If we missed any news or you have news to share, please contact The Editorial Team, Biochemistry: bchsec@nus.edu.sg

Advisor: Professor Jean Paul Thiery
Editors: Ms Aniza A Wahid & Ms Rebecca Jackson
Writer: Ms Fatin
Designer: Mr Ravi Gandhi
On behalf of the Department, I am pleased to welcome two new Assistant Professors, Dr Jan Gruber and Dr Yvonne Tay. Dr Gruber is a familiar face in our Department, having been in Prof Barry Halliwell's lab for the past 9 years. Dr Gruber now has a joint appointment between Yale NUS and the Department of Biochemistry with effect 1 July 2014. Dr Yvonne Tay, whose research interests focus on the characterisation of non-coding RNA regulatory networks in cancer, graduated from National University of Singapore and completed her postdoc at Harvard Medical School. Dr Tay has a joint appointment between Biochemistry and Cancer Science Institute, Singapore, and joined us on 2 September 2014. Please join me in welcoming our newest faculty members.

For our MD7 regularization, works are currently ongoing for levels 3, 4 and 5 and expected to be completed by end November 2014. Levels 1 and 2 are fully operational and, with the return of the Admin Office into MD7 next week, level 2 will soon be bustling with activities. Discussion has already begun for the planning of labs to shift back from MD6 to MD7 between December 2014 and latest by mid-January 2015. I know it involves immense efforts from all staff, students and PIs, and I salute all of your determination to ensure a smooth relocation and minimal disruption to teaching and research work.

I am also very pleased to see more participation from PIs at the Journal Club meetings. I encourage more staff to take time off from their schedule to attend and support the Journal Club meetings, Department weekly seminars and Research in Progress seminars. We can only create a dynamic scientific culture if staff and students are actively engaged in research exchanges both locally and overseas.

From my recent meetings with the Dean, I realised that the preclinical Departments may be facing some challenges to bring the School of Medicine at the forefront by 2020. However, I am confident that with our joint efforts in strategically capitalizing our resources and strengths in the 3 research thrusts, we could be contributing to the success of Vision 2020 in the School.

AY2014/2015 Semester 1 examinations will commence soon. As always, I appeal for everyone’s cooperation yet again to ensure all pre- and post exam SOPs are followed so that we can achieve 100% marks accuracy for all our results.

Professor Jean Paul Thiery
Awards

The Department celebrates your achievements. Congratulations to all!

A/P Chua Kim Lee was awarded the Faculty Teaching Excellence Award AY2013/2014 by the Faculty of Dentistry and was presented the award by Singapore’s Minister of Education on 30-08-2014.

A/P Marie Clement was awarded the Certificate of Commendation for being a Role Model to Class 2014, presented by the Yong Loo Lin School of Medicine.

Congratulations to Ms Dee Pham on being the recipient of the NUS Service Advocate Award 2014 for her outstanding contributions to the Department.

Congratulations to Mr Wong Veen Senn on being the recipient of the NUS Service Advocate Award 2014 for his outstanding contributions to the Department.
Awards

The Department celebrates your achievements. Congratulations to all!

Akshamal Mhiranga Gamage was awarded the 1st Prize at the Department’s Research in Progress (RP) Presentation AY2013/2014 on 21 August 2014. He is currently postgraduate student under the supervision of A/P Gan Yunn Hwen.

Ren Bingbing was awarded the 2nd Prize at the Department’s Research in Progress (RP) Presentation AY2013/2014 on 21 August 2014. She is a postgraduate student in Dr Chen Ee Sin’s lab.

Zhao Wei was awarded the 3rd Prize at the Department’s Research in Progress (RP) Presentation AY2013/2014 on 21 August 2014. He is a postgraduate student in Dr Deng Lih Wen’s lab.

Ma Hui was awarded the Best Research Publication Award at the Yong Loo Lin School of Medicine 4th Annual Graduate Scientific Congress 2014 on 11 March 2014. She is in her final year of PhD studies and her supervisor is Dr Wu Qiang.

Eng Loan Ping, Christine was awarded the APBioNet Travel Fellowship for a conference, InCoB 2014, in Sydney Australia from 31 July to 2nd August 2014. She is a postgraduate student and her supervisor is A/P Tan Tin Wee.
The following postgraduate students were awarded the Biochemistry Travel Fellowship for the July 2014 call.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Supervisor</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Xiang Gao (Shawn)</td>
<td>Professor Fu Xin-Yuan</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Yu Su E</td>
<td>Dr Wu Qiang</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tay Song Buck, Terence</td>
<td>Dr Yew Wen Shan</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

