

Life Sciences Newsletter

Department of Life Sciences

August 2014

WELCOME TO ALL NEW STAFF

Research Assistants

Mariel Harrison, supervised by E.J. Milner-Gulland; **Robert Cunliffe**, supervised by Kostas Beis, **Cuong Tang**, supervised by Vincent Savolainen; **Lucas Lieber**, supervised by Bill Rutherford; **Bastian Pfeifer**, supervised by Mara Lawniczak; **Chai Chandru Gopalasingam**, supervised by So Iwata & Kostas Beis.

Research Associates

Simon Moore, supervised by Karen Polizzi; **Christopher Reynolds**, supervised by Michael Sternberg; **Sheng-Chun (Joe) Yu**, supervised by Pietro Spanu; **Qiyuan Zhao**, supervised by Geoff Baldwin; **Belinda Hall**, supervised by Gloria Rudenko; **Marta Ciechonska**, supervised by Mark Isalan.

Research Technicians

Benjamin Lester, supervised by Mara Lawniczak; **Iqrah Razzaq**, supervised by Michalis Barkoulas; **Danielle Gallagher**, supervised by Patrik Jones.

Professional Services

Delphine Thizy - Stakeholder Engagement Manager.

ATHENA SWAN

It has been agreed that the DoLS Christmas Celebrations will include a family friendly party as well as an afternoon/evening celebrations - details to be confirmed. Don't miss the email asking for your availability! If you have any ideas (especially for children's activities, Lenne (l.lillepuu@imperial.ac.uk)) would love to hear from you!

We will hold a Feedback/Networking Session(s) for all Postdoctoral Fellows and all Research Fellows in response to the Athena Swan Survey/Staff Survey results.

It has also been agreed to hold an annual 'Celebrate Success' event to recognise and celebrate staff achievements/awards - this will be held in 2015 and further details to be confirmed in the Autumn Term.

Much more exciting stuff to come... more details in the next Newsletter...stay tuned!

DEPARTMENTAL EVENTS

On **27th September**, GCEE is hosting an event at Silwood Park, "**Mobilising citizen scientists: from local to global action**". It's a fun activity day aimed at local families, but we hope anyone working in this field will be keen to come and exhibit. Contact [Victoria Ireton](#) for more information.

A workshop, funded by NERC's Tansley Working Groups funding, titled "**Let's Get Networked: Connecting Evaluation and Conservation Through Systems Thinking**" is taking place at Silwood Campus from **26th to 29th August**. Contact [Andrew Knight](#) for further details.

APPOINTMENTS

Martin Buck has joined the MRC cross council antimicrobial initiative expert panel for "understanding resistant bacteria in context of the host".

EJ J Milner-Gulland has been given an Honorary Doctorate by Hedmark University College in Norway (to be awarded in September).

Hugh Possingham is on a four member advisory committee for reform of NSW biodiversity legislation. Click [here](#) for further details.

TALKS

Damian Rivett is giving a talk at the 15th International Society of Microbial Ecology (ISME-15) conference entitled "The impact of niche overlap and bacterial diversity on ecosystem function" on the 28 August in Seoul.

Bill Rutherford will give a plenary lecture at the 12th [European Bioinorganic Chemistry Conference](#) taking place in Zurich 24th-28th August 2014 & has just accepted to give the **Krebs Lecture** at the University of Sheffield in November 2014.

Morgan Beeby gave a talk at the 28th Symposium of the Protein Society in San Diego, California on July 28th 2014 on "Evolution of Novel Components of the Bacterial Flagellar Motor".

Robert Ewers and members of his research group – **Marion Pfeifer, Veronique Lefebvre, Oliver Wearn** – gave four talks at the Association for Tropical Biology and Conservation conference in Cairns, 20-24 July 2014.

Tolga Bozkurt gave a talk at the XVI International Congress on Molecular Plant-Microbe Interactions, Rhodes, Greece (7-10th of July 2014) on "Phytophthora infestans RXLR effector PexRD54 activates plant autophagy by directly binding host ATG8 protein."

Hugh Possingham is one of the [plenary speakers](#) at the International Ornithological Congress, taking place on 18-24 August, Tokyo, Japan.

Marion Pfeifer was invited to give a keynote speech at BES Tropical Ecology Meeting in York, where she presented a talk on 15 August 2014 on analysing ecological responses to environmental change - the BIOFRAG project.

Simon Pooley led a panel (and gave a paper on) interdisciplinary research, at the second World Congress on Environmental History, convened in Guimaraes, Portugal, from 8-12 June, 2014.

