

MONTHLY UPDATE

DEPARTMENT OF BIOCHEMISTRY

December 2015

The end of year is rapidly approaching with Christmas just a week away! The graduation ceremonies last weekend were a great way to round out the academic year. I hope our graduates and their families received as much enjoyment from it as I did. In addition to the large number of BSc/BSc(Hons) graduates, we had three PhDs and four Masters students graduate, which was a great showing for the Department. Thank you to everyone who helped make the day a memorable occasion.

This week the OSMS award winners were announced and I was delighted that Torsten was chosen to receive the Distinguished Research Support Staff Award. He is a real asset to our department and this award acknowledges his significant contribution to research across the University.

On the subject of assets to the department, I would like to welcome Sharleen Rae as our new professional practice fellow. Shar has been filling in part time for some months, and we have now been able to make her position permanent, and secure her contribution to the teaching programme for the future..

I hope everyone has a good summer break. It has been a busy year and much has been achieved. As we reviewed the graduate students paper submissions, and I reviewed more generally the papers published by staff/students in the department this year, I was very impressed by both the quantity and quality of publications. This reflects the excellent research that has been undertaken in the department, but also means that we can approach the upcoming funding and PBRF rounds with some confidence. However, securing funding in 2016 will be tough and will require innovation, collaboration and excellent grantsmanship. The first few months of the year will be very important in this regard and I urge everyone to consider new approaches to securing funding. It was great to see that Biochemistry staff/students (Richard Macknight/George Poulter first, Andrew Cridge runner up) secured both Health Sciences Research Translation awards in the last week – well done!

It just leaves me to wish everyone a restful and relaxing break over Christmas. Eat, drink (but not too much!) and be merry!

Catherine



Conferences

Recent attendance

Julian Eaton-Rye, 7th Asian and Oceania Conference on Photobiology, Tapei, Taiwan, 15-18 November 2015

Catherine Day, 13th Conference of Asian Crystallographic Association (AcSA), Kolkata, India
5-8 December

Upcoming

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

PhD/MSc completions:

Congratulations to Abigail Burgess (Hughes lab) who has recently completed all the requirements of her MSc.

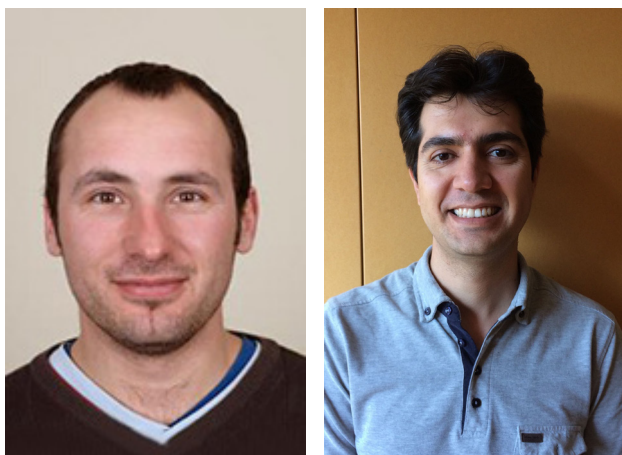
Leave

The office, workshops, ITS, accounts and store will close mid afternoon Wednesday 23 December 2015, reopening 8.30 am Tuesday 5 January 2016.

Chris Hart (Compliance Officer) will be away for the period 24 December 2015 - 25 January 2016.

ITS - Roger will be back Tuesday 5 January, Darren and DJ will be back Monday 11 January.

New appointments



Dr David Chagné, Honorary Senior Research Fellow
Parham Hosseini, Research Assistant (Macknight Lab)

Purchasing

Eppendorf have deals on tubes, pipettes, and tips during December.

Interlab has a sale on Parafilm and petri dishes. Also a new benchtop centrifuge.

Sapphire Bioscience has some free antibody samples, and some good deals on assay kits and protein ladders.

See Lynn for details and to order



Health & Safety

Have a safe Christmas. Remember the speed limit tolerance is down to 4km/h for December and January, watch out for idiots on the road, and bend your knees when lifting that turkey out of the oven.

Building & Equipment

Building work is on schedule, with benches going in to the new labs this week.

Once the second floor redevelopment is finished, Wayne Patrick will have his office in 1.14b, Monica Gerth will be in 1.09, and the Gerth/Patrick post-docs will be in 1.14c. While the building work is going on Wayne is in 1.09.

The nanodrop has been returned to the second floor equipment room.

IT

With the arrival of the new university wireless network in the biochem building (UO-WiFi) you no longer need to register your devices and there is no longer a charge per device. Simply point your device at the UO-WiFi wireless network, enter your staff/student username and password and it will connect. You can have multiple devices connected at the same time and all biochem core services (print, file sharing, compute, web etc) are available to both staff and students when connected.

For more information or help getting connected please come and see one of the IT team.



Torsten looking all shy and modest as he receives his OSMS award

Photos from Saturday's graduation function