

Life Sciences Newsletter

Imperial College London

July 2016

[DoLS Committees and Initiatives](#)

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WELCOME TO ALL NEW STAFF

Research Assistants: **Melina Aulino Campos de Lima** (George Christophides); **Stefi Benjamin** (Steve Matthews); **Andrew Hammond** (Andrea Crisanti) and **Alison Jacob** (Martin Bidartondo). *Professional Services:* **Charlotte Newberry** (Robert Ewers).

TALKS

David Briggs gave a talk, titled "Laminin Binds to a Novel GAG-Like Polysaccharide on the Dystroglycan Matrix Receptor" at the Proteoglycan Gordon Research conference in New Hampshire on the 13th July

Morgan Beeby gave a talk at the 'Bacterial Cell Surfaces' Gordon Research Conference at the beginning of July in Vermont, USA

Doryen Bubeck was an invited speaker at the Royal Society Discussion Meeting: Membrane Pores, from structure and assembly to medicine and technology on June 27th

PUBLICATIONS

César Terrer., Sara Vicca., Bruce A. Hungate., Richard P. Phillips., **I. Colin Prentice.** "[Mycorrhizal association as a primary control of the CO2 fertilization effect](#)". *Science*, 01 Jul 2016: Vol. 353, Issue 6294, pp. 72-74

Mkhikian H., Mortales CL., Zhou R., Khachikyan K., **Wu G.**, **Haslam SM**, Kavarian P., **Dell A.**, Demetriou M. "[Golgi self-correction generates bioequivalent glycans to preserve cellular homeostasis](#)". *Elife*. 2016 Jun 8;5: pii: e14814. doi: 10.7554/eLife.14814. [Epub ahead of print]

Thomas H.G. Ezard., & **Purvis, A.**, "[Environmental changes define ecological limits to species richness and the mode of macroevolutionary competition](#)". *Ecology Letters*, (2016) 19:899-906

Tim Newbold., **Lawrence N. Hudson.**, Andrew P. Arnell., **Sara Contu.**, **Adriana De Palma.**, Simon Ferrier., **Samantha L. L. Hill.**, Andrew J. Hoskins, Igor Lysenko, **Helen R. P. Phillips.**, **Victoria J. Burton.**, **Charlotte W. T. Chng.**, **Susan Emerson.**, **Di Gao.**, **Gwilym Pask-Hale.**, Jon Hutton., Martin Jung., **Katia Sanchez-Ortiz.**, **Benno I. Simmons.**, Sarah Whitmee., **Hanbin Zhang**, Jörn P. W. Scharlemann., **Andy Purvis.** "[Has land use pushed terrestrial biodiversity beyond the planetary boundary? A global assessment](#)" *Science*, 15 Jul 2016:Vol. 353, Issue 6296, pp. 288-291 DOI: 10.1126/science.aaf2201

With co-authors from PLOS, eLife, EMBO Journal, the Royal Society, Science and Nature journals, **Stephen Curry** co-authored a paper calling on all academic journals to publish their citation distributions as a way of challenging the over-weening influence of impact factors. This initiative aims to improve research assessment processes by making it more readily apparent that citations to individual papers vary substantially for all journals: <http://biorxiv.org/content/early/2016/07/05/062109>. News of the move has been reported in [Nature](#), [Science](#) and [PLOS](#).

Alain Filloux and Paul Freemont. "[Baseplates in contractile machines](#)". *Nature Microbiology*, 24 June 2016, Article number: 16104 (2016), doi:10.1038/nmicrobiol.2016.104

USEFUL INFORMATION:

- ▶ [College's EU referendum webpage](#)
- ▶ [Working at Imperial](#)
- ▶ [Funding Opportunities for Women](#)
- ▶ [Organisational and Staff Development](#)
- ▶ [Equality, Diversity and Inclusion Centre](#)
- ▶ [Occupational Health Service](#)
- ▶ [Postdoc Development Centre](#)