FOR YOUR INFORMATION

Check out the Biochemical Society's new [Diversity in Science grants](#) (you do not need to be a member of the Biochemical Society to apply)

Reminder: Closing date for the [Junior Research Fellowships 2015](#) is 15 September 2014.

[Cancer Research UK
New Funding Schemes](#)

[Lister Institute
Research Prize](#)

MEDIA/OUTREACH ACTIVITIES

Doryen Bubeck, Marta Sawicka, Courtney Boyd, and Joanne Lo took part in Cancer Research UK's Race for Life event, [Pretty Muddy](#), on July 27th, as part of an outreach activity.



WELL DONE LADIES!:)

Michalis Barkoulas hosted an A-level student, Poppy Blagrove, for two weeks in the lab under the [in2sciencUK](#) placement scheme. Poppy learnt the ins and outs of working with *C. elegans*"

Armand Leroi discussed his latest book "The Lagoon: How Aristotle Invented Science" with Ian Sample on Science Weekly and explained why he believes Aristotle's structured approach to understanding the natural world formed the intellectual bedrock of the natural sciences. Listen to the [podcast](#).

Hugh Possingham talks on BBC Radio's Shared Planet on the Spix Macaw and Conservation Triage. [Listen to the radio programme.](#)

Simon Dures' research was mentioned in 'Wild About' magazine, the Zoological Society of London's monthly magazine. Check out the article [here](#).

Mark Isalan was the Invited Speaker for the annual Junior Prizegiving at St. Paul's School in Barnes.

Alain Filloux's new study describing "Bacterial warfare tactics", published in the journal *Cell Host and Microbe*, was reported in [Imperial College Science News](#)

RESEARCH GRANTS AND FELLOWSHIPS

Samraat Pawar has been awarded £1,071,500 by NERC for a project titled: "Can metabolic traits limit species invasions under climate change?"

Andrew Blagborough has received further funding (approx. \$1.4M) from PATH-MVI. Grant title: "Measuring the efficacy of transmission-blocking interventions on populations".

Mark Isalan was awarded an ERC Proof-of-Concept Grant (€150k) to develop the group's zinc finger transcription factor gene therapy for Huntington's disease.

Andrew Knight has been awarded R195,000 (Rands) by the Table Mountain Fund of South Africa.

Ville Friman has been awarded a £20K research grant from the British Ecological Society, the title of the application is: "Does parasitic viruses affect the *Ralstonia solanacearum* pathogen outbreaks in UK Rivers – potential for evolutionarily sustainable phage biocontrol?"

Doryen Bubeck received an INSTRUCT access award to the NeCen electron microscopy facility, Leiden NL.

PRIZES AND AWARDS

Howard Morris has been awarded the 2014 Royal Medal by the Royal Society for "Pioneering work in biomolecular mass spectrometry including strategy and instrument design enabling advanced discovery research and for outstanding entrepreneurship in biopharmaceutical characterisation accelerating the release of new medicinal products".

PUBLICATIONS

Collins JW, Keeney KM, **Crepin VF**, Rathinam VA, Fitzgerald KA, Finlay BB, **Frankel G**. had a review ([Citrobacter rodentium: infection, inflammation and the microbiota](#)) published in *Nat Rev Microbiol* 2014 Sep;12(9):612-23. doi: 10.1038/nrmicro3315. Epub 2014 Aug 4

David Richards and **Robert Endres** publication "Mechanism of phagocytosis: two stages of engulfment" has been accepted in *Biophys Journal*.

A piece by **Kathryn Lagrue** (PhD Student): "[How HIV co-opts gut bacteria to pose as a familiar infection](#)" was published in The Conversation.

Hugh Possingham's articles: "[Antarctica's Protected Areas Are Inadequate, Unrepresentative, and at Risk](#)" & "[Targeting Global Protected Area Expansion for Imperiled Biodiversity](#)" were published in *PLOS Biology* in June 2014.

Pfeifer M et al.: In defense of fences. *Science* 345, 389

Haslam SM., Dell, A et al paper [JAGN1 deficiency causes aberrant myeloid cell homeostasis and congenital neutropenia](#), published in *Nat Genet* 2014 Aug 17. doi: 10.1038/ng.3069. [Epub ahead of print]

Blagborough AM, Sinden RE et al paper "[Baculovirus-Vectored Multistage Plasmodium vivax Vaccine Induces Both Protective and Transmission-blocking Immunities against Transgenic Rodent Malaria Parasites](#)" was published in *Infection and Immunity*, ahead of print on 4 August 2014.