

# Life Sciences Newsletter

Department of Life Sciences

February 2014

## Prizes and awards

**Anne Dell** received the Leach Medal at the 39th Lorne Conference on Protein Structure and Function in Australia

**Miguel Araujo** received the IBS (International Biogeography Society) MacArthur and Wilson award, the GBIF (Global Biodiversity Information Facility) Ebbe Nielsen prize (30,000 euros) and a Royal Society Wolfson Research Merit Award

**Jon Lloyd** received a Royal Society Wolfson Research Merit Award

**Jim Barber** awarded the [2013 Royal Society of Chemistry Interdisciplinary Prize](#)

**Jie Song** has been awarded an Imperial Junior Research Fellowship

## Appointments

**Geoff Baldwin** has been elected a Fellow of the Royal Society of Chemistry and a Fellow of the Society of Biology.

**Anne Dell** has been appointed as Vice-Chair, Executive Committee, Biochemical Society (2014-2017).

**Miguel Araújo** was elected by the Nordic Ecological Society, Editor-in-Chief of the journal *Ecography*.

**Congratulations!**

## Useful to know

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Imperial launches **emergency childcare service** for staff. Click [here](#) for further info.

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## Athena Swan

DoLS is going for the **Silver Award!** All developments will be posted [here](#)

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Imperial [Maternity Mentoring Scheme](#) Launched!

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**Personal Review and Development Plan (PRDP)** should to be carried out/recorded for all staff by the end of Spring Term 2014.

## Research Grants Awarded

**Maruf Ali** has been awarded an MRC research project grant titled "Structural and mechanistic understanding of Unfolded Protein Response (UPR) regulation by ER Hsp70 resident chaperone BIP"

**Anne Dell** has been awarded a Joint Wellcome Trust Senior Investigator Award with Brendan Wren at LSHTM

**Mark Isalan** has just been awarded a £1.2M Wellcome Trust New Investigator Award to carry out synthetic gene network engineering

**Alain Filloux** has been awarded a BBSRC project grant (3 years, £403K) and obtained a Marie Curie fellowship (Laura Nolan, 2 years, €220K)

**Richard Gill** has had a NERC project grant approved

**Rob Ewers** has had a NERC project grant approved

**EJ Milner-Gulland** was awarded a NERC impact accelerator grant of £30K to support the impact activities of the Grand Challenges in Ecosystems and the Environment initiative

A **NERC Doctoral Training Partnership** (DTP) award has been made to Imperial College entitled "Science and Solutions for a Changing Planet". [NERC press release](#)

**Jake Baum** was awarded a £2.1M Wellcome Trust New Investigator Award over 6 years to study the cellular and molecular mechanics of malaria parasite invasion of the human erythrocyte

**Erhard Hohenester** has been awarded a Wellcome Trust Senior Investigator Award, entitled "Molecular mechanisms of laminin function in health and disease". The grant provides £1.3M over 5 years.

**Cristina Lo Celso** was awarded an ERC grant of 1.7M Euro entitled: In vivo imaging of haematopoietic stem cells in their natural niches to uncover cellular and molecular dynamics regulating self-renewal.

**Niki Windbichler** was awarded an ERC grant of 1.4M Euro entitled: Synthetic species of the mosquito vectors of human disease: from hybrid genetics to a new type of vector.

## Selection of Development Opportunities

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Masterclass in **presentation and public speaking** with Dr Maggie Aderin-Pocock with WISE. [Further Details](#)

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Postdocs and Fellows - have you checked out the wide range of development opportunities offered by the [Postdoctoral Development Centre?](#)

**Colin Turnbull** was awarded the largest share (~£400k) of a BBSRC grant of approx. £1.1M awarded to a consortium of research partners and industry under the new Horticulture and Potato Initiative (HAPI), for "Controlling dormancy and sprouting in potato and onion".

## Excellent Results!

## Talks at major conferences

**Steve Matthews** delivered a Plenary Lecture at the Danish NMR meeting (Jan 14) and a Plenary Lecture at the Royal Society India-UK Scientific Seminar (Jan 14).

