Funding

Neil Thomas (School of Chemistry) and Eleni Stylianou have been awarded £476,948 by the BBBSRC as part of their Selective Chemical Intervention in Biological Systems (SCIBS) 2 initiative to work on the synthesis and evaluation of enlarged cofactors for histone methyltransferases as tools for reverse chemical genetics. This is part of an ongoing collaboration between their groups to identify novel in nucleo substrates that have key roles in the regulation of inflammatory gene transcription.

Mike Rennie (P.I.), Paul Greenhaff, Ian Macdonald and Poulam Patel (School of Molecular Medical Sciences) have been awarded funding by Cancer Research UK for a project entitled 'Anabolic insensitivity of muscle protein synthesis and breakdown underlying cancer cachexia: the therapeutic potential of the post-exercise anabolic window'. The funding is for one year in the first instance, but will be extended to three years when efficacy of patient recruitment and study progress has been demonstrated.

The Parkinson's Disease Society has awarded a further supplement of £27420 to John Mayer for further studies on his new gentic model of Parkinson's disease. The full grant is now £210000.

Focused Meeting of the British Pharmacological Society and 3rd European Workshop on Cannabinoid Research

We wish to invite you to register for a two-day residential meeting at Jubilee Campus, University of Nottingham on Friday and Saturday the 20th & 21st of April 2007 (www.nottingham.ac.uk/biomedsci/EWCR2007). Abstract submission will open on the 1st of February and close on the 22nd of February, through the British Pharmacological Society website (www.bps.ac.uk). Abstracts must conform to the BPS requirements (advice can be obtained from the Meeting Organisers) and will be published as Proceedings of the British Pharmacological Society online on the BPS website. Registration costs are yet to be fixed, but will be significantly cheaper for members of the BPS, with major reductions for pre-doctoral registrants.

The meeting will consist of talks from a number of speakers prominent in cannabinoid research, including: Victoria Chapman (Nottingham); Vincenzo Di Marzo (Naples); Cecilia Hillard (Milwaukee); Beat Lutz (Mainz); Raphael Mechoulam (Jerusalem); Roger Pertwee (Aberdeen) and Michael Randall (Nottingham). A feature of the meeting is the ten lunchtime 'hot topics', which will be chaired by leading exponents of those areas. It is anticipated that these sessions will generate lively discussion about the future importance and directions of those 'hot topics': Cannabinoids and Alzheimer's; Cannabinoids and bone function; Cannabinoids and neurological disorders;

Congratulations!

Congratulations go to Saoirse O'Sullivan who has been awarded the "GLAXO SMITHKLINE YOUNG INVESTIGATORS' AWARD" as a result of her paper presented to the Oxford meeting of the British Pharmacological Society in December 2006.
Cannabinoids and PPARs; Cannabinoids and stress; Cannabinoids and the gastrointestinal tract; Detecting endocannabinoids and their metabolites; Neuroinflammation; Novel cannabinoid receptors; Obesity.

We hope to see you there!

*Stephen PH Alexander*
*Victoria Chapman*
*David A Kendall*
*Michael D Randall*
*(Organizing Committee)*

**International Committee sponsored jointly by the American Thoracic Society and European Respiratory Society**

*Terry Mayhew* is one of 14 individuals invited to join an International Committee sponsored jointly by the American Thoracic Society and European Respiratory Society. The goal is to develop practical guidelines and standards for quantitative assessment of lung structure. Each member will identify a relevant topic and provide suggestions for solutions. Members are invited to participate in workshops at the ATS Scientific Conference in San Francisco (May) and the ERS Scientific Conference in Stockholm (September) with a view to submitting final recommendations to ATS/ERS by May 2008.

**PhD Successes**

Many congratulations to the following, who successfully defended their PhD theses recently:

**Beth Tunstall**, with a thesis entitled: 'Rat ultrasonic vocalisation: a measure of the effects of phencyclidine on behaviour', supervised by Rob Mason

**Nouh Mohamed**, with a thesis entitled: 'Adenosine Receptors in SH-SY5Y cells', supervised by Steve Alexander

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**Staff Update Newcomers**

**Sonia Ouadi**

Hi, my name is Sonia Ouadi. Originally from France, I graduated from the University of Montpellier in 2004 with a degree in Plant Genetics. I have recently joined the University as a Sequencing Technician in the Biopolymer synthesis and analysis unit (D95).

**Nektaria Papadopoulou**

My name is Nektaria Papadopoulou and I have just started working in Professor Peter Shaw's lab as a Research Fellow. I recently completed my PhD at Leicester University working on the human indoleamine 2,3-dioxygenase enzyme in Professor E L Raven's lab.
Hi, I’m Joelle Alcock and I’m working as a cell culture technician in Cell Signalling while Marleen Groenen is on maternity leave. I came to Nottingham for my undergraduate degree and since then have completed a PhD here and my first postdoc position, both of which were in the Institute of Genetics. I bought a house last year in Beeston Rylands and so spend most of my weekends trying not to spend money, and removing 70’s wallpaper.