**Student Conferment**

**Congratulations to all graduating students!**

**PhD Programme**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Conferred Date</th>
<th>Supervisor</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Cheung Wing Ngar Vivian</td>
<td>28-02-14</td>
<td>Dr Yew Wen Shan</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hu Yong Li</td>
<td>31-05-14</td>
<td>A/P Tan Tin Wee</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tan Chia Yee</td>
<td>31-05-14</td>
<td>A/P Thilo Hagen</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Poh Woon Cheng</td>
<td>31-05-14</td>
<td>Dr Takao Inoue</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Loo Ser Yue</td>
<td>31-05-14</td>
<td>A/P Marie Clement</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chia Zhihui Joanne</td>
<td>31-05-14</td>
<td>Dr Frederic Bard (Adjunct)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Au Yong Jie Ling</td>
<td>31-05-14</td>
<td>Professor Wang Yue (Adjunct)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wu Wei</td>
<td>31-05-14</td>
<td>A/P Maxey Chung</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Xue Yangkui</td>
<td>30-06-14</td>
<td>A/P Markus Wenk</td>
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**MSc Programme**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Conferred Date</th>
<th>Supervisor</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Yang Jin</td>
<td>30-04-14</td>
<td>Dr Takao Inoue</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chin Meiyi</td>
<td>31-05-14</td>
<td>A/P Too Heng-Phon</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Grant Awarded (June – September 2014)**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Month</th>
<th>Grant Type</th>
<th>Principal Investigator</th>
<th>Project Title</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>July 2014</td>
<td>NUHS-CG BSL3 Core Seed Funding</td>
<td>A/P Gan Yunn Hwen</td>
<td>Repurposing HMBA as a potential therapeutic agent against melioidosis</td>
<td>$50,000</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
NEW STAFF/STUDENTS

Faculty

Dr Tay Mei Sian, Yvonne
Assistant Professor
Department of Biochemistry and Cancer Science Institute
Date Joined: 01-09-2014

Dr Jan Gruber
Assistant Professor
Yale-NUS and Department of Biochemistry
Date Joined: 01-07-2014

Adjunct

A/P Joanna Holbrook
Adjunct Associate Professor
Singapore Institute for Clinical Sciences
Date Joined: 01-03-2014

Dr Neerja Karnani
Adjunct Assistant Professor
Singapore Institute for Clinical Sciences
Date Joined: 01-03-2014

Research

Boh Boon Kim
Research Fellow
PI: A/P Thilo Hagen
Date Joined: 07-08-2014

Cheung Chun Yue Maurice
Research Fellow
PI: A/P Matthew Chang
Date Joined: 21-07-2014

Chua Shu Xian Serene
Research Assistant
PI: A/P Marie Clement
Date Joined: 01-08-2014
**Non-Academic**

Liyana Binte Jamal  
Laboratory Technologist  
(Department Funded)  
RO: Dr Wu Qiang  
Date Joined: 21-07-2014

Cai Zhonghan  
Laboratory Technologist  
(Department Funded)  
RO: Dr Chen Ee Sin  
Date Joined: 04-09-2014

**Postgraduate Students**

**PhD Programme**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Main Supervisor</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Alisha Ramos</td>
<td>Dr Lim Yoon Pin</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Azad Saei</td>
<td>A/P Zeng Qi (Adjunct)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Desi</td>
<td>A/P Mridula Sharma</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Han Jian</td>
<td>A/P Caroline Lee</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Heng Yu Chyuan</td>
<td>A/P Matthew Chang</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Iwona Szczerbinska</td>
<td>Professor Ng Huck Hui (Adjunct)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Joanna Tan Hui Juan</td>
<td>A/P Tan Tin Wee</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lavina Prithi Miranda</td>
<td>A/P Mathew Chang</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lim Yen Ching</td>
<td>Dr Xu Feng (Adjunct)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Loghman Salimzadeh</td>
<td>A/P Zeng Qi (Adjunct)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Obed Akwasi Aning</td>
<td>Dr Cheok Chit Fang (Adjunct)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sultan Abda Neja</td>
<td>A/P Vinay Tergaonkar (Adjunct)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tan Bing Quan Justin</td>
<td>A/P Too Heng Phon</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tesfahun Dessale Admasu</td>
<td>A/P Thomas Walczyk</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**MSc Programme**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Main Supervisor</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Ng Wei Xiong Jonathan</td>
<td>A/P Markus Wenk</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Yee Zhuangli</td>
<td>Professor Barry Halliwell</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>


Chua, E L C and B L Tang*, "The role of the small GTPase Rab31 in cancer". *Journal of Cellular and Molecular Medicine, (2014). (Romania).


Thursday, 31 July 2014 @ 3pm
LT35, MD6
Department of Biochemistry Safety Tea

The 5th Department of Biochemistry Safety Tea was held on 31st July 2014 at LT 35 and was attended by almost 180 staff and students with an attendance of about 74%. HOD gave the welcome speech and reminded everyone to always be vigilant and to put on proper personal protective equipment when working in the lab.

Accidents/incidents that occurred recently in the Department, as well as recent Surveillance audit findings were shared by the Safety Committee during the townhall session. The new online card access application system and a new program called the “Biannual Housekeeping Day” were also introduced.