**Anne Dell** delivered the Leach Lecture at the 39th Lorne Conference on Protein Structure and Function in Australia.

**Miguel Araujo** gave a keynote address to the 20th meeting of the Governing Board (GB20) of the Global Biodiversity Information Facility (GBIF).

**Jim Barber** gave a lecture at the Russian Academy of Sciences, Moscow for the 100th Anniversary of the birth of Academician A.A. Krasnovsky.

## High impact publications

**Tony Southall** has a paper accepted on dedifferentiation of neurons: Southall, T.D., Davidson, C.M., Miller, C., Carr, A. and Brand, A.H. Dedifferentiation of neurons precedes tumour formation in *lola* mutants. *Developmental Cell* (available online on the 13th of March and in the 31<sup>st</sup> of March issue).

**Steve Matthews'** article 'A bacteriophage transcription regulator inhibits bacterial transcription initiation by  $\sigma$ -factor displacement' was published in *Nucleic acids Research* (Jan 14) and highlighted on the Imperial website and the BBSRC website who funded the work.

**Ben Halpern's** article 'Making marine protected areas work' was published in *Nature* (Feb 14 2014).

**Alain Filloux** published a commentary in *PNAS* "Fit and resistant is a worst case scenario for bacterial pathogens" which is very timely in the context of antimicrobial resistance.

**EJ Milner-Gulland** published a paper in *PNAS* - Edwards, C.T.T., Bunnefeld, N., Balme, G., Milner-Gulland, E.J. (2013) [Data-poor management of African lion hunting using a relative index of abundance](#).

**Maureen Taylor's** paper "Common polymorphisms in human langerin change specificity for glycan ligands" Hadar Feinberg, Thomas J. W. Rowntree, Shawn L. W. Tan, Kurt Drickamer, William I. Weis, and Maureen E. Taylor *J. Biol. Chem.* 2013 Dec 27;288(52):36762-71 was chosen as a "Paper of the Week".

## Upcoming Departmental Events

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05 March  
Departmental  
Seminar: Martin  
Warren, University of  
Kent

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8 May  
The 5th Emmanuelle  
Caron Lecture.

[Further Details](#)

## *Media/outreach activities*

**Stephen Curry** was interviewed on [BBC World News](#) (Dec 13) about X-ray crystallography.

**Bill Rutherford and James Murray** featured in a programme broadcast on the [BBC](#) and were involved in the Discovery Documentary and [broadcasts](#) on the World Service (Feb 2014).

**EJ Milner-Gulland** appeared on BBC One's The Big Questions with Nicky Campbell at 10am on Sunday 9th Feb, talking about trophy hunting. Recent press interest of her work include: [Nature](#); [Nature World News](#); [Smithsonianmag](#).

**Alfred Rutherford** has joined the Plant Science panel of the "Sense about Science" organisation and answered his first question in Dec/Jan.:

<http://www.senseaboutscience.org/pages/plant-science-expert-panel.html>

**Kurt Drickamer's** recent research regarding the mechanism of host-pathogen interaction in tuberculosis has been featured on the Imperial College web site and he subsequently featured in a [podcast interview](#) by the Naked Scientists web site, which covers science for the general public.

## *Issues of interest*

**Kathy Willis** (new head of science) and **Richard Deverell** (Director) from the Royal Botanical Gardens Kew came to visit the Silwood Park campus and meet with some key members of staff.

**Stephen Curry** has accepted an invitation from the University of Western Australia to give a public lecture on crystallography in August 2014, as part of their celebrations of the centenary.

**Stephen Curry** [critiqued](#) Nobellist Randy Schekman's 'boycott' of Nature, Cell & Science and drew a [response](#) from him.

## *Upcoming Imperial events*

### **Imperial Festival, 8-10 May 2014**

An evening opening celebration in the Research Zone Marquee for senior College staff and invited guests, including Court, funders, collaborators and media on Thursday 8 May

Festival open for staff and adult public audiences (4pm-10pm) on Friday 9 May

Festival open for alumni (10.30-6pm), and public family audiences (12-6pm) on Saturday 10 May

### **Postgraduate Graduation Ceremonies – Wednesday 7 May 2014**