

# RESEARCH SCHOOL OF BIOLOGY NEWSLETTER

## From the Director

As foreshadowed, we are developing a new budget model for the School. A proposal, outlining the principles for the distribution of research funds has been circulated to those people who will be heading labs in the School next year. This group will be meeting to discuss the model next week.

Next week (Thurs 10.00 am, in the Robertson Seminar Room) I will also meet with all General Staff in the School to keep them informed of developments and to provide the opportunity for people to ask questions. This will be a regular meeting – the day after Faculty Board meeting each month.

In the mean time, congratulations and best of luck to Conrad Hoskin (Keogh lab, BoZo) who is a finalist in the 'Early Career Species discovery'

of the Australian Museum's Eureka Prizes.

*Below: Kuranda Tree Frog Litoria myola – a species discovered by Conrad. Image: Conrad Hoskin.*



## CONGRATULATIONS

RSB Member is a 2009 finalist in Eureka Awards. Dr Conrad Hoskin (Keogh lab, BoZo) has been nominated for his research into how species form and how to define them, and the translation of species discoveries into direct conservation outcomes. Conrad's research has resulted in nine new frog and reptile species, one new gecko genus, and the rediscovery of a frog species thought to be extinct.

Congratulations to Xie Wah Audrey Chan (Saliba lab, BaMBi) who won the award for best student Poster + 2 Minute Oral Presentation at the 2009 Australian Society for Parasitology Conference held recently in Sydney. The title of her presentation was "Thiamine requirement and transport by the human malaria parasite *Plasmodium falciparum*".

## WELCOME

Arlet Estevez is a Mexican biology student from the University of Guadalajara and will be working in David Tschärke's Lab (BaMBi) for five or six months.

Prof Hanna Kokko (University of Helsinki) arrives on August 1 on a year's sabbatical in RSB while writing a book. Hanna will be based in the Jennions Lab (BoZo).

Ms Thilaga Velusamy has returned to RSB to work as a Visiting Fellow with Dr David Jones (Plant Cell Biology), after defending her Masters in Technology (Biotechnology) thesis at VIT University, Vellore, Tamil Nadu, India.

## FAREWELL

Mr Cahya Prihatna who is returning to Indonesia after working as an AusAid-funded MPhil student with Dr David Jones (Plant Cell Biology).

Rui Miao returned to China after a three-month stay in Fred Chow's lab (Photobioenergetics), working on the enhancement of photosynthesis by sodium bisulphite. Mr Miao has been offered a PhD scholarship at the Hong Kong Chinese University, and will soon begin his project there on plant pathology.

Jonathan Tan who did both his Honours and PhD work in the O'Neill Lab (BaMBi) will leave on July 31 to work in Japan. He has won an independent postdoctoral fellowship through the Australian Academy of Science to work with Prof Takeshi Watanabe in Kyoto and will continue to work in hematopoiesis and immune cell development.

## 2009/2010 Summer Scholars

Expressions of Interest are sought from labs that might wish to take summer scholars over the 2009/2010 summer break. Summer scholarship opportunities will be featured on the RSB website. Potential students will be asked to make contact with the lab leaders to discuss potential projects. An information sheet will be provided to guide students through the application process.

The deadline for Summer Scholar applications is the end of August 2009. If you are interested in hosting a student please contact Marie McNamara as soon as possible.

### Screening of President Obama's address to the US National Academy of Sciences

An upbeat vision for a science led recovery from the global economic recession, and the woes of global climate change and failing health care in the 21st Century. All members of RSB and their

friends are invited to a 43 min DVD of President Obama's 27 April address to the US National Academy of Sciences that will be shown in the Robertson Lecture Theatre at 12 pm on Friday 7 August.

**Australasian Evolution Society**  
Colleagues interested in evolutionary biology are reminded that the 6th Biennial Meeting of the Australasian Evolution Society <http://www.evolutionau.org> will be hosted by Prof Andrew Cockburn at ANU from September 29 to October 1.

**RSB Touch Football Team**  
Chris Dawson (IT, Bldg 46) is organising a social touch football team for RSB and is looking for players. The competition is held on Thursday lunchtimes at ANU and is very relaxed and friendly. Newcomers are most welcome so it's an excellent chance to learn a new sport as well as meeting other people within RSB. Dependent on numbers, regular practices will occur to help get you up to speed. If you are even vaguely interested please contact [Chris.Dawson@anu.edu.au](mailto:Chris.Dawson@anu.edu.au) and your name will be added to a separate emailing list to keep you up to date with what is happening.

## SEMINARS

**Tuesday 11 August, 9am-1pm, The National Europe Centre**

Dr Karen Hussey, ANU's representative in Europe and Research Fellow at the Crawford School, will be giving a workshop entitled "Collaborating with Europe: Opportunities, Limitations, Tricks of the Trade and Common Myths". The workshop will be of interest to all levels of academic staff, from PhD students to senior researchers. Please RSVP to [Karen.Hussey@anu.edu.au](mailto:Karen.Hussey@anu.edu.au) before Friday 7 August.

