

# MONTHLY UPDATE

## DEPARTMENT OF BIOCHEMISTRY

December 2018



The end of the year is in sight, and if you are like me it is hard to believe that we have reached this point so quickly! I think the speed at which the year has gone by is probably linked to 2018 having been a very busy and successful year for the Department. We have highlighted and celebrated a number of successes during the year (also see overleaf) – and we will celebrate a few more at the Christmas party.

However, as we have just completed another academic year here I want to highlight the teaching achievements of the last year. In 2018 we had our largest 100-level and 200-level classes for many years, as well as strong cohorts at 300- and 400-level. More importantly, not only have the classes been large but the students have achieved excellent results. This is a credit to everyone involved in teaching – from the lecturers who have revitalised their lectures, lab demonstrators who have helped and inspired the students, teaching lab technical staff who have ensured the labs run like clockwork, and the teaching & professional practice fellows who have fostered a sense of community that cares about student wellbeing and achievement. I have the pleasure of reviewing many individual and course appraisals, and the high level of commitment and care shown by everyone involved shines through – thank you!

On Saturday we have our final graduation function for the year. We have so many MSc and PhD graduands that they can not all be accommodated on the same day, but have had to be distributed amongst the various ceremonies taking place this week. This is very disappointing for all concerned, as our graduands are unable to share their big day with all of their peers.

The end of this year is also a time for some farewells - in November we had a fun day celebrating the significant contribution Russell Poulter has made to the Department. Although he has given his last scheduled lecture, he will continue to be about in a part time research-only role – and I suspect little arm twisting will be required to get him to do another journal club! Next week we will farewell Tim after 18 years as the storeman in the department. We are all extremely grateful for the quiet but efficient way in which Tim has supported the Department over those years. A remarkable level of service – thank you Tim and best wishes for your next adventure. Debbie is also leaving us for the 'South campus' after 5 years of supporting the Department. I know she will be about in January, but here I want to acknowledge the significant effort she has devoted to ensuring the Department accounts are in order and that we have a strong financial platform to underpin future success. Luckily it's not all about farewells, as we also welcome Nigel and Ethan to the Department and hope that they are happy working with us.

I look forward to celebrating the many successes and relaxing at the Department Christmas party next week – I hope everyone comes along, it is sure to be fun!

Have a good break, rest have fun and recharge your batteries ready for another year of fun!

*Catherine*

Biochemistry

# END OF YEAR PARTY

Thursday December 20th at 2pm | Alhambra Rugby Club Rooms.



## Where to from here Warren?

Congratulations to Warren Tate, who this year rounded off his collection of honours with the Marsden Medal, awarded by the New Zealand Association of Scientists to “honour a lifetime of outstanding service to the cause or profession of science, in recognition of service rendered to the cause or profession of science in the widest connotation of the phrase.”

In 2010 Warren received the Rutherford Medal (from the Royal Society of New Zealand to “recognize exceptional contributions to the advancement and promotion of public awareness, knowledge and understanding in addition to eminent research or technological practice by a person or group in any field of science, mathematics, social science, or technology”) and in 2011 he was named as a Companion of the New Zealand Order of Merit for “services to science”.

As far as we can see, he’s run out of achievements, at least in New Zealand ...

## PhD/MSc completions:

The following students have completed all the requirements for their degrees since the September newsletter:

### MSc

**Yip Ying Joycelyn Ho** (Poulter Lab), who has moved back to Wellington while she decides on her next career move.

**Michaela Hickland** (Ledgerwood Lab) is now working at Zentech

**Charlotte Armstrong** (Gerth Lab) is a technical laboratory assistant with Scion in Christchurch in their Forest Systems Ecology Group.

**Ashley Campbell** (Krause Lab) has started a PhD in the USA

**Padmini Parthasarathy** (Merriman Lab) has a job with Stephen Robertson in Women’s and Childrens’ Health.

## Purchasing

The department will be closed for deliveries from 21 December until 7 January 2019.

Lynn will be on leave until 14th Jan, orders will still be processed from the 7th Jan if placed through the normal on line system.

## PhD

**Chun Shen Lim** (Brown Lab) is starting a post-doc with Paul Gardner as soon as he graduates this weekend.

**Astra Heywood** (Lamont Lab) is continuing to work for Iain as an ARF.

**Jessica Thomson** (Lamont Lab) is writing up papers from her thesis.

**Rongmei Wu** (Macknight Lab) Rongmei continues to work for Plant and Food Research in Mt Albert, Auckland

**Jiffinvir Khosa** (Macknight Lab) has a postdoc carrying on with onion work in Madison, USA, starting next year.

**Benjamin Peters** (Brownfield Lab), as most of you will be aware, Ben is now teaching BIOC 192.

**Murray Cadzow** (Merriman Lab) is continuing to work part time with Tony Merriman and has a new part time digital literacy training role with Mik Black for the Division of Health Sciences.

## DEPARTMENT GRADUATION FUNCTION

**Saturday 15th December, 10 am**

## New arrivals



Nigel Alefosio is our new stores manager



Ethan Harrex is our new finance manager



Ciaran Cuddy is an ARF in the Dearden Lab



Andrew Oliphant is a post-doc in the Dearden Lab