

# MONTHLY UPDATE

## DEPARTMENT OF BIOCHEMISTRY

September 2015

A month has passed since the first of the Biochemistry Monthly Updates, remember this is a work in progress so if there are things you would like to see included please contact Bronwyn.

A highlight in the last month was the 400-level talks, which showed considerable breadth and depth of work in the students' projects. They are now all busy writing, but will be having a small break on Friday night, when we look forward to the 400-level staff/student dinner.

We are now well into the second half of semester two, with Tony Zaharic and all staff involved in BIOC192 having been busy with the logistics associated with mounting laboratory classes and a terms test for more than 1300 students. It is also a busy year in the 200-level labs and I want to thank all the demonstrators who go above and beyond what is expected to ensure the lab classes run well and the students have a good learning experience.

We are in the process of finalising appointment of the recently advertised purchasing and finance roles, it will be good to have our accounts department settled into a more permanent shape.

It seems as though most of the Department was in Queenstown last week – many staff and students presented and by all accounts QMB 2015 was a great success. I would like to remind people to let Bronwyn know of any awards won for posters or talks so these can be both highlighted on our website and entered into our awards database.



Catherine

## Conferences

### Recent attendances

**Julian Eaton-Rye**, 15th International Symposium on Phototrophic Prokaryotes, Tubingen, German, 2 - 6 August 2015

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

### Coming up

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

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

**Sally McCormick**, Australian Atherosclerosis Society, Fremantle, Australia, 21-23 October 2015

### Awards

Tom Wiggins won first place and Danni Maddock got an honorable mention at QMB Proteins Meeting poster night

## Funding

Congratulations to Peter Dearden who has been granted \$1m from MBIE for stage 2 of his selective insecticides project.

## PhD/MSc completions

Congratulations to the following students whom have recently completed all the requirements of their thesis (as indicated):

### August

Joanne Guest - Guilford Lab (MSc)

### September

Jordan Minnell - Gerth Lab (MSc)

## Farewell

As everyone by now knows, Liz Duncan is leaving us to take up a lecturing position in England. Wednesday 9th September is her last day in the Department, she leaves Dunedin on the Friday, then has a week with her family in Wellington before heading off on her big adventure. We thank her for the significant contribution she has made to our Department over the last 15 years, wish her the best of luck, and hope she will come back and visit. Seminar spots are always available Liz!

## Leave

### RSL

A reminder that Iain is on leave until the end of January, Kurt is also officially on leave until the end of January.

## Upcoming

Sigurd 27 August - 16 September

Warren 11 - 29 September

## New arrivals



Pavel Filipcik (PhD student with Day/Mace labs)

## Visitors to the Department

14 September - 13 December 2015: Dr Charlotta Rylander visiting from University of Tromsø, Norway - working with Dr Mik Black.

## Health and Safety

There is going to be an MPI audit in October.

Due to the current building renovations there will be ongoing disruptions and hazards around the building so please be aware of this and careful as you are moving around the department.

The "Shake Out" national earthquake drill is scheduled for 9.15 on 15th October. The Department is taking part, so read the signs posted in the stairwells and other places and be prepared.

## Equipment

### New

A LiCor Odyssey Fc imager has been ordered as a replacement of the Fuji chemiluminescence imager. It will be here in about a month.

### Out of commission

A reminder that the CD will be out of commission while the renovations of Room 205 take place.

## Building

The upgrade is progressing well. Stage 1, the remodelling of Mary Thompson's old lab into a new IT area, meeting room, and animal facility, is well under way.

Final drawings for Stage 2, remodelling the Day/Lamont/Brown area into flash new workspaces, are almost completed and should be submitted to the DCC for consent this week. Providing there are no problems, work should start mid-October.

## Handy hint

From Richard Macknight:

If you want to get a journal article when you are working at home, I have found that the easiest way to get it is the following;

1. Search for a paper using PubMed and click on the paper you want in the usual way.
2. This will give the journal web address e.g. <http://www.nature.com/nature/journal/v515/n7527/full/nature13919.html>. But it will say you have to pay for the paper.
3. After the .com paste in ".ezproxy.otago.ac.nz" .e.g.: <http://www.nature.com.ezproxy.otago.ac.nz/nature/journal/v515/n7527/full/nature13919.html>

This will take you to the university sign in page. Sign in and then you will have your paper.

To make things easier, make a keyboard shortcut for ".ezproxy.otago.ac.nz".

## Purchasing

### Offers

Interlab has specials on petri dishes, cryovials, and coolcube eppendorf racks

Goldbio have specials on potassium luciferin and sodium luciferin.

ThermoFisher have specials on electronic pipettors, Amicons, beakers, and transfer pipettes.

## IT

VMware virtualisation software, which allows you to virtualise a large array of operating systems from a multitude of host operating systems, is available free of charge to all staff and students. Please note that if you are wanting to run Microsoft Windows you will require a valid licence (which you can acquire through the IT staff for a University owned computer).