanctuary’ offer support to refugee postgrad students as well as undergrads. Many universities signing up
- Also international partners such as SAR, SRF, PSI, PAUSE
- A lot to do!
- So Fellowship Programme continuing to grow, with support from partners and donors