

Students at the Malaysian Campus celebrate the 1st anniversary of their successful Biomedical Society.



School of Life Sciences

Head of School update

The Academic year is now progressing well and I am grateful to everyone for ensuring the teaching programmes are being delivered very effectively and that research activities are continuing to flourish. It is also a pleasure to be able to report that our School of Life Sciences colleagues at the Malaysia Campus are continuing to do well. The intake of students onto the BSc in Biomedical Sciences continues to grow, and there is also a pleasing increase in research activity by our colleagues in the Division of Biomedical Sciences. We hope to start the new BSc degree in Tropical Sciences here at the Nottingham Campus in 2015, which will involve the students spending 2 years in Nottingham and 1 year at the Malaysia Campus. There will be more information about this degree in the New Year.

You may be aware that the Research Excellence Framework results will be announced in mid-December. The results will be provided to everyone in the School on December 18, and I hope it will be a pleasant early present for the Festive Season. We continue to have good success with research grants, with over £720,000 worth of new grants being awarded in October. Congratulations to Fran Ebling, Laura Conforti, Matt Loose, Amir Ghaemmaghami and their colleagues for contributing to this success.

We will be welcoming our members of academic staff from the Faculty of Medicine at Srinakharinwirot University (SWU) in Bangkok to the School in December, for the BMed Sci Graduation Ceremony. They will be here because we have 12 of their Medical students studying the first 3 years of the Nottingham Medical Course, who then return to Thailand for their Clinical studies. These students make an important contribution to the International nature of our Medical Course. I was fortunate to visit SWU and its teaching hospital during my last trip to Thailand, and to meet clinical students

who had studied in Nottingham. They were very impressive and a credit to both Universities.

Please remember that the Social Committee is organising a Social event for Friday 16th January 2015, to be held at the Hemsley. This event will include food and music, and those attending will only have to contribute £5 each towards the costs. Please contact the Social Committee members if you have any ideas for other Social events.

I know that things will get very busy in the next month as we approach the Festive Season but I hope colleagues will not be too exhausted and that you are able to have an enjoyable break over Christmas and the New Year.

Ian Macdonald

FRIDAY 12 DECEMBER 2014



Save the Children
**CHRISTMAS
JUMPER DAY**

Spread the jumper joy

Text TEAMSOLS to 70050 to donate
£2

Donations can also be placed in Life Sciences D Floor
Reception (med school).

A Week in Paradise

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Equipped with my sparkling new passport with 10 years validity*, this month I headed to the Far East for a week of teaching and research discussions with our Biomedical Sciences colleagues at the University of Nottingham, Malaysia Campus. And what a week it was. Ever a sucker for hot weather and spicy food, it did not take long for me to decide that this was a very good move of mine, particularly as the days have drawn in and the temperature has dropped at home! Mixed with the company of great colleagues, attentive students and 5* accommodation, it truly was a week in paradise. A few facts to set the scene. At this time of year it is Monsoon: hot, humid with dramatic storms usually from 3-3.30pm with both forked and paned lightning, deafening thunder and very decisive, torrential rain. Malaysia is a melting pot of cultures, with English prevailing as a common language, but Malay, Cantonese, Mandarin, Hindu and probably some other languages, being some of the many tongues that you might hear. Thanks to vestiges of British colonialism, it is very easy to be a Brit abroad here - they even drive on the left (when traffic moves), and you don't even need to take adaptors for your electrics, everything runs on 3-pin square.



With several of the Faculty recently appointed to the School of Biomedical Sciences, UoN, Malaysia, and this being their first academic post, I thought it only fair to experience a week in their shoes. Here in the UK it is not uncommon to get a year's grace from teaching and gradually build up our teaching commitments with time. Not so in Malaysia. Teaching starts day one of your contract and, with a small Faculty expected to cover a huge diversity of topics within a Biomedical Sciences degree, new lecturers find themselves teaching cardiovascular development one day, advanced biochemistry of disease the next, and pharmacology that same afternoon. To test first hand how one copes with teaching from lectures prepared by UK colleagues, and in areas with which I was unfamiliar, I did not give a single lecture of my own, instead I learned eight lectures de novo, some of which were completely out of my comfort zone, but all prepared by UK academics. I have to confess I bottled out of a ninth lecture as I ran out of preparation time. Having committed to delivering these lectures, I have to say my journey out there was rather stressful, and I was grateful for the free WiFi in airports which gave me more time to study! But I have to say that after meeting with the staff and students for the first time, my stress evaporated into the humidity around me. UoNM-BMS currently has 10 students in year 3 (the first cohort who will complete the course), 24 in year 2, and 32 in year 1, so classes are about a tenth of the size of those in the UK, making the whole teaching-learning experience much more intimate, cooperative and less stressful. I have to extend a big thank you to the year 3s, who took me to a local Malay "Mama" restaurant for nasi lemak (rice with spicy chicken curry- yum), and who organised an evening of fun and food to celebrate the 1st anniversary of their BMS society. The success of BMS was evident in the excitement that percolated through the students as they organised this "pot-luck" event (below), which brought students and staff together, and served to help the year 1 freshers get to know their peers. These dining occasions (Malaysians love to eat) allowed me the opportunity to ask the students about their experiences at University, and to ask them why they chose UoNM, and what their ambitions are for the future. And this is what I learned:

