



University of  
**Nottingham**  
Future Food

## Future Food Beacon newsletter

October 2020

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This month, we are delighted to celebrate Dr. Gabriel Castrillo's success in having a **paper published in nature**. Our **short blog marking the occasion** brings together links to the paper itself, an alternative take on the paper by his joint co-author, plus the interview that Gabriel gave us in July 2020.



Future Food Beacon researchers have made a major contribution to a successful BBSRC sLoLA application worth £4.5m. The project will get to grips with the SUMO protein to establish how it helps plants adapt to their environments. The [UoN press release](#) explains further and the [BBSRC award page](#) confirms the good news

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The image shows a promotional graphic for Evidence Week 2020. On the left, a blue square contains the text 'EVIDENCE WEEK' in red and white, with '16-20 NOVEMBER 2020' and 'VIA A VIRTUAL PLATFORM IN UK PARLIAMENT' below it. On the right, a grey vertical bar lists partner organizations with their logos: SENSE about SCIENCE (Because evidence matters), UK Parliament POST, Office for Statistics Regulation, UK Statistics Authority, and Ipsos MORI.

The Future Food Beacon plans to influence the debate on the UK food system by participating in Evidence Week 2020. This event takes place in The Upper Waiting Hall of the Houses of Parliament, with the aim of attracting the attention of MPs.

The Beacon will have its own virtual stand, playing a recorded presentation. Beacon staff will then be available to interact directly with interested MPs via the virtual stands. We will offer a 1-page infographic and a 2-page policy briefing document entitled '*How can we deliver a healthy, sustainable, carbon-neutral UK food supply?*'. Here is a **list of the stands appearing at Evidence Week**.

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Prof. David E. Salt's long-term collaboration with his Chinese friends and colleagues around Casparian strips in plant roots continues to bear fruit. The Beacon is looking forward to the imminent arrival in Nottingham of Dr Yiqun Gao under a Newton International Fellowship.



Simultaneously, Prof, Daiyin Chao is undertaking related work in China under his Newton Advanced Fellowship.

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#### **FESTIVAL SPECIAL**

**Nottingham Festival of Science and Curiosity (FOSAC)** - apply now to take part in February 2021!

**ESRC Festival of Social Science** - 7-15 November 2020 online

**Being Human Festival** - 12-22 November 2022



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## PhD studentship opportunities 2: International Agriculture DTP



The third round of the University of Nottingham - Rothamsted Research studentship programme remains open. There are five projects on international agriculture available - [Apply now!](#)

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## Future Food News

Last month, we introduced you to our [short blog](#) about the publication of Guilhem Rey's paper in Current Biology. Well, we can now direct you to [a reply to that paper](#) in Current Biology Dispatches by Dorothee Stockle and Joop Vermeer.

Heike Bartel continues her intriguing work into male eating disorders by hosting [a drop-in online cafe](#) from 5-6pm on 18 November as part of the Being Human Festival.

The University of Nottingham's [Food Innovation Centre](#) Food is offering free technical and scientific advice to food and drink SMEs in Nottinghamshire and Derbyshire. If you know a company that would benefit, pass on the good news!

The Future Food Beacon's Staff and Student Association swung back into action on 15 October with an entertaining and well-attended Virtual Pub Quiz. Make sure you don't miss the next one by following them on Twitter [@UoN\\_FFB\\_SSA](#).

Our Yearbook of collected blogs for 2019-2020 is being finalised as we speak so please look out for links to that coming soon!

Since our September newsletter, we have published the following blogs:

- **Foodprint** - how our local social supermarket integrated itself into the community
- Winged bean double blog special - a summary of **winged bean research in Malaysia**, followed by an **interview with Chong Yuet Tian**
- The first three instalments of the PalaeoRAS blog series, starting with an **introduction by Matt Jones** and followed by interviews with **Karla Hernandez-Aguilar** and **Ali Ben Mustapha**

There are new research publications this month from:

- a team including Liz Bailey, Louise Ander, Murray Lark, Martin Broadley (published in Plant Direct)
- Levi Yant (published in nature communications this very day!)

There is also an intriguing Nuffield Scholar report into elderflower by UoN researcher, Alice Jones. All are listed below and look out for more significant publications next month...!

