

Life Sciences Newsletter

Imperial College London

June 2016

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Message from the DoLS Equal Opportunities Committee

The Department of Life Sciences recognises that these are turbulent, emotional and divisive times for everyone, whether you voted for remain or to leave in the EU referendum, and wants to provide supportive spaces where any issues (whether occurring at your place of work/study or outside the College) can be discussed in a safe environment, i.e. one to one.

Members of the [DoLS Equal Opportunities Committee](#) (EOC) have volunteered to support/talk with students/staff and can be contacted via email/phone - contact details provided on the DoLS EOC website & slides on the departmental displays. Staff can also access confidential advice/support via the [Confidential Care](#) services and similarly students can access a wide range of support via the [Student Counselling and Mental Health Advice Service](#)

The College's leadership is urgently seeking clarification from the government on the longer term impact of the referendum outcome. Updates will be posted on [this page](#), and the College will also contact directly members of the community who may be affected.

WELCOME TO ALL NEW STAFF

Postdoctoral Research Associates: **Indran Mathavan** (Kostas Beis). *Research Technicians:* **Marie Laviron** (Masahiro Ono); *Professional Services:* **Charlotte Harvey** - Undergraduate Administrator (SK Campus); Visiting Researchers: **Silvia Schneider** (Gad Frankel)

RESEARCH GRANTS AND FELLOWSHIPS

Bernadette Byrne was awarded a 3-year BBSRC grant with University of Warwick: Elucidating the structure and function of plant borate transporters, 473K

Vincent Savolainen has been awarded a 2-year Research Fellowship (£50K) from the Leverhulme Trust to concentrate on research and sabbatical leave

Andrew Blagborough was awarded \$464,892 from PATH-MVI for project titled "Using a population transmission assay to evaluate waning anti-malarial vaccine efficacy and coverage"

Andrew Blagborough and **Fiona Angrisano** were awarded Imperial Confidence in Concept (Imperial/ICR/NIHR BRC/NHS) award, 1 year. Title: "Development of a novel whole-parasite anti-malarial transmission-blocking vaccine". £73,566

USEFUL INFORMATION:

- ▶ [Working at Imperial](#)
- ▶ [Funding Opportunities for Women](#)
- ▶ [Staff Networks](#)
- ▶ [Organisational and Staff Development](#)
- ▶ [Equality, Diversity and Inclusion Centre](#)
- ▶ [Occupational Health Service](#)
- ▶ [Postdoc Development Centre](#)



PRIZES AND AWARDS

[FoNS Annual Prizes for Excellence](#) reception took place on the 8 June. Many congratulations again for DoLS staff **Alfonso De Simone, Niki Gounaris & Lauren Cator** for Prizes for Excellence in Teaching and **Charles Aigbokhai, Eoin O'Gorman, Kazim Ogmen, Moira Sarsfield, Paul Hitchen, Sarah Rouse & Steve Cook** for Prizes for Excellence in the Support of Teaching and Learning.

Results of the Academic Promotions exercise for 2016: Many Congratulations to **Samraat Pawar: promotion to Senior Lecturer, Thomas Bell: promotion to Reader in Microbial Ecology & Patrik Jones: promotion to Reader in Metabolic Engineering!**

APPOINTMENTS

Ben Halpern becomes the Director of [NCEAS](#) (National Center for Ecological Analysis & Synthesis) with effect from 1 July 2016

PUBLICATIONS

Maruf Ali is an author as part of a collaborative effort that published a research article in **Cancer Cell** entitled: '[Compounds Triggering ER Stress Exert Anti-Melanoma Effects and Overcome BRAF Inhibitor Resistance](#)'

Maria L Vainieri, Andrew M Blagborough, Adam L MacLean, Myriam LR Haltalli, Nicola Ruivo, Helen A Fletcher, Michael PH Stumpf, Robert E Sinden and Cristina Lo Celso *Systematic tracking of altered haematopoiesis during sporozoite-mediated malaria development reveals multiple response points*, in press in *Open Biology*