A Week in Paradise

Half of the year 3 cohort are overseas students, coming from Vietnam, Mauritius, Dubai, and the Indian subcontinent, and their principle reasons for choosing UoNM were that the degree was a British one that will be Internationally recognised, yet its cost (and cost of living) was less than if they came to the UK itself. As for a degree in Biomedical Sciences, the appeal was that it was medically relevant but not medicine itself (and not plants!). Indeed unlike many of our UK students studying Biochemistry**, medicine is not a career path that they were intending to follow. Instead I got the impression that students were erring towards further study and a career in research.



On the final working day of my visit the year 1 students presented posters on subjects that they had researched in pairs. I was astonished and delighted by the standard of these posters, which ranged in subject from Bell's palsy, to multiple sclerosis, Ebola, with the winners (right) describing how ginger extracts are being used to treat Alzheimer's Disease. I was further impressed to see the year 3s attending the poster session and enthusiastically encouraging their juniors - I even heard one year 3 reiterating some of the information I had disseminated to them just the day before!

So what about the research? We all know that being an academic engaged in teaching and research is a tall order, but when you have to deliver lectures outwith your field as well as getting lab work started, to me these challenges appear somewhat onerous, to say the least. Nevertheless, undeterred by the constraints of their heavy teaching agendas, limited funds, limited space and equipment, and compounded with procurement issues that would frustrate even a Saint, our BMS colleagues have ambitious plans for developing their research labs, and during my visit I had the opportunity to discuss potential research collaborations. In particular Dr. Wang Yong Ho (right) is developing a programme researching breast cancer stem cells, and Dr. YuFen Pung (left), who joined the School in August has a background in mitochondrial biology. Other members of Faculty are interested in diabetes and obesity, with Head of School, Dr. Kang-Nee Ting (below) actively researching how Chinese medicines could help to combat MRSA.



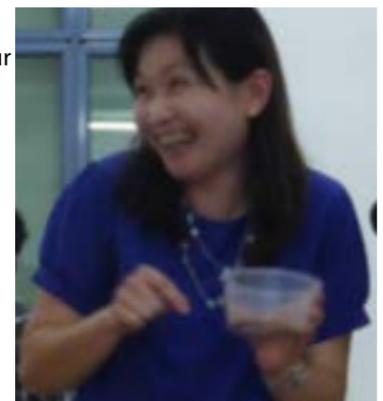
In sum, don't be deceived by the diminutive stature of many of our Malaysian colleagues, I can assure you that their shoes are very large and difficult to fill. Like the final year students that I met on this trip, I was proud to be part of the School of Biomedical Sciences, Malaysia.

And finally, no "trip" (no pun intended) of mine would be complete without some mishap to recount. Accordingly, one last valuable piece of advice should you want a similar adventure: if you visit a Chinese-style rest-room, be sure that the floors have been dried, not just washed, otherwise you might just sprain the collateral ligaments in your knee and require a wheel chair (known as a Staxi in Heathrow) to get you home!

*although no visa is required for UK nationals, you must have 6 months validity remaining on your passport otherwise you will be left standing at the UK airport

** note Biochemistry and other Life Science degrees are not available as individual disciplines at the UoNM.

Sally P. Wheatley Assistant Professor in Cellular Biochemistry.