The Safety Tea ended with afternoon tea and snacks sponsored by the Department of Biochemistry. The Safety Committee would also like to congratulate the following labs with full attendance, namely the labs of A/P Matthew Chang, Dr Chen Ee Sin, A/P Maxey Chung, Dr Deng Lih Wen, A/P Gan Yunn Hwen, A/P Mridula Sharma and A/P Thilo Hagen.

Friday, 8 August 2014 @ 9am
MD4 Level 1, MD6 Level 9 and 14 & CeLS
1st Department of Biochemistry Labkeeping Day

The inaugural Department of Biochemistry Labkeeping Day was held on 8 August 2014. Almost all the labs in MD6, MD4 and CeLS took part in this important safety event. General lab areas as well as shared common spaces (such as cold rooms, cell culture rooms) were tidied up and cleaned. The Labkeeping Day will take place twice a year, and the Safety Committee would like to thank all PIs and lab members who have supported and participated in this event.
Wednesday, 24 September 2014 @ 11am  
S.E.A. Aquarium & Trick Eye Museum at Resort World Sentosa  
Department Staff Welfare AY2014/2015  

The first Department staff welfare event for AY2014/2015 was held on 24 September 2014. It was a day of fun visiting the SEA Aquarium and Trick Eye Museum in Sentosa. It was hilarious seeing the effects of the fun shots and interesting poses at the Trick Eye Museum. The Department thanks the Staff Welfare Committee (Dr Sudhakar Jha, Ms Norindah and Ms Safia) for organizing this event and look forward to the next outing.
This event was organised to showcase the research achievements of postgraduate students in the Department of Biochemistry, as well as to foster greater collaboration and camaraderie among them. Since the graduate students in our Department are based in various locations and even institutes, this annual event serves as an opportunity for them to gather, share, and debate their scientific work, as well as to discuss non-academic aspects of graduate life with each other and with the supervisors.

The theme of this year's event was "Inspiring new ideas". It was very successfully organised and the Department would like to thank all who supported and attended this event and special acknowledgement to the Organising Committee (A/P Thilo Hagen, Akshamal Mihiranga Gamage, Hong Shin Yee, Shruti Srinivasan and Deepa Rajagopalan)
The 14th day of the breast cancer awareness month in October 2014 saw the advent of the inaugural NUHS distinguished mini-symposium series on “Challenges in Breast Cancer and Oncology”. Anchored by the Department of Biochemistry and co-organized by Cancer Science Institute, the symposium was successful to promote exchanges between clinicians and scientists, to educate, stimulate and facilitate the identification of challenges in breast cancer and oncology to spearhead translation of scientific discoveries into clinical practices that will improve the outcomes of our patients.

The event received a good response with registrations from about 80 participants from IMCB, GIS, BII, SGH, TTHS, CSI and NUHS. Following the opening address by Dr Lim Yoon Pin and the welcome address by the Head of Department of Biochemistry, Professor Jean Paul Thiery, five speakers including distinguished pathologist Dr Tan Puay Hoon (SGH), oncologists Dr Lee Soo Chin (NCIS) and Dr Wong Nan Soon (Oncocare Centre), surgeon Dr Tan Ern Yu (TTHS) and scientist Dr Alan Prem Kumar (CSI) delivered stellar talks on topics related to the triple negative breast cancers, neo-adjuvant and targeted adjuvant therapy that stimulated much discussions among the participants. The symposium closed with a candid closing speech by Professor Chia Kee Seng, Dean of the Saw Swee Hock School of Public Health, who shared an illuminating epidemiological observation of the correlation of child birth with reduced breast cancer incidence.

The mini-symposium will return next year with a new set of speakers including those from overseas institutions.

The event was proudly sponsored and supported by NUHS, CSI, Roche and the Breast Cancer Foundation.
Coming Our Way!

Monday, 3 November 2014 – Wednesday, 5 November 2014
The Academia, 20 College Road, Singapore 169856
Frontiers in Cancer Science (FCS) 2014

HOD is the Chairperson of the Organising Committee for the Frontiers in Cancer Science (FCS) 2014, the 6th annual conference, which will be held at “The Academia”. The conference will showcase an impressive list of renowned, distinguished scientists from all over the globe and serve as a platform to converge the latest cancer discoveries around the world. The meeting promises to bring groundbreaking and innovative insights to a diverse repertoire of cancer research. It gives participants an opportunity to interact with 30 of the foremost cancer experts as they share their newest findings and gain invaluable networking opportunities locally and internationally.

We bid farewell to our fellow colleagues who have contributed in their own special ways to the Department and wish them all the best in their future endeavours!

Guo Huifang
Hu Yongli
Lee Woan Ting
Pallavi Tripathi
Teo Wei Bing
Wang Yuting
Yee Zhuangli
Zhang Yong
Zhao Jing

“If you are brave enough to say goodbye, life will reward you with a new Hello!”