

Life Sciences Newsletter

Imperial College London

September 2015

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WELCOME TO ALL NEW STAFF

Brian Hollis – Lecturer in Ecology and Evolution

Wilfried Jonkers - Horizon 2020 Marie Skłodowska-Curie Individual Fellow

Research Assistants: **Diego Barcena Menendez** (Mark Isalan); **James Budzak & Haneesh Kaur Sidhu** (Gloria Rudenko); **Tian Geng** (Isabel Moraes); **William Hawthorne** (Steve Matthews); **Mostafa Jamshidiha** (Ernesto Cota Segura); **Jayneil Rajesh Patel** (Alfonso De Simone)

Research Associates: **Thomas Vogwill** (Thomas Bell) and **Masue Meimei Marbiah** (Mark Isalan)

Technicians: **Rishi De-Kayne** (Vincent Savolainen)

Research Technicians: **Mark Wilkinson** (Jake Baum) & **Xeni Miliara** (Steve Matthews)

TALKS

Allison Hunter was a star at the recent [S-Lab Conference](#), held at the University of Leeds (16-17 Sept), where she presented three talks on *lab freezer energy saving; how to improve the science and efficiency in a new zebrafish aquarium facility & making a difference in your technical career*.

Masahiro Ono was an invited speaker at a prestigious session of the [45th Annual Meeting of the European Society for Dermatological Research](#), Rotterdam, 10th Sep 2015.

Bill Rutherford gave a talk at the GRC on Photosynthesis in July in Boston: “oxidative stress in photosynthesis”.

Colin Turnbull presented an invited talk entitled “The genetic basis of variation of virulence in pea aphid on defined host genotypes” at ENT015, the Royal Entomological Society Annual Meeting in Dublin, 3rd Sep 2015.

Gérald Larrouy-Maumus gave a talk at the Acid Fast Club, bringing the UK’s largest mycobacteria research community together on July 3rd on “Lipid-based identification of mycobacteria by MALDI-TOF MS”.

PUBLICATIONS

Stephen Curry’s lab’s latest paper has been submitted to a journal for peer review but in the meantime they have made the manuscript available as a preprint via the [bioRxiv](#).

Ben Halpern et al “Climate velocity and the future global redistribution of marine biodiversity”, published in Nature Climate Change - Letters, 31 Aug 2015, DOI: 10.1038/NCLIMATE2769.

“Energetics of proton release on the first oxidation step in the water oxidizing enzyme” by Keisuke Saito, William **A. Rutherford**, and Hiroshi Ishikita [Paper #NCOMMS-15-10118B] – accepted in Nature Communications.

USEFUL POLICIES & PROCEDURES & INFO

[Working at Imperial](#)

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

[Shared Parental Leave Explained via Case Studies](#)

[Equality & Diversity Policies](#)

[Staff Networks](#)

[Women @ Imperial](#)

["Wiring of Photosystem II to Hydrogenase for Photoelectrochemical Water Splitting"](#), Dirk Mersch, Chong-Yong Lee, Jenny Zhenqi Zhang, **Katharina Brinkert**, Juan C. Fontecilla-Camps, **A. William Rutherford**, and Erwin Reisner, *J. Am. Chem. Soc.*, 25 June 2015, DOI: 10.1021/jacs.5b03737.

A glycomic approach reveals a new mycobacterial polysaccharide. **Larrouy-Maumus G**, Gilleron M, Skovierová H, Zuberogioitia S, Brennan PJ, Puzo G, Jackson M, Nigou J. *Glycobiology*. 2015 Aug 10. pii: cwv061. [Epub ahead of print]

Cholesterol acquisition by *Mycobacterium tuberculosis*. **Larrouy-Maumus G**. *Virulence*. 2015 Jul 4;6(5):412-3. doi: 10.1080/21505594.2015.1053688.

The presence of a galactosamine substituent on the arabinogalactan of *Mycobacterium tuberculosis* abrogates full maturation of human peripheral blood monocyte-derived dendritic cells and increases secretion of IL-10. Wheat WH, Dhoubi R, Angala SK, **Larrouy-Maumus G**, Dobos K, Nigou J, Spencer JS, Jackson M. *Tuberculosis (Edinb)*. 2015 Jul;95(4):476-89. doi: 10.1016/j.tube.2015.04.002. Epub 2015 May 14.