University of Nottingham hosts partner meeting of the European project IMMODOGEL

Local immunomodulation around implants by innovative hydrogel-based systems

On the 17th and 18th of November 2014, Prof. Amir Ghaemmaghami's Cellular Immunology and Tissue Modelling research group at the University of Nottingham hosted the third partner meeting for the EU FP7 project IMMODOGEL. IMMODOGEL is a 4-year project funded by the European Union Seventh Framework Programme for research, technological development and demonstration. It runs from October 2013 to September 2017 and, in addition to the University of Nottingham (UNOT), involves academic and industry partners from across Europe and the USA. Partners who travelled to Nottingham for the meeting included Steinbeis-Europa-Zentrum (SEZ, Germany), University of Heidelberg (UHEI, Germany), University of Strasbourg (UDS, France), Brigham and Women's Hospital at Harvard Medical School (BWH, USA), Contipro (CTP, Czech Republic), and Protobios LLC (PTB, Estonia) to discuss the progress made in the first year of the project and to agree upon the plan of action for the next 6 months. Richard Kowalski from DePuy Synthes was also present in his capacity as an industry advisor on the project.

The main objective of IMMODOGEL is to avoid the frequent adverse immune reactions following implant surgery. Such immune reactions will be reduced by means of an innovative system composed of chemical (hydrogel) and biological (immune system cells) elements. The design will be adjustable for any implant, medical device or transplant.

Furthermore, a diagnostic test will be developed to predict the patients' specific immune responses to implant materials. The system's chemical and physical properties will be modified accordingly to avoid implant rejection. IMMODOGEL will for the first time allow implants to be personalised and to minimise adverse immune reactions.

The key innovation will be the development of IMMODOGEL as a system that will significantly decrease the level and duration of implant induced inflammation besides optimising the healing phase upon implantation. Thus, it will reduce the negative outcomes of implant surgery, relieve pain and reduce related medical costs in Europe.

In the early stages of the IMMODOGEL project, the University of Nottingham is leading efforts in identifying optimal surface features for modulating 'immune cell-surface' interactions with the ultimate aim of identifying patterns with distinct immunomodulatory properties. The University of Nottingham is also supporting the phenotypical and functional characterisation of macrophages in 2D and within 3D constructs. This involves the use of different analytical tools including high throughput microscopy. Another major contribution the University of Nottingham will be providing is expertise and know-how in the development and characterisation of immunocompetent tissue models to the scientific partners of the project. In this context they will primarily use a 3D model of human lung epithelium to validate macrophage phenotype and function under in vivo-like conditions.

SoLS News & Events



L to R: Mercedes Dragovits (SEZ), Mehmet Dokmeci (BWH), Alexandru Gudima (UHEI), Sabine Müller (SEZ), Amir Ghaemmaghami (UNOT), Helena Knopf-Marques (UDS), Lucie Wolfová (CTP), Philippe Laval (UDS), Richard Kowalski (DePuy Synthes), Jan Klemes (CTP), Toomas Neuman (PTB), Sonali Singh (UNOT), Pengxiang Chang (UNOT).

Contact:

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Dr. Mercedes Dragovits

Email: dragovits@steinbeis-europa.de

www.immodgel.org

SoLS News & Events

Postgraduate Degree Successes November 2014

Well done to all our students who have recently completed their PhD, MPhil and MRes degrees:

Alessandra Agostini "Unaltered susceptibility to neuroinflammation in pre-symptomatic APP^{swe}/PS1_{E9} mice, focus on genotype and sex differences" supervised by Dr Marie Pardon

Mayowa Bolanle Musah-Eroje "Molecular and morphological evidence that H.Bakeri and H.Polygyrns are separate specie" supervised by Professor Jerzy Behnke

Sheyda Azimi "Interactions between the Neisseria meningitidis and its Human Host" supervised by Dr Karl Wooldridge and Professor Del Ala'Aldeen

Ye Chen Soh "Inactivation, Inhibition and Dysregulation of Alkylquinolone-Signalling in Pseudomonas aeruginosa" supervised by Professors Miguel Camara and Paul Williams

Luting Xu "TRPV1 Signalling in Osteoclastogenesis and the role of Osteoclasts in Pain in Osteoarthritis" supervised by Professor Vicky Chapman and Dr Andrew Bennett

Kanagaraj Marimuthu "Insights into the acute impact of eccentric exercise and endotoxaemia on muscle carbohydrate and protein metabolism in humans" supervised by Professor Paul Greenhaff

Jia Wang "Effects of Cigarette Smoke on Killer Cell Activation in Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease" supervised by Dr Lucy Fairclough and Dr Ian Todd

Susan Stelmak
Postgraduate and Biochemistry Administrator

Early Researcher of Excellence Award

We are very pleased to announce that Mahab Al Jannat, supervised by Dr David Turner, Dr Neil Oldfield and Dr Karl Wooldridge, has been awarded the Early Researcher of Excellence Award for her outstanding academic achievement. She receives a Certificate and a School Prize of £100. Well done Mahab!

