

MONTHLY UPDATE

DEPARTMENT OF BIOCHEMISTRY

February 2020

Happy new year and welcome back everyone. I hope you had a good summer break doing something you love.

First some party thanks. To Shar and her merry band of helpers for the Christmas party. Some of the lab film promo posters can still be found adorning our corridors and we got to learn some new party games from some of the more agile support staff! Also, thanks to those who helped me with the HOD change over party. It was a lovely night facilitated by a particularly astute MC where many stories were told and masked HODs were seen gathering (photo evidence below).

Shar and her demonstrators have already delivered our first 2020 teaching experience to Hands on Science students, exposing them to the molecules of life. The regular crop of students is nearly upon us for another year, and teaching planning is well underway. Our 3rd year classes are particularly huge this year, which could provide some challenges for us!

Building refurbishment continues with our new seminar room nearly ready and almost fully booked as a pool room (not of the ball and cue variety!). The tearoom refurbishment is currently on hold awaiting approval on budget so is likely to be somewhat delayed, but very fancy when it finally gets done. Other refurbishments to look forward to this year are the remodeling of Steph's old lab and the start of the 3rd floor refurbishment.

On the research front our FB page has been chocker with publication feeds from staff and students, and a good number of Marsdens have been submitted, including a number of Fast Starts from our younger researchers. A large cohort

of summer students has been beaver away over summer getting a first taste of life in a research setting. One of them, Jennifer Palmer, made us very proud earlier this year when it was announced that she had won the Prince of Wales Prize, the University's top undergraduate, award which recognises both academic ability and extra-curricular interests. Jennifer will be in the Department for her 400-level studies.

All the best for a fun and productive year!



From Catherine

I want to take this opportunity to thank everyone in the Department for your support over the last 5 years. It has been a privilege and an honour to be the HOD. I have taken great pride in seeing the accomplishments of the staff and students in the Department during this time. Biochemistry is the envy of many around the University and we have much to be proud of!

Thank you also to those who contributed to the various gifts - very generous and thoughtful.

I now look forward to have a few less worries and finding some new challenges to keep life interesting.



Purchasing

Sending packages:

If you wish to send any documents/paper this can be organised by Biochemistry reception.

If you wish to send anything biological or chemical this can be organised by Lynn or Nigel. Can all biological or chemical goods for pick up by couriers please be left outside Nigel's office in the store & not taken to the reception office.

PhD travel funding

A reminder that applications for the Marjorie McCallum travel scholarship close on **1st March**. An overseas workshop or laboratory visit will enhance your PhD research, so get to it!

New arrivals



Dr Anastasia McKinlay is visiting the Gardner Lab



Noah Collins is a PhD student visiting the Merriman Lab

Health, Safety and Compliance

I hope you have all enjoyed your “summer” break – please take care on those odd rainy summer days, the entrance floors will be slippery.

Our new sharps containers have been validated for autoclaving, and have been distributed throughout the department. Full bins should be placed in the labelled container in the autoclave room for autoclaving (please don't put them in the cage). Let me know if your lab did not receive any.

A reminder that departmental refresher training is coming up, with a list in reception to check if you need to attend.

Looking forward a successful year of teaching and research with you!

Ngā mihi,

Jackie



Michelle Gdanitz is Craig Marshall's new ARF



Professor Daniel Shain is visiting the Dearden Lab



Samarth (no last name) is the new Postdoc in the Macknight Lab.



Professor William Montfort is visiting Catherine Day's Lab.



Zahra Shafaei is a new PhD student in Liz Ledgerwood's Lab.

Happy Hour

The first Happy Hour for 2020 will be on the 6th March.

It will be a welcome to the new postgrad students, so please come along and show them how convivial we can be.