

Life Sciences Newsletter

Imperial College London

November 2015

[DoLS Committees and Initiatives](#)

[DoLS Newsletter Archive](#)

[THE Life Sciences world rankings](#) show that DoLS has gone up four places to now be in the top six! This is a wonderful achievement (following on from a stellar REF2014 performance last year). DoLS also outranks MIT, Princeton, ETH, UCL etc. For such a relatively 'young' Department, this is remarkable. The new College Strategy talks about 'maintaining world-class core academic disciplines' and there's no doubt that DoLS is now firmly in the 'world-class' category. Well done to all colleagues!

WELCOME TO ALL NEW STAFF

ACADEMIC & RESEARCH

Research Assistants: **Charles Cotton** (Bill Rutherford); **Dimitrios Katsanos** & **Sneha Latha Koneru** (Michalis Barkoulas); **Dimitrios Georgios Kontopoulos** (Samraat Pawar); **Sophie McKenna** (Steve Matthews); **Owen Osborne** (Vincent Savolainen); **Ernest Cheng So** (Gad Frankel).

Research Associates: **Michail Fasseas** (Michalis Barkoulas); **Reuben Nowell** (Tim Barraclough); **David Ruano Gallego** (Gad Frankel); **Andrea Sauerwein** (Steve Matthews); **Qiyuan Zhao** (Geoff Baldwin); **Martina Valentini** - ARC Early Career Fellowship (Alain Filloux); **Katherine Wright** - Sir Henry Wellcome Fellowship (Jake Baum).

Research Fellows: **Despoina Mavridou** (Alain Filloux).

PROFESSIONAL, TECHNICAL AND OPERATIONAL SERVICES, AND LEARNING & TEACHING FAMILIES

Technicians - **Antje Girndt** (Julia Schroeder). *Research Technicians:* **Cian Duggan** & **Alexia Toufexi** (Tolga Bozkurt); **Pedro Miguel Coelho de Almeida** (Tim Barraclough); **Mariana Reis Wunderlich**, **Francesco Carpi**, **Taylor Lura**, **Dario Meacci** (Tony Nolan); **Faye Rodgers** (George Christophides) & **Giulia Morselli** (Andrea Crisanti).

USEFUL POLICIES & PROCEDURES & INFO

[Working at Imperial](#) –

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

[Equality & Diversity Policies](#)

[Staff Networks](#)

[Women @ Imperial](#)

[Learning & Development Centre](#)

[Disability Support for staff](#)

RESEARCH GRANTS & FELLOWSHIPS

Maruf Ali has been awarded a CRUK Senior Fellowship. This is a prestigious 6 year award that provides salaries for Maruf and his research team, and includes all consumable costs and equipment, total value above £2M.

Alain Filloux has been awarded a BBSRC grant for £435K. The title is: Type VI secretion in *Pseudomonas* species: bacterial competition and biocontrol, the Co-I is **Martin Buck**.

Maggie Dallman was awarded NC3Rs studentship for "Refinement of hematopoietic cell transplantation using optical imaging in zebrafish".

Eoin O'Gorman was successful in NERC's recent Highlights Topic call, with a grant (worth £1.25M), starting next month groundtruthing eDNA techniques in various marine environments (estuaries, coastal seas, and the Southern Ocean).

A new, two-year, project grant from the MRC Newton Call awarded jointly between our group in SK and the group of Dr. Kesinee Chotivanich and Prof. Nick White at Mahidol University was awarded to explore the role of Artemisinin resistance in parasite transmission. **Jake Baum** (PI-UK), Kesinee Chotivanich (Co-I Thailand), Sasithon Pukrittayakamee (Co-I Thailand), Nicholas White (Co-I Thailand). Preventing the transmission of artemisinin resistant falciparum malaria. January 2016 to December 2017.

Masahiro Ono has been awarded a BBSRC Impact Acceleration Account Funding, 15k.

Talks

Nick Franks gave Plenary talks at the Chinese Society of Anesthesia in Xi'an, the Swedish Society of Anesthesia and Intensive Care in Stockholm, and a Keynote talk at the World Sleep Congress in Istanbul.