Susan Stelmak
Postgraduate and
Biochemistry Administrator



Receiving her Early Researcher of Excellence Certificate. From L-R Dr David Turner, Mahab Al Jannat and Dr Ian Kerr

SoLS News & Events

Wellcome Trust Science Writing Prize 2014

Life Sciences PhD Student Emma Saxon (from Liz Sockett's lab) was shortlisted for the Wellcome Trust Science Writing Prize 2014, in the top 10 out of over 600 entries. Her article explores the work of pioneering plastic surgeon Archibald McIndoe, who repaired the faces and self-esteem of World War II airmen, and its impact on wartime plastic surgery today. The annual prize showcases the work of promising science writers to help develop their careers- Emma attended a writing workshop and prize ceremony in October and her article will be published on the Wellcome trust website at the end of November.

Professor Liz Sockett

*For the Wellcome Trust website
click here*

If you have photos of recent PhD successes that you'd like to feature in the newsletter, please send them to LS-MarketingComms.



Emma Saxon Life Sciences Phd Student

Siobhan Loughna and Jeanette Woolard as co-supervisor, have been awarded an Anatomical Society studentship entitled:

'Mechanisms underlying abnormal epicardium formation in the developing heart'

to commence in October 2015.

Well done!

SoLS News & Events

Children in Need 2014 "Cake & Bake Sale"



Karen and Anna with the delicious selection of cakes and not forgetting Mr Pudsey bear!

Thanks again bakers, helpers, buyers and eaters for their contributions to the BBC 2014 "Children in Need" appeal. Our cake sale on Wednesday 12th November resulted in us taking £526.37, which with some additional donations came to a final amount of £640 (before any gift aid!).

So well done to you all, with special thanks to Karen Swift & Anne Mason for their organisation of the event.

Rob Mason
Associate Professor of Neuroscience



James Burston and Sally Cordon showing their support.

SoLS News & Events

Bonfire Coffee/ Cake Social



David Brook with the Paul Hollywood mask on and Carol Mcloughlin serving up!

Thank you to everyone who came to our Bonfire coffee/cake social, we raised a fantastic £100 for "Vets in the Community", a University of Nottingham student-led project that provides basic veterinary care for the animals of homeless and vulnerably housed community of Nottingham.

Huge thanks go to Paul Hollywood and Mary Berry for judging the cakes, Dr Janet Knight for the prizes, and Dannie, Laura, Ben, Rita and Jess for baking!

Jess Tyson
Senior Research Fellow

SoLS Christmas Staff Party

We are pleased to confirm that the Life Sciences staff party will take place at the Hemsley (University Park Campus) on 16th January from 7.00 pm. We do hope that as many of you as possible will be able to come together for this celebratory event.

The School will be subsidising the cost of the buffet and DJ, drinks are not included, and there will be a nominal charge of £5.00 per person. If you would like to attend please come to Life Sciences D Floor Reception (med school) to pay your contribution. Please note that as numbers at the venue are limited, we are operating on a first come first served basis.

We are holding a raffle with proceeds going to charity. Please do come and buy raffle tickets regardless of whether or not you intend to come to the party, these will be available from Monday 17th November at Life Sciences D Floor Reception (med school). To help us select this year's charity, we will also have a charity nomination box in Reception for you to add your suggestions.



SoLS News & Events

Molecular Bacteriology & Immunology Group

Our Research group have recently had a paper accepted in the Royal Society's Open Access journal Open Biology. The journal used an image associated with our paper as their cover image and it was also featured in their Press Notice, as well as by our own Press Office. As a result of the latter we were contacted by Sharon Kingman, a London-based correspondent for an American publication called Bioworld Today (a website publication aimed mainly at people in Biotechnology companies with an interest in drug discovery). I was interviewed by Sharon, who wrote a piece for their journal which I have seen and edited, although we are asked to keep the draft itself confidential until it is published.

