

MONTHLY UPDATE

DEPARTMENT OF BIOCHEMISTRY

March 2016

It seems like no time at all since I wrote my article for the last of these monthly updates. Since then, however, the teaching year has begun, we have welcomed the new fourth year students to the department, and mid-semester break is almost upon us.

For Biochemistry it seems that the year has got off to a very good start even though the higher enrolments in the BIOC and GENE 300-level papers mean some of the lectures are now outside of the department. Despite this, the papers appear to be going well and I particularly note that during my visits to laboratory classes over the last few weeks I have seen a high-level of interaction. Well done to the demonstrators, who were showing a great deal of enthusiasm and professionalism.

As many of you will have seen, the new labs are not only finished, but are actually in working order at last. It has been very frustrating for all concerned not to be able to use them while we waited for PC2 certification. There are still a few teething problems but it is nice to have new purpose built facilities.

For me, I have just returned from a very great conference in Whistler, near Vancouver. It was so good to spend the week thinking and talking about research. I just wish my schedule would allow me some hope of getting into the lab to actually do some.



Catherine

Conferences

Recent attendance

Catherine Day “Keystone Symposia for the 2016 conference on: Ubiquitin Signaling” Whistler, BC, Canada 13-17 March

Lynette Brownfield “The 24th International Congress on Sexual Plant Reproduction and the Frontiers in Sexual Plant Reproduction IV” Tucson, Arizona, USA 18-23 March

Upcoming

Russell Poulter “International Congress on Transposable Elements (ICTE) 2016” St Malo, France 16-19 April

Anita Dunbier “American Association for Cancer Research Annual Meeting” New Orleans, USA 16-20 April

Richard Macknight “Developing Crops of the Future” conference, Australia 19-21 April

PhD/MSc completions:

Congratulations to the following students, who have recently completed the requirements for their degrees:

Anna Seybold (PhD) supervised by Craig Marshall has gone to a post-doctoral position in Germany

Bryony Telford (PhD) supervised by Parry Guilford, is intending to travel before continuing with her career.

Tim Crawford (PhD) co-supervised by Julian Eaton-Rye, has gone to a post-doctoral position in Sweden

Sinothai Poen (PhD) supervised by Kurt Krause, has taken up a lectureship in Thailand

Health & Safety

There is an MPI audit in April, the focus is going to be on uncleared biological (UCB) registers. So make sure that if UCB is finished your form, and my copy, have the date on which it was destroyed.

Have a safe and happy Easter.

New arrivals

Sam Taylor-Wardell is now an ARF in the Lamont Lab.



Amirah Mohamad - Senior Technician - Prep room



Lisa Denny - Technician - Prep room



Maximillian Ehrhardt - PhD student with Monica Gerth



Suzanne Warring - ARF with Monica Gerth



Nicola Codini - Visiting appointment in the Tate Lab



Attika Rehman - PhD student with Iain Lamont



Scott Lawrence - RA with Monica Gerth

Building & Equipment

Peter Small starts work with Murray Cockerill on the first of April as the Building and Electronics Manager. He will be learning all the ins and outs of the department equipment and building, and will hopefully become well prepared so that Murray has time to take a few days off.

You will have noticed the new commercial dishwasher in the kitchen. It's rather different from the domestic ones we've had until now, and will take a while to sort out exactly what needs to be done to get the dishwashing process streamlined. In the interim Murray is going to put up some hooks to hang the out-of-use racks on, and he will eventually build some shelves for them and the other kitchen equipment. For now, please drain your cups and rinse plates well before placing in the rack.

A reminder also, that everyone should be doing their part to keep the kitchen area clean and tidy. E.g. Loading and unloading the dishwasher, setting it going when full, and wiping the bench.

Purchasing

Interlab have a sale on flat cap tubes and pipette tips.

Lab supply have specials on petri dishes, cryovials and syringe filters, plus an introductory offer on a new microdialysis device.