Yvonne Mbaki, Research Associate with Vicky Chapman arrives on the 7th of February – photo to follow next month

New Postgraduate Students

Khalil El Deeb (from Egypt) Supervisor Dave Kendall
Salmin Al-Shalmani (from Libya) Supervisor Vince Wilson and Moira Taylor
Amenna Haider (from Kuwait) Supervisor Ian Kerr and Andy Bennett
Yen Fang Tung (from Taiwan) Supervisor Terry Parker
Jariya Umka (from Thailand) Supervisor Terry Parker
Fadzelly Abu Baker (from Malaysia) Supervisor Jeff Fry

Leavers

Ian Kendall
Nicole Rummery

APM/TS Staff
Regrading

For your information, the next HR deadline for regrading applications is Friday the 1st of June 2007. For further details see http://www.nottingham.ac.uk/hr/local/regrading-promotion/apm-ts.htm. It is planned to have an internal deadline of 4th May. A reminder will be sent out to all APM/TS staff in April.

School Seminars
All at 1pm on Wednesdays in LT4 All members of staff, postgraduate and project students are invited to attend.

Wednesday 7th February 2007
Professor Pamela Rabbits (Leeds): Early lung tumour development: longitudinal studies in patients, models in mice. (Host: Tyson Sharp)

Wednesday 14th February 2007
Professor Len Levy (MRC Cranfield): Parkinson’s Disease and pesticides: how strong is the link? (Host: David Ray)

Thursday 22nd February 2007
Professor Hans Hoppeler (Berne): The use of molecular tools in integrative respiratory physiology. (Host: Rudi Billeter-Clark)

Wednesday 28th February 2007
Professor Dermot Cooper (Cambridge): Why do we need 10 sorts of adenylyl cyclase? (Host: Steve Alexander)

CISBM Seminar

Tuesday 13th of February at 4pm in E1
Nicole Rummery: ‘ATP is the predominant sympathetic neurotransmitter in rat mesenteric arteries at high pressure’

CBCB Seminar

Friday 23rd February at 1pm in E1
Tyson Sharp: ‘LIMs, Lungs and a Bit of Breast!’
Neuroscience and Pharmacology Journal Club

All first year PhD student short presentations:

Thursday 8th February at 4.30pm in E1
Nathan Sanicharane: ‘ICC’s their role in blood vessels’
Amy Warner: ‘Retinoic Acid Signalling: Central and Systemic Effects on energy metabolism and body weight’

Thursday 22nd February at 4.30pm in E1
Susie Woods and Nola Clarke (joint presentation): ‘The Molecular Basis of Cognition’

Vacancies

School of Biomedical Sciences (Institute of Cell Signalling) & School of Human Development & School of Nursing

Postdoctoral Research Fellow

Applications are invited for the above post, funded by Action Medical Research, to investigate the role of phospholipase Cδ in the regulation of uterine contractility in pregnancy and in determining the onset of labour.

The successful candidate will be based in the Institute of Cell Signalling located within the Medical School at the Queen’s Medical Centre, Nottingham. Contractility studies will be carried out at the University’s Medical School at Derby.

Candidates must have a relevant PhD, experience of molecular biology, particularly RT-PCR. Transfection and siRNA technology will be an advantage. Other techniques to be used will include western blotting, immunoprecipitation, enzyme assays, cell culture and contractility studies.

Salary will be £24,161 per annum. This post will be offered on a fixed-term contract for a period of two years.

Informal enquiries may be addressed to Dr J Lymn, tel: 0115 823 0805, Email: Joanne.Lymn@Nottingham.ac.uk or Dr R Khan, tel: 01332 724664, Email: Raheela.Khan@Nottingham.ac.uk.

Candidates should send a detailed CV, together with the names and addresses of two referees, to Anne Webber, Institute of Cell Signalling, Medical School, Queen’s Medical Centre, Nottingham, NG7 2UH. Please quote ref. MED/111. Closing date: 23 February 2007.

Baby congratulations!

Moira Taylor has had a baby boy! He was born on the 1st of February, weighing in at 8lbs 2ozs. Moira and baby are doing fine.

Heather Sissons, who left the School last December, gave birth to a baby boy (11lb (5kg) !!), George Oliver, on the 22nd of January. Mother (recovering!) and baby doing well.

School Quiz Night

The reappearance of the Quiz Cup after 20 years prompted a new competition where nine teams of six fought for the honour of being BMS brain-boxes of the year. It was a hard fought contest, with the bookies’ favourites coming in second equal, and the professorial team being relegated to fourth place. The eventual winners, by one point, were “The Dirty Half Dozen” representing Bosco’s at 10:30. The quiz cup has now been added to the sports shield in their trophy cabinet.

Final scores were:

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Bosco provided an excellent half-time insight into Burns Night with haggis, neaps and tatties. Saoirse supplied the malt for a toast, and Ian Macdonald gave the address to the haggis.

Thanks to Paula and Hazel who were the scorers on the night

And, a huge thank you to Stuart for setting it all up – it was a great evening.

This year’s winners of the Quiz Cup

The Dirty Half Dozen

(failed to track Dave down for the photo shoot!)

NEXT ISSUE

Please let Hazel have any items you wish to appear in the March issue by Friday the 23rd of February 2007. Any comments/suggestions welcome

( hazel.binks@nottingham.ac.uk )
You can find all of the above information, and more, on our website:

http://www.nottingham.ac.uk/biomedsci

hab/School/Newsletter/01.02.07