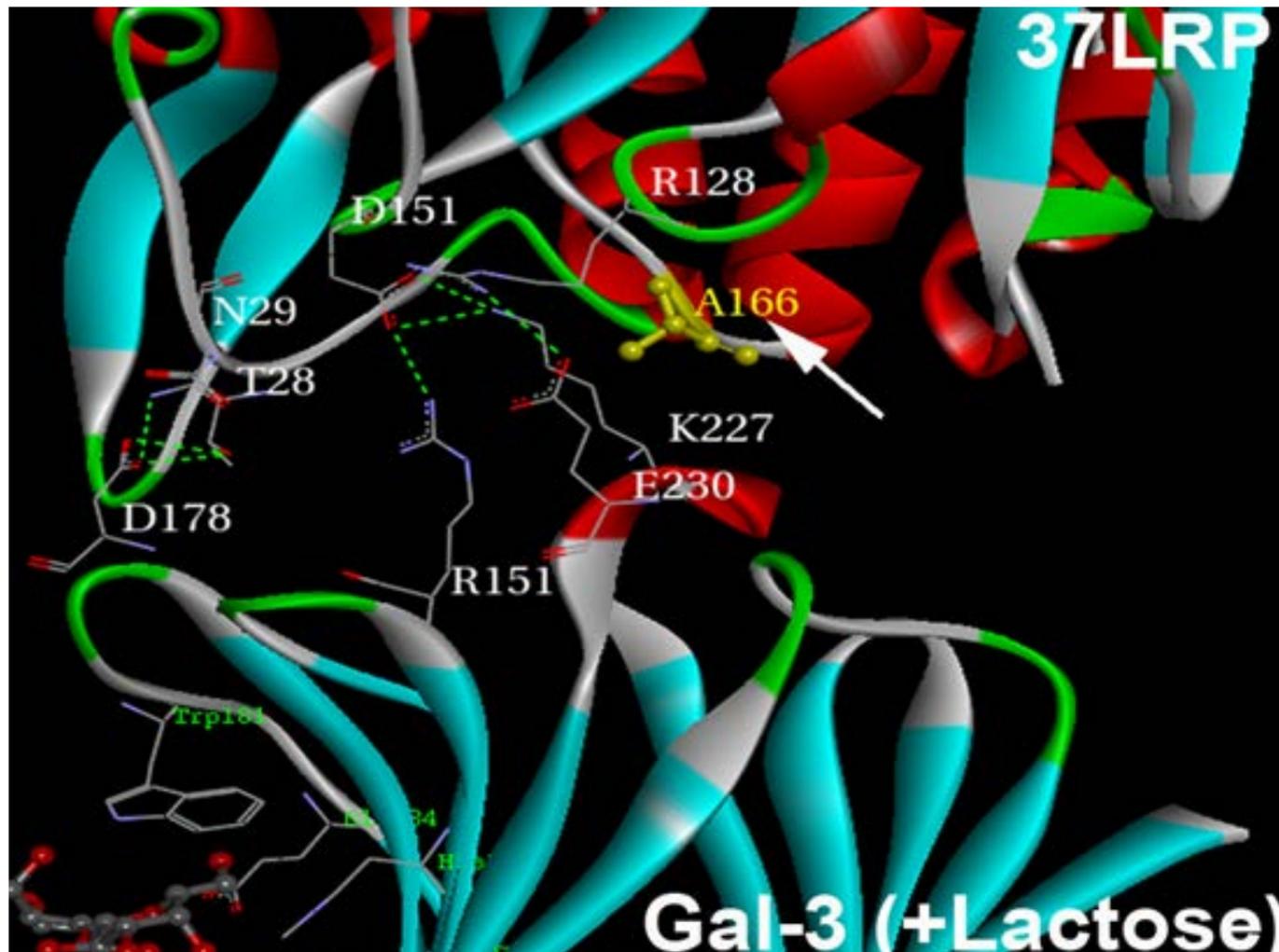
Online publication: <http://rsob.royalsocietypublishing.org/content/4/10/140053>

Cover image: <http://rsob.royalsocietypublishing.org/>

University Press release: <https://www.nottingham.ac.uk/news/pressreleases/2014/october/new-discovery-in-the-microbiology-of-serious-human-disease.aspx>

Bioworld Today: <http://www.bioworld.com/>

Karl Wooldridge, Associate Professor and Course Director for MSc Clinical Microbiology.



Laminin receptor and Galectin-3 lock horns

Conference Report

Conference Report: 21st Symposium on Hepatitis C and Related Viruses, Banff, Canada, 7-11 September 2014

Sunburn to Frostbite: A Conference of Extremes

At the beginning of September, with generous support from the SoLS conference fund, Richard Urbanowicz and I attended the 21st International Symposium on Hepatitis C Virus and Related Viruses in Banff, Canada. This high profile conference provided an opportunity to present our group's current research investigating innate and adaptive immunity to hepatitis C virus (HCV). This meeting was organised by Michael Houghton, who in 1989 discovered HCV as the causative agent of non-A, non-B infectious hepatitis. A total of 290 abstracts were presented, covering diverse subjects such as molecular virology of recently-discovered relatives of HCV, new animal models of infection, and applied drug development.

