

Life Sciences Newsletter

Department of Life Sciences

March 2014

Welcome to all New Staff...

... who started working with us during the month of February.

Research Associates:

Dr Paulina Lidia Bartasun
Mr Roberto Galizi (I-MOVE Fellowship)
Dr Cher Pheng Ooi
Dr Marina Serna Gil

Research Assistants:

Ms Rama Desai
Mr James Edward John Field
Mr David Pulido-Gomez

Research Technicians:

Miss Lara Selles Vidal

Software Developers:

Mr Filippo Mortari

Appointments

Steve Matthews has been invited and accepted to be an external examiner for BScs in Biochemistry/Biotechnology at UCL.

Miguel Bastos Araujo was appointed member of the Scientific Advisory Committee for Biological Sciences of the Portuguese Foundation for Science and Technology.

Research Grants Awarded

Richard Gill was awarded A NERC standard grant for £1.1M for research into the effect of pesticides on bee populations, of which £511,406 has been awarded for research at Silwood Park **and** a Royal Society Research Grant of £14,051 for equipment to study bee behaviour.

Pietro Spanu has been awarded an ERA CAPS (administered by the BBSRC) grant on: "Functional characterisation and validation of non-host component in the Triticeae species for durable resistance against fungal diseases". The project will run over three years (2014-2017) and is part of an EU-USA (NSF) network collaboration. The value of the award to our department is £426.763.

Media/outreach activities

James Rosindell was mentioned in 'New Scientist' for his zoomable 'tree of life', used as an opening image in a small exhibition space built entirely of nooks and crannies by Johanna Kieniewicz, the British Library's science curator.

Anita Hall has been invited by the [Learning Skills Foundation](#) to a House of Lords reception to discuss their educational neuroscience work. She was also part of the 'I'm a scientist' team that discussed the Royal Institution Christmas Lectures online with schools and the public (see further info [here](#)) and has been repeatedly invited back to schools to give talks on University life, science research and STEM careers as part of her [STEMNet](#) outreach activities. For example, she was recently invited to speak about STEM to female school students to celebrate International Women's day (March 8th).

Talks

Cristina Lo Celso has been invited to speak at the EMBO workshop on Cancer Stem Cells, September 2014.

Miguel Bastos Araujo gave a keynote address "Understanding species distributions dynamics through time" at the Royal Society UK-Brazil-Chile Frontiers of Science meeting in Chicheley Hall (Buckinghamshire) on the 24th of March.

Vincent Savolainen gave the Sporne Lecture at Cambridge University, entitled 'Sympathetic speciation on Islands' (6 March 2014).

Konstantinos Beis was invited to give a lecture at the UK-India Scientific Seminar on 'Experiments, theory and simulation of complex biological systems' in Chennai, India. This meeting was organised and funded by the Royal Society to promote collaborations between UK and Indian scientists.

Publications

David Southall's paper 'Dedifferentiation of neurons precedes tumour formation in *lola* mutants' is in press in *Developmental Cell* (available online on the 13th of March and in the 31st of March issue).

Jie Song (Song J., Rutjens B. & Dean, C.) has published a chapter entitled '[Detecting histone modifications in plants](#)' in *Methods Mol Biol* 1112:165-175 (2014).

Maruf Ali (Prischi, F., Nowak, P., Carrara, M. & Ali, MMU) has a paper accepted in *Nature Communications* entitled "Phosphoregulation of Ire1 RNase splicing activity". The paper supports the ongoing drug development project at ICR into investigating Ire1 phosphorylation activity as a target for therapeutic intervention in Multiple Myeloma.

DoLS Athena Swan

The [DoLS Academic Opportunities Committee](#) is looking forward to supporting network celebrating & supporting women in science: **Because STEM is for everyone.**

Work Life Balance

DoLS AOC highly recommends taking advantage of a wide range of support offered by the college – a selection of recommended services is listed [here](#).

Departmental Development Opportunities

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Improve your career prospects over lunch by attending the [CV CLINIC](#), developed for DoLS Postdocs Register [here](#)

A **Good Teaching Practice Workshop**, led by Pietro Spanu, will be held on Monday 31st March from 12:30-13:30 in the Link Theatre in the SECB. Bring your lunch - Tea & Coffee will be provided. All staff welcome – especially new staff!



in 2014! A

Tweets - [@Science_Grrl](#) [@annazecharia](#)
Web Page- <http://sciencegrrl.co.uk>

Issues of interest

The Bioinformatics Support Service (M. Woodbridge, G. Barton & D. Huntley) in DoLS is currently collaborating with the Royal College of Art on a project called "LabSpace". They have developed an electronic notebook for lab scientists called LabBook (<https://labbook.cc/>) with the support of the Department and the BBSRC. Students on the RCA Information Experience Design (IED) programme are using LabBook and working with researchers from FoNS and Medicine to imagine the laboratory of the future, and how to improve the planning and recording of experiments. The results will be used to submit funding applications to further develop LabBook.

On the 27th and 28th February **Prof Crisanti's group** hosted the Final Dissemination meeting of INFRAVEC (www.infravec.eu), a 12 million euro Research Infrastructure project funded by the European Commission for which Imperial was the lead institution, in a consortium under the leadership of Professor Andrea Crisanti. The project synergised research infrastructure from 31 institutions from 9 Member States and 5 International Cooperation Partner Countries operating in the field of mosquito biology in order to provide access to vector biologists who would not ordinarily have access to such research infrastructure. The meeting was composed of approximately 50 eminent vector biologists as well as invited speakers in the fields of parasitology and a poster session.

Andrew Bradley, Isabel

Rosa and Robert

Ewers held their second

workshop on Land Use

Modelling at Silwood

Park from 3rd to 5th

March as part of the

Tansley Working Group.

High calibre land use,

climate and ecological

modellers discussed

how to improve land use

modelling techniques for

the wider scientific

community.

Development of

collaborative research

has forged international

collaboration with

participants through the

production of new tools

and research projects.

The final workshop is

proposed for September

2014.

Risk Assessment Help and Advice Sessions

Want to know which risk assessment form to use?

Want help to write a risk assessment for your procedures?

Want some advice on risk reduction methods or other control measures?

Confused by the risk assessment process?



Come along to a **RISK ASSESSMENT DROP IN SESSION**

25th March 14.00 – 16.00 SAF level 4 breakout area

29th April 13.00 – 15.00 (Silwood) Hamilton Building breakout area

30th April 14.00 – 16.00 Ernst Chain building - level 4 breakout area

Stefan (Faculty Safety Manager) will be available to answer any questions you have regarding risk assessment, and give you advice and help on health and safety assessments for your work.

All welcome!

Departmental Events

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Meet the Staff Events

9 April and 7 May,
12 – 2 pm,
7th floor Common
Room (SEC Building)
–academic staff and
research fellows at SK
will introduce
themselves and their
research.

Academic Staff Meeting

26 March 2014,
2.30 pm in G47A,
Flowers Building

Departmental Seminars

02 April – Ottoline
Leyser from the
Sainsbury Laboratory,
University of
Cambridge

30 April - Oliver
Daumke from the
Max-Delbruck Centre
for Molecular
Medicine in Berlin

The 5th Emmanuelle Caron Lecture (8 May 2014)

For further details
click [here](#).