Ciarán L. Kelly, Zilei Liu, Akihide Yoshihara, Sarah F Jenkinson, Mark R. Wormald, Jose M. Otero, Amalia M Estévez, Atsushi Kato, Mikkel H. S. Marqvorsen, George W. J. Fleet, Ramon J. Estevez, Ken Izumori, and **John T. Heap** (2016) "[Synthetic chemical inducers and genetic decoupling enable orthogonal control of the rhaBAD promoter](#)". *ACS Synthetic Biology*, in press

Michael J. Delves, Ursula Straschil, Andrea Ruecker, Celia Miguel-Blanco, Sara Marques, Jake Baum, Robert E. Sinden "*Routine in vitro culture of P. falciparum gametocytes to evaluate novel transmission blocking interventions*", accepted by *Nature Protocols*

Sarah Filippi, Chris P. Barnes, Paul D.W. Kirk, Takamasa Kudo, Katsuyuki Kunida, **Siobhan S. McMahon**, Takaho Tsuchiya, Takumi Wada, Shinya Kuroda, **Michael P.H. Stumpf** [Robustness of MEK-ERK Dynamics and Origins of Cell-to-Cell Variability in MAPK Signaling](#), *In Cell Reports*.

Sara Planamente, Osman Salih, **Eleni Manoli**, David Albesa-Jové, Paul S Freemont and **Alain Filloux** [TssA forms a gp6-like ring attached to the type VI secretion sheath](#) Published online 10/06/2016, *The EMBO Journal* (2016), DOI 10.15252/embj.201694024

Joppa, L., B. O'Connor, P. Visconti, C. Smith, J. Geldmann, M. Hoffmann, J.E.M. Watson, S.H.M. Butchart, M. Virah-Sawmy, **B.S. Halpern**, S.E. Ahmed, A. Balmford, W.J. Sutherland, M. Harfoot, C. Hilton-Taylor, W. Foden, E. Di Minin, S. Pagad, P. Genovesi, J. Hutton, N.D. Burgess. 2016. Global threats to biodiversity. *Science* 352: 416-418

Golden, C.D., E.H. Allison, W.W.L. Cheung, M.M. Dey, **B.S. Halpern**, D.J. McCauley, M. Smith, B. Vaitla, D. Zeller, S.S. Myers. 2016. Fall in fish catch threatens human health. *Nature* 534: 317-319

POSTDOC NEWS

Next Beer, Pizza & [Talk by Tanai Cardona](#) is taking place this **Thursday 30 June at 4.30 pm in 7th floor Common Room**, SEC Building. Contact [Alice Grob](#) to register.

MEDIA/OUTREACH ACTIVITIES/EVENTS BEING HOSTED

Julia Schroeder was quoted in an article "[Birds sense if partners are unfaithful and retaliate by providing less food](#)" The Telegraph (1 June) and a news story on her research [Sparrows with unfaithful 'wives' care less for their young](#) was published on Imperial Website.

George Christophides, Bob MacCallum and Ioannis Kirmizoglou recently attended the 1st International Symposium for Infectious Diseases: Vector-Borne Disease in Shenzhen, China. George and Ioannis gave invited talks on the lab's research and the VectorBase genomics and population biology resource. Bob and Ioannis led a two day VectorBase workshop for 33 participants. This was the first ever such workshop in Asia. The trip was useful in forging links with the active research community in China, and to coordinate informatics responses to the global challenge of vector borne diseases.

Dina Vlachou was an invited speaker at the "1st International Symposium for infectious diseases: Vector-borne diseases" at Shenzhen, Guangdong, China (31st May - 1st June 2016). The title of her talk was "A search for new targets to block malaria transmission".

Elsa Sotiriadis, Joint Imperial/Hong Kong PhD student, premiered a genetic orchestra in a keynote talk at the Hofburg Imperial Palace in Vienna to celebrate S.T.E.M. in front of over 2'500 attendees of the Pioneers Festival. Composer Stuart Mitchell transformed the genetic code of the Syn3.0 minimal genome (JVCI) into a classical orchestra, which she triggered from her hand via an implanted microchip.

DEVELOPMENT & VOLUNTEERING OPPORTUNITY

[Staff Supporters Scheme](#) – a brand new initiative that will help all staff access the support and guidance they need. It will offer an impartial and confidential service that will sit outside of the existing management and HR structure to provide information direct to staff.

Why not volunteer to help others by pointing them in the right direction when they need help?
Closing date for applications is Friday 22 July.

