

Life Sciences Newsletter

Imperial College London

February 2015

[DEPARTMENTAL SEMINAR PROGRAMME](#)

[YOUR NEWSLETTER ARCHIVE](#)

WELCOME TO ALL NEW STAFF

ACADEMIC & RESEARCH

Research Associates: **Pawel Mordak** and **Ciaran Kelly**, supervised by John Heap; **Bonnie Chaban**, supervised by Morgan Beeby; **Christopher Hutchison**, supervised by Jasper van Thor; **Marc Sturrock**, supervised by Mark Isalan; **Paolo Baesso**, supervised by Giovanni Sena; **Adam McLean**, supervised by Michael Stumpf and **Tatiana Dimitriu**, supervised by Ben Raymond.

Research Assistant, **Dominic Swift**, supervised by Vincent Savolainen and Visiting Researcher, **Giulia Morselli**, working with Andrea Crisanti.

TECHNICAL SERVICES

Research Technicians: **Mark Wilkinson** & **Fabio Fisher** supervised by Jake Baum; **Christopher Waite**, supervised by Martin Buck; **Violeta Cordon Preciado**, supervised by Jasper van Thor.

PROFESSIONAL SERVICES

Ibi Wallbank, Departmental Manager (Silwood Park) & **Jennifer Bennett**, Postgraduate Administrator (P-T), based at the Teaching Office.

TALKS

Cristina Lo Celso will be talking in and chairing the ERC-funded session "Imaging the future of Cancer Research" at the AAAS meeting in San Jose, CA (12-16 February 2015).

Giorgio Gilestro has been invited to give a talk at the [Annual Drosophila Research Conference](#), held in March in Chicago.

PRIZES AND AWARDS

Doryen Bubeck has been nominated for the Student Academic Choice Award (SACA) for Best Teaching for Undergraduates!

Cesar Terrer Moreno (PhD Student) received some funds (up to 2000€) by the European Network COST, for a research visit to the University of Antwerp (Belgium) to collaborate with Dr Sara Vicca on an ambitious project titled as "an standardised metric for nutrient availability".

Nicolas Kylilis (PhD student) won second prize in the Institute of Global Health Innovation (IGHI) Student Challenges Competition. This is a Dragon's Den style competition, where he pitched his PhD project on biosensors as a solution to global health challenges.

APPOINTMENTS

Martin Buck has been appointed External Examiner for the University Cambridge's Natural Sciences Part II Biochemistry Course.

Karen Polizzi was appointed to the BBSRC Pool of Experts.

POSTDOCNEWS

Don't miss this opportunity - **2015 L'Oréal-UNESCO for Women in Science UK & Ireland Fellowship**.

[PRDPs for Postdocs](#) due 27 March 2015!

Signed up for any of the [Paths for Postdocs](#) talks?

Alexandra Anderson (DoLS Postdoc Rep) organised with the postdoc development centre a workshop on how to write Covering letters specifically for Life Science Postdocs on the 6th Feb. Watch out for emails about the **upcoming CV clinic** for Life Scientists! Particularly useful as you'll have to submit your updated CV with your PRDP form!

ATHENA SWAN

DoLS launches [Travel Awards](#) for PhD Students, Postdocs and Research Fellows!

Confused about the difference between Shared Parental Leave and Additional Paternity/Maternity Support Leave? We thought it might need some additional clarification so here it is: [HR update](#).

Not sure who sits on what committee? We have updated the information on our website, take a look: [Committees and Initiatives](#).

Here's an interesting lunchtime event you might want to take part in: [Academic & Family Life Panel Discussion](#), taking place on 26 Feb at South Kensington Campus.

Did you know that the DoLS Athena Swan Bronze Award Application & Action Plan is available to view on our [Athena Swan website](#)?

Useful Policies:

[Family Friendly Policies](#)

[Equality & Diversity Policies](#)

Staff Development Opportunities:

[Organisational & Staff Development](#)

Postdocs Dev. Opportunities:

[Postdoc Development Centre](#)

Don't miss these opportunities and sign up now:

[Female Academics' Development programme](#)

[The Springboard Women's Development Programme](#)

PERSONAL NEWS & CONGRATULATIONS

Kostas Beis and his wife **Chiaki** are proud to announce the birth of their beautiful baby boy **Hyuma**, born on the 20 January, weighing 3.4 kg.



Richard and **Jo Bowman** welcome to the world their adorable little baby girl - **Evelyn Rose**, born on 10 February, weighing at 4 kg.

