

MONTHLY UPDATE

DEPARTMENT OF BIOCHEMISTRY

November 2016

I would like to start this month's update with congratulations to Parry Guilford and Tony Merriman on their election as fellows of the Royal Society of New Zealand (FRSNZ) – this fellowship recognizes their outstanding contribution to research in New Zealand and is very much deserved by both. Congratulations also to Annika Bokor and Tony Zaharic for their OUSA teaching awards. Annika was voted top teacher by OUSA in 2017 – an impressive achievement. These awards reflect the excellence of Biochemistry research and teaching in the Department, and is something to be very proud of.

I know staff and students have been busy with exam marking and will be pleased when this is finished for another year. End of year exams also mean that it is the time of year where we say goodbye to some students, particularly Honours students who have completed their studies. We also welcome many new students to the department, who are joining us for summer research projects. The summer is always a busy time for research and I hope everyone has a productive time, whether it be doing that last experiment or writing a manuscript. With next year being the last assessment year for the next PBRF round it will be important to get those manuscripts submitted.

For some I know research conditions are not perfect as we embark on the next round of refurbishments. It is likely that refitting of the first floor will continue through much of next year as the east end will be renovated during semesters one and two, so much patience will be required as we run the department and allow the builders etc to progress the upgrade of our building. For now I thank the displaced for their patience, the move was accomplished very efficiently and from all I hear experiments are going well in the teaching labs.

I hope you all enjoyed the one-off "Postgraduate Special" October update. From time to time we will be replacing the usual monthly update with a special of some sort, so if you have any ideas of suitable topics please let me or Bronwyn know.

The next month will be busy with a range of activities happening in the department so please mark the dates below in your diaries – I look forward to the many celebrations!



Catherine

Dates to remember

Department Photo - Tuesday 29 November @ 10.00 am
(most likely on the new steps facing the clocktower)

BMS Awards Ceremony Christmas Party: Wednesday
14 December @ 4.00 pm (Hunter Centre Atrium)

Graduation Saturday 17 December 2016

Graduation Function Saturday 17 December 2016 @
10 - 11.30 am

Biochemistry Christmas Party: Wednesday 21
December @ 4.00 pm (Staff Club)

Last working day for 2016: Thursday 22 December
2016

University Open for New Year: Wednesday 4 January
2017

IPL

Peter Dearden, 6 December 5.30 pm, Archway 1
Lecture Theatre

PhD/MSc completions:

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

Martina Foglizzo (PhD - Day lab) Martina will be staying on to do some work related to her PhD with Catherine and Peter until March 2017

Josh Prendergast (MSc - Tate Lab) Josh is currently working both as an ARF in Anatomy, and as an RA in Chemistry.

New arrivals

We can expect great things from the Dearden lab in the near future, their numbers are growing at a rate of knots. Jess McKenzie, who has just finished a BSc(Hons) with Peter Dearden is working his lab as an ARF over summer. Alex Noble, who has submitted her MSc from the Tate lab, is now an ARF with Peter Dearden



Tom Harrop is a post-doc working with Peter Dearden



Emily Remnant is working in the Dearden Lab until April 2017



Gemma McLaughlin is a new PhD student in the Dearden Lab

Conferences

Recent attendance

Julian Eaton-Rye, 2016 International Conference of the Korean Society for Molecular and Cellular Biology, Seoul, Korea 12-14 October

Warren Tate, Biennial International IACFS/ME Research and Clinical Conference, Fort Lauderdale, Florida, 25 Oct - 2 Nov

Wayne Patrick, 17th International Biotechnology Symposium (IBS 2016) Melbourne, Australia 23 - 27 October

Upcoming

Monica Gerth, Wayne Patrick, Iain Lamont, and many students: NZ Microbiological Society and NZSBMB joint conference, Christchurch, 14-17 November

Liz Ledgerwood, SFRBM 23rd Annual Meeting and SRF International 18th Biennial Congress, San Francisco, USA, 16-19 November, and Annual Meeting of the Society for Free Radical Research (Australasia), Griffith University, Australia, 5-7 December

Purchasing

Global Science have a deal running on filter tips that are near their "use by" date.

Building

The first floor renovations are well under way. All of the Tate, Patrick, and Gerth research groups are now housed in the undergraduate teaching labs 128 & 129. Warren is waiting patiently for his new office on the northern side of the corridor to be finished, so he can move his stuff over from his old office. Wayne's temporary office is in what was Stephen Sowerby's office on the second floor, and Monica is camping in 128 until she can temporarily move to Torsten's new office (next to Warren's). Confused? So are we.

Equipment

A new HPLC has been ordered. It will be installed, and training provided, once the current 1st floor renovations are completed.

Health & Safety

Renovations are underway on the first floor so noise, dust and hazards are plentiful – please take care around this area.

No smoke or heat detectors are functioning on the ground, first or second floors due to the renovations. Manual call points will need to be activated in the event of a fire or evacuation situation. The smoke and heat detectors are functional on the third floor.



Summer Students

Welcome to the summer students (and a couple of extras). We hope you have a fun and productive time in the labs over summer. Don't hesitate to ask any staff or students if you have a problem, we are a friendly and helpful bunch.

From left: Ashton Blake-Barlow (Sally McCormick), Charlotte Steel (Steph Hughes), Patricia Baltazar (Chris Brown), Pauline Uyseco (Sigurd Wilbanks), Lohitha Putha (PhD student), Sarah Croft (Peter Dearden), Ruby Garbutt (Iain Lamont), Cassie Stylianou (Pacific Edge), Navodhi Delpachitra (Peter Mace), Jonathan Wilson (Richard Macknight), Gabbie Wood (Liz Ledgerwood), Liam LeLievre (Julian Eaton-Rye), Sarah Trevelyan (Peter Mace), Sam Flaherty (Anita Dumbier), Sophie Currie (Parry Guilford), [If you know who this person is please tell us], Sarah Inwood (Peter Dearden), Ben Clarkson (Kurt Krause), Luke Flavey (Craig Marshall), Ratu Bishop (Tony Merriman).

There are four or five more students who have not started yet, so are not in the photograph.