

MONTHLY UPDATE

DEPARTMENT OF BIOCHEMISTRY

November 2015

I would like to extend a warm, if somewhat dusty and noisy, welcome to the 2015/2016 summer students. We hope you find your way around despite the disruptions, and enjoy your summer working with us

Congratulations are in order for all staff who received promotions in the latest round, and it is a real thrill to be able announce that we will have three new professors in February: Peter Dearden, Sally McCormick, and Tony Merriman. These promotions are well deserved, and we can expect an exciting programme of Inaugural Professorial Lectures to attend next year.

IPLs are for the future however, in the present, staff are busy with marking and examiners meetings. This hectic time of year will soon be over though, and then we can get down to the main business of summer, which is of course research. Research in the displaced laboratories will no doubt be somewhat challenging, but we will have nice new labs to look forward to next year.



Conferences

Recent attendance

Sally McCormick, Australasian Atherosclerosis Society, Fremantle, Australia: 21-23 October 2015

Upcoming

Wayne Patrick, Mechanisms of Protein Evolution Conference, Denver: 8-10 November 2015

Catherine Day, 13th Conference of Asian Crystallographic Association (AsCA), Calcutta, India: 5-8 December 2015

Monica Gerth, Gordon Research Conference: Sensory Transduction in Microorganisms, Ventura, California: 17-22 January 2016

IT

A reminder that Sophos Anti-Virus is available for any computer used by any member of staff or any student on any computer they use or own. Please visit sophos.otago.ac.nz

Purchasing

If people would like to have companies' specials forwarded to them on a regular basis can they please let Lynn know. At present there is a special on Nucleozol, and free samples of the Nucleospin Microbial DNA prep kit from Medi'ray.

PhD/MSc completions:

Congratulations to the following students who have recently completed all the requirements of their degrees. It looks as though graduation in December will be a busy time for the Biochemistry Department:

Shiny Varghese (Eaton-Rye Lab) - MSc

Aimee Gommans (Wilbanks Lab) - MSc

Joanne Guest (Guilford Lab) - MSc

Hannah Achram (Christchurch/Dearden Lab) - MSc

Yosuke Shimaki (Tate Lab) - PhD

Health & Safety

Remember that if you are new to the Department, or have not attended one in the last two years, you must attend the Health and Safety briefing at 9.30 on 11 November in the Main Seminar Room.

Thanks to those who participated in the 2015 Shake Out.

Summer students will be starting soon so remember to train them in the use of laboratory equipment.



Summer Students

We were only able to round up seven of the summer students for a photo at short notice, the complete list is:

Cara Adolph (Catherine Day; Anita Dunbier), **Charlotte Armstrong** (Monical Gerth), **Ashton Blake-Barlow** (Warren Tate), **Olufolakemi (Kemi) Bolarinwa** (Warren Tate), **James Chalmers** (Wayne Patrick), **Jack Curry** (Peter Mace), **Amy Dowdle** (Jeanne Snelling; Tony Merriman), **Brooke Hayes** (Sigurd Wilbanks), **Jaron Huang** (Mik Black/Tony Merriman), **Ted Keats** (Kurt Krause), **Hamish McMillan** (Anita Dunbier), **Thomas Nicholson** (Chris Brown), **Robert Smith** (Bill Hawkins; Parry Guilford), **Grace Welsh** (Alan Carne), **Rebekah Wrigley** (Tony Merriman), **Jade Yip** (Stephanie Hughes)

New arrivals



Andrej Paulda - PhD student Day laboratory



Te-Yuan (David) Chyou - Research Assistant, CMB lab



Nick Burns, ARE, Merriman/Black/Macknight labs

Building & Equipment

Renovations are progressing well. The central part of the second floor is out of our hands until the second week in February, at which time the builders are due to leave. An MPI inspection then has to take place before any lab work can commence in the new area.

The steam generator is to be replaced some time within the next three months, hopefully over the Christmas break. When this happens there will be no steam for up to two weeks, Murray should be able to give plenty of warning though.

Remember to let Debbie Acreman know of any suggestions with respect to Reading Room refurbishments.



On the subject of Debbie, here she is chatting to her old boss Camilla at the registry.