**Wednesday 12 August, 1pm, Robertson Lecture Theatre**  
**Plant Biology Seminar Series**  
'Vacuolar pyrophosphatases confer anoxia tolerance in rice by pumping proton across the tonoplast' by Dr Qinxiong Liu, CSIRO, PI.

*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.*

# ACEVS DELEGATION VISITS CHINA

In early July a delegation from the ARC Centre of Excellence in Vision Science (ACEVS) visited Hong Kong, Guangzhou, Beijing and Singapore to discuss research collaboration and student exchanges with their Asian counterparts. The delegation included Trevor Lamb, Ian Morgan, Krisztina Valter and ACEVS Chief Operations Officer, Dorothea Huber.

During their trip they met with the Chairman of the World Eye Organization in Hong Kong and with the Director and staff of the Zhongshan Ophthalmic Centre (ZOC) in Guangzhou. The latter place is a major eye care provider in China and has an eye hospital and eye research institute associated with it. There has been a history of collaboration between staff of ZOC and Ian Morgan (ACEVS) in the area of myopia.

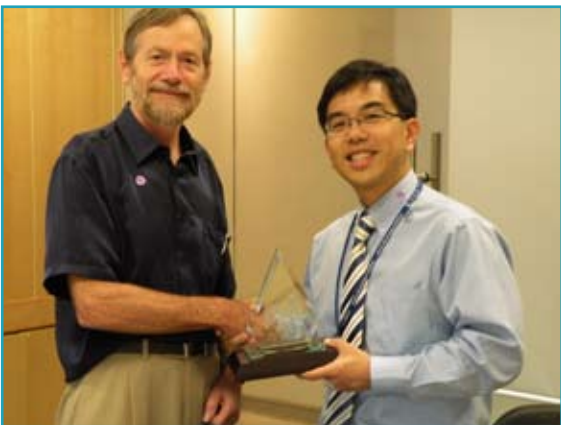
After Guangzhou the delegation headed to Beijing to visit the Chinese Academy of Sciences at the Institute of Biophysics, who showed the team their array of state-of-the-art research instruments including x-ray crystallography systems, a 350 keV electron microscope, and a 7T fMRI about to be installed. Old acquaintances were renewed when the delegation met with Professor Shigang He, a former member of the JCSMR who now works at CAS.

The final leg of the trip took the delegation to the Singapore Eye Research Institute (SERI), which is part of the Singapore National Eye Centre (SNEC). The Centre has more than 460 staff and is a leader in advanced eye care and clinical eye research. Staff from both sides were impressed by the complementary nature of the research pursued by the two Centres, and agreed that they would work towards greater collaboration in the future.

Notwithstanding the high swine flue alert in China and Singapore, the delegation made it safely back to Australia after a fortnight of intense travels!



The delegation at the Academy of Science in Beijing. From left to right: Mr Xiao-Ke Xia (Associate Director of International Affairs), Trevor Lamb, Professor Ian Morgan, Dr Krisztina Valter and Ms Dorothea Huber.



Trevor Lamb handing over an ACEVS trophy to Professor Tien Wong (SERI Director).



The delegation outside the Singapore National Eye Centre. From left to right: Trevor Lamb, Ms Dorothea Huber, Ian Morgan, and Krisztina Valter.

## PAPERS ACCEPTED

Bell A, James AC, Kolic M, Essex RW and Maddess T Dichoptic multifocal pupillography reveals afferent visual field defects in early type 2 diabetes. *Invest Ophthalmol Vis Sci*

Faham A, Bennet D and Altin JG. Liposomal Ag engrafted with peptides of sequence derived from HMGB1 induce potent Ag-specific and anti-tumour immunity. *Vaccine*

Herringson TP, Patlolla, RR and Altin JG (2009) Targeting of plasmid DNA-lipoplexes to cells with molecules anchored via a metal chelator-lipid. *Journal of Gene Medicine*

Jennions MD and Kokko H. Sexual selection. In DF Westneat & CW Fox (Eds) *Behavioural Ecology*, Oxford University Press, Oxford.

Phillips, M.J., Bennett, T.H. and Lee, M.S.Y. Molecules, morphology and ecology indicate a recent, amphibious origin for echidnas. *Proc. Nat. Acad. Sci USA*

Angelo Theodoratos, Belinda Whittle, Anselm Enders, David C. Tschärke, Carla M. Roots, Christopher C. Goodnow and Aude M. Fahrner Mouse strains with point mutations in TAP1 and TAP2. *Immunology and Cell Biology*

von Caemmerer S and Osmond B Testing the functional implications of photosynthetic heterogeneity in leaves of C4 plants: "reductionism during scale expansion". *Nova Acta Leopoldina NF*

Wulff BBH, Chakrabarti A and Jones DA. Recognition specificity and evolution in the tomato-*Cladosporium fulvum* pathosystem. *Molecular Plant-Microbe Interactions*