Luca Cornetti, Luis Valente, Luke T. Dunning, Xueping Quan, Richard A. Black, Olivier Hébert and **Vincent Savolainen**, "[The genome of the 'great speciator' provides insights into bird diversification](#)", published in *Genome Biology and Evolution*, Sept 2nd, 2015.

ATHENA SWAN

The Athena SWAN results for the April 2015 round will be officially announced on **Thursday 1 October!**

[Opening Doors Conference](#)

20 Oct 2015

An interdisciplinary conference on gender in education.

Coaching at Imperial

The Royal Society's Third [Annual Diversity Conference: Pride and Prejudice – breaking down barriers in science](#)
– 23 Nov 2015

Advice and Counselling for staff

[New scheme for biomedical scientists: Springboard](#) - offers a bespoke package of support to biomedical researchers at the start of their first independent post to help launch their research careers.

Mentoring at Imperial

PRIZES AND AWARDS



Allison Hunter won the 2015 S-Lab 'Making a Difference' Award that recognises Excellence and Innovation in Laboratory Design, Operation and Management, Sept 2015.

TECH NEWS

Regular meetings for technical staff will now take place (the second meeting is on 30th Sept) to encourage sharing of information and best practice within DoLS. Allison Hunter will be encouraging the continuing technical development of all support, teaching and research funded technical staff through formal and informal means.

Facilities

RCS1 Plant Growth Rooms: Estates apologise for the length of time the multiple failures on all systems have taken to expedite.

Equipment

Did you know that there are 433 fridges and freezers in DoLS at South Kensington!

Two -80 degree C freezers are available in SAFB as decant space when defrosting your own freezer. -20 degree C space is also available.

In the near future it is intended to roll out freezer maintenance and housekeeping programme throughout DoLS. Badly maintained and energy inefficient -80 degree C freezers cost about £850 per annum to run. Well maintained energy efficient models cost £350-500 per annum.

There is a queuing system in operation and more slots for defrosting will be available - contact Danny Peckham & Allison Hunter if you wish to book to defrost your units.

POSTDOC NEWS

DoLS Bespoke Training Series: don't miss the [PRDP Briefing](#) sessions, held on 1 Oct.

...to access the advice/specific guidance on grant applications by DoLS pool of volunteers all Postdocs should contact Lenne Lillepuu (l.lillepuu@imperial.ac.uk) in the first instance **at least 6 weeks before their application deadline**

RESEARCH GRANTS & FELLOWSHIPS

Alfonso De Simone has been awarded a 1 year grant from BBSRC within the IB Catalyst scheme (Innovate UK), which boosts collaboration between academia and industry. The grant is for an early stage project with Unilever entitled "Novel Formulation Design Strategy" for an overall value of £229,948 (combined academic and industrial side).

MEDIA/OUTREACH ACTIVITIES/EVENTS BEING HOSTED

Two collections have been organised at Silwood Park in aid of the international refugee crisis. Staff and students were quick to donate clothes, books, toys, food and toiletries which will be sent directly to Syria and to Calais. **Many thanks to everyone for their donations!**



Stephen Curry's article "[Let's be more frank with colleagues and students](#)" was published in Times Higher Education, 27 Aug 2015 and his article [Peer review, preprints and the speed of science](#) was published in the Guardian, 7 Sept 2015. Stephen was also quoted in an article "[Grant delay unrelated to spending review fears, BBSRC insists](#)" published in the Times Higher Education.

John Fa was quoted in an article "[Vultures are new target for African bushmeat and medicine trade](#)", published by the New Scientist, 1 Sept 2015.

Armand Leroi co-signed the "[Blue Sky](#)" research" The Times, Letters to the Editor, published in The Times, 22 September 2015.

James Rosindell was quoted in an article "[First comprehensive tree of life shows how related you are to millions of species](#)", published by Science Magazine, 21 September 2015.

**WISHING YOU ALL A GREAT START OF THE NEW ACADEMIC YEAR –
KEEP UP THE GREAT WORK & AUTOGRAPH IT WITH EXCELLENCE :)**