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## Upcoming talks, seminars and conferences

Future Food Beacon webinar featuring Niko Geldner *'The last step is the hardest - lignin and suberin formation in the cell wall'* - 12.00-13.00 on 4 November 2020. Please **email Gigi Walker** to receive an invitation to join via MS teams

Food and Drink Federation (FDF) Webinar: **Building Resilience for a Sector in Transition** 11.00-12.00 on 5 November 2020

**Food futures in the anthropocene: place-based, just, convivial** 7-10 November, Launceston, Tasmania

IFST Webinar: **Applications for Robotics in the Food Industry – Beyond Palletisation** - 11.30-12.30 on 11 November 2020

Global Food Systems in Local Contexts – Understanding Contemporary Food Systems Through Time Symposium. To take part, submit a 300-word abstract by 16 November 2020 **via this form**.

**Stand up for Science** workshop - this is aimed at any early career STEM or social science researchers who are interested in doing more public engagement work- 09.00 - 13.00 on 17 November 2020

**Asia-Pacific Agri-Food Innovation Summit** - 18-20 November 2020

**The Diasporic Plate: Food in the Contemporary Diasporic World in Times of Crisis** series of online events 27 November - 11 December 2020

**Black Botanists** - this groundbreaking online lecture series is designed to inspire young black researchers to pursue a career in botanical sciences and continues deep into 2021!

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## New publications from Future Food

**Increasing zinc concentration in maize grown under contrasting soil types in Malawi through agronomic biofortification: Trial protocol for a field experiment to detect small effect sizes** Botoman et al (2020)

**Formation and diversification of a paradigm biosynthetic gene cluster in plants** Liu et al (2020)

**Cultivating elders for the UK processing industry** - a Nuffield Scholar report by Alice Jones, sponsored by Thatchers Cider (2020)

**Wood hemicelluloses exert distinct biomechanical contributions to cellulose fibrillar networks** Berglund et al (2020)

**Structural Insights into the Mechanism of Heat-Set Gel Formation of Polyisocyanopeptide Polymers** Gavrilov et al (2020)

**Tales from the countryside: Unpacking “passing the environmental buck” as hypocritical practice in the food supply chain** Glover et al (2020)

**Poetry on Eating Disorders in Men** (book chapter) Bartel (2020)

**Food biotechnology** Foster et al (2020)

**Effect of phosphorus supply on root traits of two *Brassica oleracea* L. genotypes** Pongrac et al (2020)

**A nociresponsive specific area of human somatosensory cortex within BA3a: BA3c?** Sanchez Panchuelo et al (2020)

**Uclacyanin proteins are required for lignified nanodomain formation within Casparian strips** Reyt et al (2020)

**A harmonised systems-wide re-analysis of greenhouse gas emissions from sunflower oil production** Alcock et al (2020)

**The Effect of Dissolved Gases on the Short-Range Attractive Force between Hydrophobic Surfaces in the Absence of Nanobubble Bridging** [Azadi et al \(2020\)](#)

**Rapid temperature responses of photosystem II efficiency forecast genotypic variation in rice vegetative heat tolerance** [Ferguson et al \(2020\)](#)

**Low-Cost Automated Vectors and Modular Environmental Sensors for Plant Phenotyping** [Atkinson et al \(2020\)](#)

**Arctic rolls and gender roles - Female and male eating disorders in Karen Duve's *Regenroman* and other texts** [Bartel \(2020\)](#)

**A harmonised systems-wide re-analysis of green house gas emissions from sunflower oil production** [Alcock et al. \(2020\)](#).

**Barley sodium content is regulated by natural variants of the Na<sup>+</sup> transporter HvHKT1;5** [Houston et al. \(2020\)](#).

**Low cost automated vectors and modular environmental sensors for plant phenotyping** [Bagley et al. \(2020\)](#).

**Perspectives from CO+RE: How COVID-19 changed our food systems and food security paradigms** [Bakalis et al. \(2020\)](#).

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**To tell us your news, share conference registrations or abstract opportunities, as well as any food-related reading please email:**

**[Andrew Edwards](#)** (Ed), Acting Communications Officer for the Future Food Beacon

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