This year our scientific community celebrated the unprecedented success of clinical trials of new combinations of anti-HCV therapies, which have proven to cure HCV infection in more than 95% of treated individuals. Introduction of these therapies to the clinic is a great step towards eradicating HCV infection. However, work is still required to make them available to developing world countries, and an effective, affordable vaccine is still a long-term goal. Houghton's group presented new exciting data, describing vaccine-mediated immunity in immunised individuals. Our group's current research into the specificity of potent antibody responses in HCV infections support these vaccine studies and it is clear that understanding the components of a successful immune response is a key challenge for the field. We received great feedback on presentations on the genetic variability in innate pattern recognition receptor genes associated with HCV disease outcome, and on the range of viral resistance to antibody-mediated neutralization.

Attendance at this meeting resulted in initiation of new collaborative projects with American and European researchers, and provided an excellent opportunity to review progress on projects with current international collaborators. The beautiful surroundings of Banff and the Rocky Mountains provided an ideal backdrop to an excellent meeting, complete with 22°C cloudless sunny days, snowstorms and the occasional bear sighting!

Dr Alexander Tarr, Assistant Professor in Molecular Virology
Dr Richard Urbanowicz, Research Fellow
Virology and Immunology Research Group



21st Symposium on Hepatitis C Virus and Related Viruses: some of the delegates were rather grizzly!

Conference report

Xth European Congress of Entomology, York 3rd-8th August 2014

I would like to thank the School of Life Science for funding my travel to the European Congress of Entomology in York. I was able to meet entomologists in many different fields of research from across the world. There was a diverse range of seminars each day. Each morning began with a one hour plenary talk from an invited speaker. The plenary talks were: Insects, climate change and conservation; The *Drosophila* antimicrobial response; Tropical entomology; Gut communities of bees; Fighting malaria through control of mosquitoes; Crop pest management by companion cropping, breeding and GM. Afterwards, there were sessions of talks grouped by topic. I attended sessions on imaging methods for entomology, insect genomics, insecticide resistance, insect-microbe interactions, chemical ecology, and forensic entomology. I presented a poster on insecticide resistance in the tomato leafminer, *Tuta absoluta*, and had interesting discussions with other scientists. I was also able to explore York including a walk on the historic city walls.

Madeleine Berger, PhD student supervised by Chris Bass, Lin Field and Martin Williamson (Rothamsted Research) and Ian Duce and Ian Mellor

Conference report

Vascular Biology 2014, Monterey, California, USA, 19th - 23rd October

The Vascular Biology 2014 conference is an annual, international meeting which, this year, focused on the recent discoveries in developmental vascular biology, vascular inflammation, and vascular diseases including atherosclerosis, systemic hypertension and hereditary hemorrhagic telangiectasia. It was the perfect opportunity to meet both academic and industry experts as well as learn about the recent advances in my own and related fields.

Following the acceptance of my abstract, I presented a poster titled 'The Hypertensive and Haemodynamic Actions of Vandetanib and Pazopanib, Two Anti-VEGF Receptor Tyrosine Kinase Inhibitors, in vivo' (J Carter et al., (2014) *Angiogenesis* 17(4):935-984). The results demonstrated, for the first time, the regional haemodynamic effects of vandetanib and pazopanib, two FDA approved adjuvant anti-cancer therapies, which are both associated clinically with an increased risk of hypertension. The aim of the present study was to characterise the acute cardiovascular effects (heart rate, mean arterial blood pressure and hindquarter, mesenteric and renal vascular conductances) of vandetanib and pazopanib in conscious, freely-moving rats. Vandetanib and pazopanib both caused significant hypertension, together with vasoconstrictions of the mesenteric and hindquarter vascular beds. In addition, pazopanib also evoked a vasoconstriction in the renal vascular bed ($p < 0.05$ vs vehicle).

Personal highlights from this meeting included the keynote lectures on 'Temporal responses of angiogenic stimulators and inhibitors to microvessel expansion and regression' (Mark Olfert, West Virginia University) and 'Role and regulation of VEGF in the adult' (Patricia D'Amore, Harvard Medical School) as well as the symposium on 'Career Development: Publish and Flourish'. The meeting also focused on advances in the understanding of

endothelial signaling as well as gene regulation, vascular therapeutics and vascular inflammation, with inspirational and interesting talks being given in all of these areas. The meeting provided a great opportunity for networking and exploring opportunities for future postdoctoral positions. I was also able to make a number of important contacts with key academics and industrial partners who were keen to develop further collaborations with my research group in Nottingham.

