



The Sixth Annual CBS Research Symposium 2015

AGH

A day not to be forgotten; the Sixth Annual CBS Research Symposium is a thing of the past but it will have its effects in the future. A day for science and socialising for researchers of all groups based in the Centre for Biomolecular Sciences.

The symposium was kicked off by three brilliant talks of speakers out of all departments assembled in CBS. Osman Dufailu (Life Sciences) gave a microbiology talk about an autotransporter in *Neisseria* and was followed by James Krupa's (Chemistry) talk featuring novel MRI probes designed to determine presence or absence of matrix metalloproteases. The first session was then closed by Derfogail Delcassian (Pharmacy) introducing her work on activating and directing immune cell behaviour.

The following coffee break was full of lively discussions and the tea and coffee, sponsored by the exhibiting companies Promega, Fisher Scientific, StarLab and VWR, helped to wake the last tired mind in the audience.

The second session started with Shailesh Mistry (Pharmacy) a new Assistant Professor in CBS talking about advances in the understanding of 7-trans-membrane receptors. Then, David Onion (Life Sciences) presented his flow cytometry facility and what researchers in CBS could do and already have done with it. The morning was wrapped up with a newly added pitch-session where poster presenters had the chance to summarise their posters in one minute to the audience and, thus, trigger interest for the poster session to come.

The posters were then presented over a nice lunch. The atrium was full of discussion and buzz over the presentations and surely one or the other collaboration was built.



Lively discussions during the lunch-time poster session. In the right bottom corner are three of the four winners of poster prizes from left: Alexander Grosse-Honebrink, Ronja Breitkopf and Francesca Citossi. Not in the picture but also a prize-winner is Pawel Piatek.



The committee of the CBS Researchers Forum with leaving chair Fabio Rui (front third from left) and new chair Anja Wiechmann (front right).

The afternoon session started with Juliet Morgan (Chemistry) explaining how she elucidated the interaction between the inflammation receptor MAC-1 and the platelet receptor protein Iba using NMR amongst other techniques. She was followed by two new arrivals to CBS. Assistant Professor Christoph Loenarz (Chemistry) talked about his interest in post-translational modifications such as histone lysine methylation and metabolic pathways of pathophysiological relevance. He then elucidated the oxygen-dependent mechanism that enables modulation of the accuracy of protein synthesis. Associate Professor Cathy Merry (Medicine) gave a very energetic talk emphasising the importance of collaboration in science while talking about the role of glycans in influencing cell behaviour.

After a quick coffee the last resident speaker of the day Bart Pander (Life Sciences) introduced the audience to carbonic anhydrases in the gas-fermenting organism *Clostridium autoethanogenum* making it clear that even rabbit faeces holds wonders for science.

The day was closed by a brilliant talk by Professor Jonathan Ball (Faculty of Medicine & Health Sciences) showing his journey from a media sceptical scientist to one that embraces the opportunity media presents to communicate science to a wider audience.

After a very insightful day showcasing the best research CBS has to offer; tired scientists found their way to the bar in the Johnson Arms to get hands on a hard-earned coke or ale. The traditional BBQ was served under the gnarly pear tree in the garden and lots of CBS residents used the moment to sit together and talk about science (well, mainly).

The CBS Researchers Forum is proud to have passed another wonderful day and wants to thank all the speakers and poster presenters for their enthusiasm presenting their work. We also want to take the opportunity to wish farewell to our parting chair Fabio Rui whose commitment made this day possible.

The preparations for the next symposium are already being undertaken and the forum is welcoming any new interested members. There are also some new and exciting events in planning for which news will be spread soon. So, if you wish to help collaboration between groups in the building or are otherwise interested in the forum do get in contact via social media or email.

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