

RESEARCH SCHOOL OF BIOLOGY NEWSLETTER

RSB NEWS

John Gibson Farewell

A farewell function was held for John Gibson on Wednesday June 3, to thank him for his contributions as Director both of RSB and the ANU College of Medicine, Biology and Environment (CMBE).



The Vice-Chancellor and the incoming Directors of RSB and CMBE all spoke in appreciation of John. The event was attended by very many RSB staff as well as Directors, Deans and other staff from other Schools and Colleges.

Although formally retiring (for the second time) John will remain a member of RSB as a Visiting Fellow. The farewell function was preceded by a presentation from the incoming RSB Director, Kiaran Kirk, on plans and challenges for the new School.

School restructure

Kiaran has circulated a document outlining a proposal for restructuring the Research School of Biology. The proposal entails creating three Research Divisions and a single Biology Teaching and Learning Centre, membership of which is open to all with an interest in Biology teaching.

He is seeking as much input as possible; all comments and suggestions are welcome. The proposal will be discussed at next week's RSB Faculty Board meeting after which there will be a final draft circulated.



CONGRATULATIONS

Murray Badger – Congratulations to Murray (Molecular Plant Physiology) who has just been elected as a corresponding member of the American Society of Plant Biologists.

Tom Wydrzynski – On June 12 2009 Tom (Photobioenergetics) celebrated becoming an Australian citizen.

WELCOME

Trevor Lamb and Dorothea Huber
In 2005, vision researchers from ANU and three other universities won an \$11M ARC Centre of Excellence in Vision Science (see the feature in 'Getting to know the Research School of Biology'). Recently, the centre was provisionally extended until 2013 with the addition of an extra \$5M. The majority of researchers in the centre have been based in the Visual Sciences Group in RSBS, but the Director and Chief Operations Officer have been located at JCSMR. With the restructuring of the university the Director, Professor Trevor Lamb, and new COO, Dorothea Huber will now be housed in the newly formed Research School of Biology. This welcome addition to RSB consolidates the majority of vision research in one location at ANU.

FAREWELL

Trish Boyce, Technical Officer with Adrienne Hardham's Phytophthora Laboratory, finished her contract on June 21. Trish started with PCB in October 2006 and her happy demeanour will be sorely missed by her colleagues.

Sune Jørgensen, who joined the Photobioenergetics Group in February this year as an exchange student from the University of Copenhagen is now making his way back home to Denmark. Sune worked on the Group's artificial photosynthesis project and expects to continue working in this area when he returns for his MSc degree.

RSB website

Work has begun on redoing the RSB website. Sharyn Wragg has been working on a new home page and we hope to go live with this very soon. Redoing the website is a very large job that involves interactions at the College and University level. It will take some time, but you should see things changing progressively over the coming months.

Banner image

The image that appears on the headline banner is a section of Photosystem I (image supplied by Tom Wydrzynski). We would like to have a selection of biological images to use, both in the newsletter and on the website homepage. If possible these should come from research carried out within the School. If you have images, drawn from your work, that might be appropriate, and would like to see them featured, please forward them to Sharyn.Wragg@anu.edu.au.

Cake walk

Get to know your colleagues across the School. Contact your colleagues in one of the other areas of the School, choose a location for a joint morning or afternoon tea, and ask the Director to provide cakes.

This newsletter is distributed fortnightly by email and hard-copy, and archived at <http://insider.rsbs.anu.edu.au/RSBNewsletter>.

Please contact Diane Whitehead to be added to the mailing list and to submit material for future issues.

Getting to know the Research School of Biology

THE RSB VISUAL SCIENCES GROUP AND THE ARC CENTRE OF EXCELLENCE IN VISION SCIENCE

Vision research has been a major feature of research activities at the ANU for four decades. Over the years research efforts have been distributed in many schools and faculties across campus.

In 1989 a centrally funded centre was created: the Centre for Visual Sciences. This brought together the disparate research groupings in a manner that serves as an excellent collaborative model for what could be achieved with the Research Capabilities within the new ANU College structure.

As a result of the well established collaborative nature of vision researchers across campus, in 2005 we were able to put together a winning bid for an ARC Centre of Excellence in Vision Science (ACEVS), which will run until 2013.

From 2009 ACEVS will be based in RSB, with the Director, Professor Lamb, and Chief Operations Officer, Dorothea



Professor Lamb, Director ACEVS

Huber, moving here from JCSMR in the next few weeks.

The Visual Sciences Group in RSBS has always been the largest collocated grouping of vision scientists at the ANU, and remains so today. We have always had a broad research focus, although reductions in staffing in recent years has seen a natural focussing of efforts in a few areas.

Currently, we conduct research on medical diagnostics, retinal disease, the bionic eye, myopia, retinal and cortical physiology and visual behaviour in vertebrates and arthropods.



MORE RECOGNITION FOR THE HONEY BEE METHYLATION PAPER IN SCIENCE

The publishing company W. H. Freeman is launching a new project for their genetics titles that involves magazine-style articles on recent and significant papers in genetics. These articles explore the paper's history, findings, and what has been discovered since their publication.



Professor Ryszard Maleszka

One of the first stories to be soon published is on the Science paper by R. Maleszka and colleagues that describes an epigenetic phenomenon of nutritional control of phenotypic and behavioural plasticity in honey bees.

(Kucharski. R., Maleszka, J., Foret, S., Maleszka, R. (2008) Nutritional control of reproductive status in honeybees via DNA methylation. *Science*, 319:1827-30.)



PAPERS ACCEPTED

Goffard, N., Frickey, T. & Weiller, G. PathExpress update: the enzyme neighbourhood method of associating gene-expression data with metabolic pathways. *Nucleic Acids Research*, doi: 10.1093/nar/gkp432.

Hammers, M., von Engelhardt, N., Langmore, NE., Komdeur, J., Griffith, SC., & Magrath, MJL. Mate guarding intensity increases with breeding synchrony in the colonial fairy martin *Petrochelidon ariel*. *Animal Behaviour*.

Langmore, NE., Stevens, M., Maurer, G. & Kilner RM. Are dark cuckoo eggs cryptic in host nests? *Animal Behaviour*.

Langmore, NE., Cockburn, A., Russell, AF. & Kilner, RM. Flexible cuckoo chick rejection rules in the superb fairy-wren. *Behavioral Ecology*.

Rosli, Y., Goh, X.L., James, A.C., & Maddess, T. Pattern-pulsed mfVEP waveform of the age-related macular degeneration patients. *ASM Sc J*, 3.

Tan, KC., IpCho, SVS., Trengove, RD., Oliver RP. & Solomon, PS. Assessing the impact of transcriptomics, proteomics and metabolomics on fungal phytopathology. *Molecular Plant Pathology*.

Wang, Y., Flesch, IEA. & Tschärke, DC. Vaccinia virus CD8+ T cell dominance hierarchies cannot be altered by prior immunization with individual peptides. *Journal of Virology*, DOI: 10.1128/jvi.00410-09.