Invited talk from **Jake Baum** to the British Blood Transfusion Society (BBTS) Annual Red Cell Special Interest Group (SIG) meeting at Bristol NHS Blood Transfusion Service (Oct 30th 2015) entitled "*The Mechanics of Malaria Parasite Invasion into the Erythrocyte*".

Kostas Beis gave an invited talk and chaired part of the 'Antibiotic resistance and Antibiotic alternatives' conference, Nov 2015.

George K. Christophides was an invited speaker at the XL Annual Congress of the Brazilian Society of Immunology held in the city of Guarujá of the State of Sao Paulo from 24th to 28th October. His talk was entitled "Complement activation and parasite evasion in malaria vector mosquitoes".

Stephen Hare gave a talk at the Cold Spring Harbor Asia conference on Bacterial Infection and Host Defense in Suzhou, China (first week in Nov).

PUBLICATIONS

Michalis Barkoulas contributed to a collaborative paper on cell invasion behaviour in *C. elegans*. Their paper entitled "Invasive Cell Fate Requires G1 Cell-Cycle Arrest and Histone Deacetylase-Mediated Changes in Gene Expression" was published in the latest issue of *Developmental Cell*. The paper is relevant to metastatic cancer and has already attracted [attention in the media](#).

Aquino G, Wingreen NS, **Endres RG** "Know the single-receptor sensing limit? Think again." accepted in J Stat Phys.

Structural analysis of hemoglobin binding by HpuA from the Neisseriaceae family Chi T. Wong, Yingqi Xu, Akshari Gupta, James A. Garnett, **Steve J. Matthews, Stephen A. Hare**

PRIZES AND AWARDS

Magda Charalambous has been awarded a Senior Fellowship from the Higher Education Academy.

APPOINTMENTS

Maggie Dallman was appointed to the External Advisory Board of Tokyo Tech University.

Nick Franks has been appointed to the Hooke Committee of the Royal Society.

ATHENA SWAN

DoLS Celebrated [Athena SWAN](#) Success:



POSTDOC NEWS

DoLS invites postdocs to get involved with DoLS Postdoc Committee! What's in it for me, you ask? How about: gain valuable experience in representing postdocs' voice at departmental meetings. **Let [Lenne](#) know by 9 Dec whether you would be interested in getting involved.** Many thanks to [Poh-Choo Pang](#), [Masue Marbiah](#) & [Joe Yu](#) for already volunteering to represent DoLS postdocs and actively engaging with the Postdoc Development Centre and the Department!

MRC Fellowship Pop-up 30 Nov 12:30 – 13:30, SK Campus.

Thinking of applying for the [MRC Career Development Award](#)? To register via [qualtrics form](#).

Ever found yourself procrastinating? Fancy trying a new strategy to get things done/written up? Join [DoLS Group Writing Session](#) on 4 Dec and find out if this is for you! Why not?!

MEDIA/OUTREACH ACTIVITIES/EVENTS BEING HOSTED

Eoin O'Gorman was involved in the following of outreach activities over the past month: a show and tell at the final of the UK's Water Explorer initiative and promoting the RRS Discovery while it was moored on the Thames alongside the HMS Belfast.

Stephen Curry's pieces "[Science is vital – and so is making the argument for science](#)" and "[Cosmonauts v astronauts: with these Space Race treasures, everyone wins](#)" were published in The Guardian (5 Nov & 18 Nov). **Stephen** was also quoted in an article "[Campaign urges protest over UK science funding decline](#)" published by [Research Information](#) (23 October).

Austin Burt's work was mentioned in an article "[Gene drive gives scientists power to hijack evolution](#)" STAT (18 November).

LABNEWS

Baum lab retreat at Ghyll Manor in Surrey with a visit to Denbies Winery - after a day of intensive scientific talks and discussions, shaping a new 5-year plan for our combined research group, we all gloved up and went grape harvesting at Denbies Winery (with tasting afterwards of course).



It was a really good way for the group to get to know each other better, to let the fresh air spark new ideas and benefit from everyone's individual expertise away from the relentless demands of London life.