I found this meeting highly informative and enjoyable. I would like to thank all of the course organisers, NAVBO, the Microcirculatory Society and HHT Foundation International for the wonderful experience as well as the British Pharmacological Society and The University of Nottingham Graduate School for providing the funding that made it possible for me to attend.

Joanne Carter
Cell Signalling Research Group
Supervised by Dr J Woolard



New starters



Michelle Jackson
Technical Manager

I have recently joined the School Life of Sciences as Technical Manager and will be working to support the School by developing its technical support services. One key part of my role will be to champion and support the needs of technical staff within the school, which is something I have been doing for technicians on a national scale for a number of years, and something I feel passionately about.

Many years ago I studied to PhD level in Biochemistry at the University of Manchester and consequently worked in research labs across the UK as a post-doctoral scientist and technician in both Universities and the NHS. In 2003 I was appointed as a Technical Resources Manager in the Faculty of Life Sciences at the University of Manchester, which was followed by more national roles with firstly HEaTED and then the S-Lab project. I have hands on experience in clinical research, immunology, molecular biology, biochemical and biophysical science and cellular biology.

I am also the Registrar for (and a Fellow of) the Institute of Science and Technology, and proudly became a Chartered Scientist earlier this year.

Beverley Allan
Science Foundation Course Assistant Professor

I have recently joined the School of Life Sciences to deliver the Chemistry element of the Science Foundation Programme.

Since receiving my PhD in Atmospheric Chemistry from the University of East Anglia, I continued with my research into the role of halogen chemistry in the marine boundary layer for a number of years before joining the power industry as an atmospheric modeller. I then moved back into education and started my teaching career in 2003. Since then I have had the opportunity to teach A-Level Chemistry in an FE environment, as well as teaching Chemistry to undergraduate environmental scientists and lecturing on MSc programmes in Air Pollution, Prevention and Control, Carbon Management, and Integrated Environmental Strategies.

I am enjoying both the return to higher education and meeting new people within the School of Life Sciences, and hope to extend these links across different schools over the coming months.



New Starters



Robert Markus
Senior Imaging Technician

I am now Senior Imaging Technician within the School of Life Sciences and responsible for the super resolution microscopy. I have been working as a researcher in Hungary and Sweden and was involved in several research projects using insects to investigate innate immunity. In the past two years I have been involved in a project investigating chromatin organization of cancer cells and stem cells, using microscopy and image analysis. I am also a passionate photographer with the aim to create artistic images using microscopy. <http://markusmicroscopy.freewb.hu/>



Emma Burton
Research Assistant

I have recently joined the School of Life Sciences as a Research Assistant, working jointly in the labs of Dr Rob Layfield and Dr Marios Georgiou.

I will be working on a project funded by the Motor Neurone Disease Association to model amyotrophic lateral sclerosis (ALS, motor neurone disease) and the closely related condition frontotemporal lobar degeneration (FTLD) in *Drosophila melanogaster*. The project will investigate the effects of specific mutations in human p62 protein in the fly, in order to better understand the implications of these mutations in the development of ALS/FTLD.

This will be my first position since graduating with a degree in Molecular Biology from University College London earlier this year, and I am looking forward to beginning my research career at the University of Nottingham.

New starters



Jackie Glenn
Research Technician within the Cell Signalling Research Group

I have recently joined the School of Life Sciences as a Research Technician within the Cell Signalling Research Group. I shall be working on a project involving the use of fluorescent compounds in the study of G-protein-coupled receptor signalling. Previously I worked in platelet research with the Thrombosis and Haemostasis Group in Cardiovascular Medicine, so with the help of my friendly (and patient!) new colleagues, I am looking forward to learning some new techniques in molecular biology.



Tamsin Majerus
Assistant Professor

I feel rather a fraud composing this as I have been a member of Biology and then Life Sciences since 2003. I started as a postdoc working with John Armour, one day a week and continued on a variety of part-time, short-term contracts until I secured a Daphne Jackson Fellowship in the summer of 2013. My research focuses on various elements of the ecology, evolution and genetics of ladybirds. My research project seeks to use linkage mapping and NGS techniques to identify the gene that controls the colour-pattern polymorphism in the 2- and 10-spot ladybirds. Many of you may have noticed I was heavily involved in the School's successful Silver Athena SWAN bid and I continue to be involved in this and staff (particularly postdoc and ECR staff) development more generally. In September, I was appointed on an assistant professor teaching post, which combines my existing role teaching the Foundation Year, with covering the teaching of various colleagues taking short-term career breaks from their teaching duties. This position lasts for a year, after which I will resume my fellowship. In my 'spare' time (ha, ha) I have recently passed the Netball Europe 'A' Award and enjoy the opportunities this brings, including umpiring the England National Academy and National Performance League players.