A gorgeous baby boy, Lucas Camargo, was born to **Christina Banks-Leite** and **Rob Ewers**, on January 12th



Many Congratulations to **Victoria Ireton** and **Rukshan Warnacula** who got married on 2nd January in Colombo, Sri Lanka!



MEDIA/OUTREACH ACTIVITIES/EVENTS BEING HOSTED

Isabel Duarte Rosa (Research Associate) organised a meeting at ZSL that addressed the following subject: “Global land-use change: causes and consequences for biodiversity”. The event was mentioned in the BBC Wildlife Magazine.

Laurence Bugeon organised 18 Baccalaureat students from Lycée Français Charles de Gaulle (London) and their teacher together with the Senior Science Officer from the Science and Technology Department (French Embassy London) came to visit the **Flow Cytometry and FILM facilities and the Dallman lab on 02/02/15**. A presentation of research followed by some demonstrations in the two core facilities was arranged. Thanks to Debora Keller, Catherine Simpson, Jane Srivastava and Franze Progzatzky for sharing their enthusiasm!
<http://www.lyceefrancais.org.uk/visite-du-labo-d-imperial-college-pour-l-ap-ts>

Cristina Lo Celso will be holding a stand at the "women @ Imperial" VIP launch on March 10th.

Doryen Bubeck's lab participated in CRUK's social media campaign in support of World Cancer Day that took place on the 4 February.



PUBLICATIONS

Krieger, Fusco, Lewitzky, Simister, Marchant, Camilloni, Feller, **De Simone** "Conformational recognition of an intrinsically disordered protein." **Biophysical Journal**. 2014 106:1771-9 was selected by **Cell Press** for the "best of 2014", an special issue that includes the best research of the year published in Biophysical Journal and that was presented this week at the Biophysical Society Meeting in Baltimore.

Hachani A, Allsopp LP, Oduko Y, Filloux A paper [The VgrG proteins are "à la carte" delivery systems for bacterial type VI effectors](#) has been nominated [JBC paper of the year 2014](#) in Microbiology.

De Simone, Aprile, Dhulesia, Dobson, Vendruscolo "Structure of a low-population intermediate state in the release of an enzyme product" **eLife** 2015 4:e02777 was selected by eLife for being highlighted in the eLife monthly podcast.

Evans, Margery L., Chorell, E., Taylor, Jonathan D., Åden, J., Götheson, A., Li, F., Koch, M., Sefer, L., **Matthews, Steve J.**, Wittung-Stafshede, P., Almqvist, F., and Chapman, Matthew R. The Bacterial Curli System Possesses a Potent and Selective Inhibitor of Amyloid Formation. **Molecular Cell** [doi:10.1016/j.molcel.2014.12.025](https://doi.org/10.1016/j.molcel.2014.12.025)

Cardona T, Murray JW, Rutherford AW. Origin and evolution of water oxidation before the last common ancestor of the Cyanobacteria. Accepted in *Molecular Biology and Evolution* (28 January, 2015). In this paper we have been able to propose a molecular evolutionary scenario for the origin of the water oxidizing complex of Photosystem II at an unprecedented level of detail.

The recent paper from **George Christophides** group in Nature Communications about antibiotics in ingested human blood affecting the mosquito microbiota and capacity to transmit malaria has attracted much interest by the press. It was featured by a podcast in Scientific American and articles in New Scientist, The Scientist, Scientific American, Motherboard, medONLINE, USA News, Digital Journal, Geekosystem, The Mary Sue, UPI, Financial Mirror, Sun News, Top Secret Writers and others. It has also received attention from social media, with 74 tweets and 42 Facebook public wall posts.

RESEARCH GRANTS & FELLOWSHIPS

Mike Sternberg and **Lawrence Kelley** were awarded a 5-year BBSRC grant (£700K FEC) entitled "Enhancing the Phyre2 protein modelling portal". This enables them to continue delivering to the community the Phyre2 protein structure prediction server which has over 100,000 distinct users worldwide.

Tim Barraclough was awarded a NERC standard grant 'Population genomic tests for mechanisms of ecological speciation in bdelloid rotifers' for £482,145

Vincent Savolainen has been awarded a £400,384 grant by NERC for 'Disentangling the mechanisms of ecological speciation in sympatric palm species'. The duration is 3 years.

Wilfried Jonkers has been awarded a two-year MARIE SkŁodowska-CURIE Fellowship to work with **Pietro Spanu** on the "Development of functional genomic screens in yeast and micro-algae to identify conserved host cell targets of fungal effectors".

HEALTH & SAFETY

Check out the details of the Prizes for [Excellence in Health and Safety!](#)