

# MONTHLY UPDATE

## DEPARTMENT OF BIOCHEMISTRY

August 2015

Welcome to the first Biochemistry 'Monthly Update'. This is very much a trial and the information included will be a little patchy but the aim is to use this short monthly sheet as a means of keeping staff and students in the department up to date with happenings in the department – whether it be new people, new equipment, space changes (especially as are heading into a period of refurbishment) or other news. I have asked Bronwyn Carlisle to coordinate this so please let her know of things that you would like to see included.

I am hoping that it will come out during the second week of the month so the aim is that it is more a collection of information rather than an onerous task.

I hope everyone is having a good semester. It is certainly a busy time in the Department with 400-level students getting results ready for presentations on 20th and 21st of this month, and good enrolments in second semester papers requiring additional lab streams.



Keep warm, Catherine

## CONFERENCES

### Recent attendances

**Genetics Society of Australasia Conference**, Adelaide, Australia, 5 - 8 July: Peter Dearden

**29th Annual Symposium of the Protein Society**, Barcelona, Spain, 22 - 25 July: Adam Middleton

**American Crystallography Association 2015**, Philadelphia, PA, USA, 25-29 July: Kurt Krause

**15th International Symposium on Phototrophic Prokaryotes**, Tubingen, Germany, 2 - 6 August: Julian Eaton-Rye and most of his lab.

### Coming up

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

**Pseudomonas 2015 Conference**, Washington DC, USA, 8-12 September 2015: Iain Lamont

**ComBio 2015**, Melbourne, Australia, 27 September - 1 October 2015: Richard Macknight, Chris Brown, Lynette Brownfield, Catherine Day

**Queenstown Molecular Biology 25th Annual Meeting**, 31st August - 2nd September, 2015: Many staff and students will be away.

## PhD/MSc COMPLETIONS

Congratulations to the following students who have recently completed all the requirements of their degrees:

Jess Renshaw - Wilbanks lab (MSc)

Tom Morley - McComick lab (MSc)

Joanne Guest - Guilford Lab (MSc)

## FAREWELL

The 7th August was Margi Butler's last day of full-time employment in the department. She is taking a break from the lab for a while although we will see her back in a part-time capacity. However, I want to take this opportunity to thank Margi for her contribution to the department and the important role she has played in mentoring many students.

Catherine

## LEAVE

### RSL

Iain is on leave until the end of January, Kurt is also on leave until the end of January, although back in town for a month and has kindly agreed to give a few lectures.

## Upcoming leave

Julian Eaton-Rye: 29 July - 15 August

Stephanie Hughes: 17-20 August

Sigurd Wilbanks: 27 August - 16 September

## NEW ARRIVALS

Welcome to our new staff members, Adelaide, Mathias, and Charlotte.

As new staff and postgrad students arrive it would be good if they can be sent along to Bronwyn so photos and details can be taken.



Adelaide Hopkins  
ARF in the Dunbier lab.



Mathias Fellner  
ARF in the Ledgerwood lab.



Charlotte Pushparajan  
ARF in the Dearden lab.

## PURCHASING

August sees the implementation of a new ordering system for the department.

During the month, the finance team will have met with all Lab groups to show them how the system works and discuss specific requirements.

If you have any questions please feel free to speak to either Lilly, Bronwyn Horner or Debbie.

Thank you to all those who have been involved in the both the set up and trialing.

## Offers

Currently the following special offers from our suppliers are available:

Element 14 have 10% cash back

Interlab have a special on transfer pipettes and 120ml sample containers

Abcam have 20% off your second product

Origene have 15,000 ORF clones at AUD\$130 each

## BUILDING

Room 301 has been converted to a shared computer office space, although the furniture is not yet in place.

The Day, Lamont and Brown laboratories will be renovated over summer. Before that, the IT guys will get new offices in Room 205. This lab is currently being emptied and we may see work begin over the next few weeks. There will be inevitable disruptions and inconveniences, but we will try to minimise these.

## EQUIPMENT

### New

Cytation 5 Multimode Cell Imaging plate reader ([http://www.biotek.com/products/imaging/cytation5\\_cell\\_imaging\\_multi\\_mode\\_reader.html](http://www.biotek.com/products/imaging/cytation5_cell_imaging_multi_mode_reader.html)) - this allows real time imaging of cells for fluorescence, brightfield, color brightfield and phase contrast. Located in Cancer Genetics lab, contact Augustine Chen.

### Replacements

New GelDoc on 1st floor.

New shaking incubator for 2 L cultures on 2nd floor.

### Coming soon

The Crystal Hotel, funded by Lotteries Health and the Large Equipment Fund has been ordered, and those who set up crystallisations are very much looking forward to the automation of crystal growth monitoring.

### Out of commission

The CD will be out of commission while the renovations of Room 205 take place.

### Workshop

Murray says they are no longer going to be able to lend out tools, as they have a tendency not to come back in good condition - or at all.