

# Life Sciences Newsletter

Imperial College London

February 2016

[DoLS Committees and Initiatives](#)

[DoLS Newsletter Archive](#)

## WELCOME TO ALL NEW STAFF

### ACADEMIC & RESEARCH

*Research Assistants:* **Maria Giorgalli** (George Christophides). & *Research Associates:* **Constandina Pospori** (Cristina Lo Celso); **Rachael Barry** (Gad Frankel); **Ronald Lambert** (Karen Polizzi); **Natalie Andrews** (Maggie Dallman); **Laurent Dortet** (Alain Filloux); **Elaine Pegg** (Gloria Rudenko).

## PRIZES AND AWARDS

**Vincent Savolainen** was listed in 2015 Reuters World's Most Influential Scientific Minds for publishing some of the most highly cited papers in plant and animal science during 2003-2013.

**Esteban Beckwith** was awarded a Marie Curie Fellowship for two years to work with **Giorgio Gilestro**.

**Mariya Dobрева** was awarded a Marie Curie Fellowship to work with **Arkhat Abzhanov**.

The top prize of the ["Art of Research" scientific image competition](#) by Imperial Innovations went to **Arkhat Abzhanov** for his image of an alligator embryo dissected from an egg.

### USEFUL POLICIES & PROCEDURES & INFO

#### [Working at Imperial –](#)

family friendly benefits, equality and diversity, financial benefits and more...

#### [Funding Opportunities for Women](#)

#### [Equality & Diversity Policies](#)

#### [Staff Networks](#)

#### [Women @ Imperial](#)

#### [Learning & Development Centre](#)

IMPRESSIVE!



DoLS first International Women's Day Lecture will be delivered by our very own world leading scientist [Professor Anne Dell CBE FRS FMedSci.](#)



The lecture will also be streamed in the Haldane Lecture Theatre at Silwood Campus.

[Registration & further details](#)

### Useful Reads:

- The Power of Parity: How advancing women's equality can add \$12 trillion to global growth. Read [Full Report](#) or the [Executive Summary](#)
- [Gender-Heterogeneous Working Groups Produce Higher Quality Science](#)

### Reminder of some opportunities:

- [The L'Oréal-UNESCO For Women in Science UK & Ireland Fellowships Programme](#) - deadline 11 March
- [The Frances Hoggan Medal](#) - celebrating outstanding research by women in STEMM. The closing date for completed nominations is **Friday 8 April 2016**

DoLS Academic Opportunities Committee has been renamed as the [DoLS Equal Opportunities Committee](#) to represent all staff and students in the Department of Life Sciences.

A new interactive [online course](#) covering all aspects of equality and diversity launched by the [Equality, Diversity and Inclusion Centre](#)....why shouldn't we all complete this?...

## POSTDOC NEWS

First Pizza & Beer & Seminar hour to be held on Thu 25 February starting at 4 pm. Contact [Alice Grob](#) for further details if you haven't registered already!

## UPCOMING EVENTS

[CISBIO-CRICK Symposium: Modelling from Structures to Systems 7 April 2016 @ Imperial](#)

## PERSONAL NEWS

**Tony Southall** will be raising money for Alzheimer's research by running the Cambridge half marathon on the 28 February dressed as a Stormtrooper! **Every little helps – show your support [here!](#)**

**Go Tony!**



## RESEARCH GRANTS AND FELLOWSHIPS

**Michael Themis**, an Honorary Lecturer, won the Innovate UK CRACK-IT challenge Phase 1 award of £100K sponsored by GSK/Novartis. The title of the work is: 'A human IPS cell model for gene therapy vector safety evaluation'.

## TALKS

**Jim Barber** gave a Special Public Lecture at the Academy in Venice, Italy (25<sup>th</sup> January 2016), entitled "From Natural to Artificial Photosynthesis and its Global Significance". The lecture was dedicated to Professor Fabrice Rappaport who spent a postdoc year in DoLS with **Jim** and died of colon cancer a couple of weeks ago.

**Pietro Spanu** was invited to talk on "RNase-like effectors in powdery mildew interactions" at the 11th French Plant Pathology (Journée Jean Chevaugnon, 2016) conference in Aussois (France).

**Robert Weinzierl** presented an invited talk entitled "[High-Throughput Mutagenesis and Molecular Dynamics Studies of Large Recombinant Protein Complexes](#)" at "PepTalk: The Protein Science Week" – the largest gathering of protein science researchers in the world, in San Diego on January 22, 2016.

**Arkhat Abzhanov** gave an invited talk at the Keystone Symposia Conference "Molecular and Cellular Basis of Growth and Regeneration" in Breckenridge, Colorado, USA; January 10-14th, 2016.

## PUBLICATIONS

Yasin F Dagdas, Khaoula Belhaj, Abbas Maqbool, Angela Chaparro-Garcia, **Pooja Pandey**, Benjamin Petre, **Nadra Tabassum**, Neftaly Cruz-Mireles, Richard K Hughes, JanSklenar, Joe Win, Frank Menke, Kim Findlay, Mark J Banfield, Sophien Kamoun, **Tolga O Bozkurt** paper [An effector of the Irish potato famine pathogen antagonizes a host autophagy cargo receptor](#) was published in *eLife journal*, Jan 2016.

**James W. Murray** and **A. W. (Bill) Rutherford** were part of the consortium that produced the paper [Streptomyces thermoautotrophicus does not fix nitrogen](#), published in *Nature Scientific Reports* 6, Article number: 20086 (2016).

**Marina Serna**, Joanna L. Giles, B. Paul Morgan & **Doryen Bubeck's** paper [Structural basis of complement membrane attack complex formation](#) was published in *Nature Communications*, January 2016.

## MEDIA/OUTREACH ACTIVITIES/EVENTS BEING HOSTED

Dr Lisa Signorile was quoted in an article ["11th Duke of Bedford blamed for unstoppable grey squirrel invasion"](#) in *The Daily Telegraph*.

An article ["Holy grail" bacteria for crop farming debunked by scientists](#), covering the paper [Streptomyces thermoautotrophicus does not fix nitrogen](#) (James W. Murray and A. W. (Bill) Rutherford) was published on the Imperial College website as the cover page article.

An article [The immune system's cell-splitters revealed in unprecedented detail](#), covering the paper [Structural basis of complement membrane attack complex formation](#) by Marina Serna, Doryen Bubeck *et al.* was published on the Imperial website, 4 Feb 2016.

Tony Nolan and Andrea Crisanti both feature in the BBC Radio4 documentary on genome editing and gene drives. Available on [iPlayer](#).

## LAB NEWS

Doryen Bubeck's lab took part in World Cancer Day.