J.D. Taylor, W.J. Hawthorne, J. Lo, A. Dear, N. Jain, G. Meisl, M. Andreasen, C. Fletcher, M. Koch, N. Darvill, N. Scull, A. Escalera-Maurer, L. Sefer, R. Wenman, S. Lambert, J. Jean, Y. Xu, B. Turner, S.G. Kazarian, M.R. Chapman, D. Bubeck, A. de Simone, T.P.J. Knowles, S.J. Matthews. "[Electrostatically-guided inhibition of Curli amyloid nucleation by the CsgC-like family of chaperones](#)". *Scientific Reports*, 6 (2016) 24656.

E.N. Leen, F. Sorgeloos, S. Correia, Y. Chaudhry, F. Cannac, C. Pastore, Y. Xu, S.C. Graham, S.J. Matthews, I.G. Goodfellow, S. Curry. "[A Conserved Interaction between a C-Terminal Motif in Norovirus VPg and the HEAT-1 Domain of eIF4G Is Essential for Translation Initiation](#)". *PLoS Pathogens*, 12 (2016) e1005379.

N. Pakharukova, J.A. Garnett, M. Tuittila, S. Paavilainen, M. Diallo, Y. Xu, S.J. Matthews, A.V. Zavalov, "[Structural Insight into Archaic and Alternative Chaperone-Usher Pathways Reveals a Novel Mechanism of Pilus Biogenesis](#)", *PLoS Pathogens*, 11 (2015) e1005269.

J.D. Taylor, G. Taylor, S.A. Hare, S.J. Matthews. "[Structures of the DfsB Protein Family Suggest a Cationic, Helical Sibling Lethal Factor Peptide](#)". *Journal of Molecular Biology*, 428 (2016) 554-560.

PRIZES AND AWARDS

Rochelle Aw and **Poh-Choo Pang**, two of DoLS PDC Reps were nominated for PDC Rep Awards 2016, with Poh-Choo being a finalist for the PDC Reps Award.



Many Congratulations!

Lenne Lillepuu was awarded the 2015-16 Julia Higgins certificate for her contribution to the College's Athena SWAN work



Picture with Julia Higgins taken at the Athena SWAN Ceremony at University of Oxford collecting DoLS Athena SWAN Bronze Award (Dec 2015)

Appointments

Martin Buck is now a member of the Royal Society's Industry Fellowships Joint Panel

POSTDOC NEWS

The recent postdocs' event held at Silwood Park was a great success – postdocs learned about *the art of networking* and got to practice skills learnt at the Academic Staff Summer BBQ.



[Next Pizza & Beer session](#) is taking place on 28 July, starting at 4.30 pm. Speaker: Dr. Jianfeng Yu on “Ycf48, a “doughnut” that helps efficient assembly of Photosystem II complex”. Contact [Alice Grob](#) to register.

ATHENA SWAN

DoLS EOC committee met on the 28 June 2016 - updated Action Plan has been uploaded on the [website](#).

The College has now opened up the Elsie Widdowson Fellowship to male academic staff (in light of the recent Shared Parental Leave legislation), with effect from 1 August 2016, further details are outlined below:

Elsie Widdowson Fellowship Award

The above mentioned award will be open to eligible female and male academic staff with effect from 1 August 2016. Please see the [Elsie Widdowson Fellowship](#) webpage which contains updated information for academic staff returning to work following maternity, adoption and/or shared parental leave.

MEDIA/OUTREACH ACTIVITIES/EVENTS BEING HOSTED

Elsa Sotiriadis', (Joint Imperial/HKU PhD student) poetry on astrophysics and chaos theory was selected for publication in acclaimed literary magazine “Seitenstechen” (German).

HEALTH & SAFETY

DRIVING WHILE ON COLLEGE BUSINESS

Those using vehicles in the course of their work need to familiarise themselves with the current advice and guidance given in the College Safety Dept. [Policy and Code of Practice \(CoP\) for Driving](#).