Congratulations.....



Congratulations to Dr Paul Richards

Congratulations to Dr Paul Richards, who passed his PhD on Friday 24/10/2014, subject to minor corrections. Paul's examiners were Dr Sara Goodacre (internal) and Dr John Grahame from Leeds. The first major publication came out last year, with more to follow from his thesis "Polymorphism and Speciation in Pulmonate Land Snails: New Perspectives from Restriction Site Associated DNA Sequencing".

Following a two month placement with the Society of Biology during his PhD, Paul is now employed as a policy officer for the Society for General Microbiology.

Pictured: Paul and Sara. Unfortunately, in our excitement we forgot to take a photo until after John Grahame had left.

If you have photos of recent PhD successes that you'd like to feature in the newsletter, please send them to LS-MarketingComms.

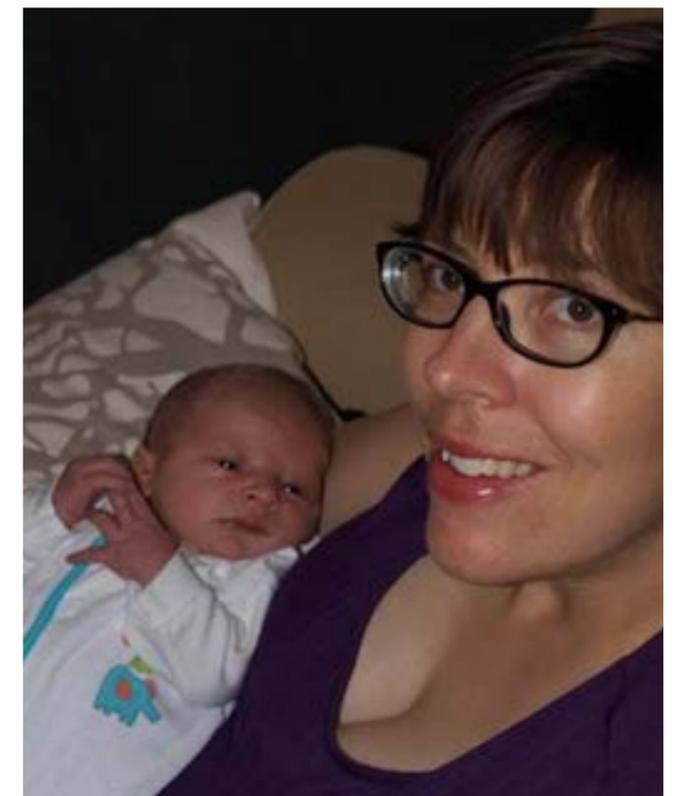
Congratulations to Kate Durrant

Congratulations to Kate Durrant our Lecturer in Behavioural Ecology on her new baby. She is Emer Ruby O'Sullivan, born Oct 25th, 8lbs 10 oz, and she is doing well.

Let us know what you want in your newsletter. Please send your articles, ideas and comments to:

LS-MarketingComms.exmail.nottingham.ac.uk

Catherine Bird : catherine.bird@nottingham.ac.uk





FRIDAY
12 DECEMBER
2014

MAKE THE WORLD BETTER WITH A SWEATER

Wear a woolly Christmas
jumper and text
TEAMSOLS
to **70050** to donate **£2**.

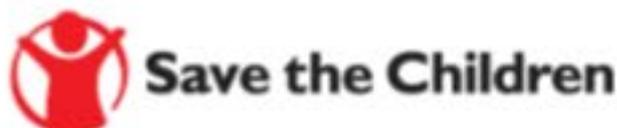
Join the woolly revolution.
christmasjumperday.org



DOUBLE THE JUMPER JOY

Every pound you give will be matched by the UK government this Christmas, doubling your donations and making an even bigger difference for children.

Please Don't Buy From Save the Children



In partnership with

George.
Exclusively at **ASDA**



Registered charity England and Wales (213896) Scotland (SC239170). You'll be billed £2 plus standard rate text message. We receive 100% of your donation. By sending this text you agree that we may contact you to tell you about our work and how you can help. We will always give you the chance to opt-out of further communications. If you would rather not receive such information, please email us at support@save-the-children.org.uk or phone 030 7011 4400 or outside UK 040 1400 in your text message.