Acting HOD’s Message
Awards
Student Conferment
Welcome to the Family
Research Publications
Events
Baby Joy
Farewell

If we missed any news that you would like to share, please contact:
The Editorial Team, Biochemistry: bchsec@nus.edu.sg
Advisor: A/P Maxey Chung
Editor: Ms Aniza A Wahid
Writer: Ms Fatin
Designer: Ms Smita
My tenure as HOD started on July 1st, and nearly two months into this job, I would say that it’s been quite an experience, and definitely a challenge. Luckily the transition into this new job has been made easier by the support rendered by all the staff in the Department. In particular, the Management Committee, consisting of A/Ps Gan Yunn Hwen, Too Heng Phon, Deng Lih Wen and Yew Wen Shan, has been a great help in the running of the Department.

Our previous HOD, Professor Jean-Paul Thiery or JP as we fondly call him, had served the Department well in the past 3.5 years. During his tenure, he had brought about a number of positive changes, amongst which is the successful completion of the renovation of MD7, and the establishment of the Synthetic Biology Research programme in the Department. For these and his other efforts, we owe him a note of thanks.

Since the last issue of Biochemistry Buzz, there are a few notable achievements by staff of the Department. A/P Tan Tin Wee was the awardee of the International Forum for Information Technology (INFITT) and A/P Gan Yunn Hwen received the Merit Award for the Asian Scientist Writing Prize. Within the School, A/P Yew Wen Shan was featured as the Everyday Scientist in the Our People Our Pride (OPOP) poster. In respect of funding support, we are pleased that 4 staff have secured grants from the various funding bodies. We also congratulate two staff, Fatihah and Lee Hua for their long service award which is in recognition of their 25 years of faithful service to the Department. These staff have done us proud.

We are happy to note that there are 17 PhD and 1 MSc graduands in the 2015 graduating class, which I think is quite a record. Our academic staff should be commented for their excellent efforts in the training of these students who will be our future generation of biomedical scientists. We hope to be able to continue attracting more graduate students into our PhD programme as they are essential players in our research endeavours.

Lastly, I wish to welcome two new academic staff, Dr Jiang Jianming and Dr Nguyen Nam Long to the Department, and also to all the other staff who have just joined us. We look forward to your contributions to the Department. Together, I am confident we can move forward and enhance the reputation of the Department.

Yours Sincerely,
A/P Maxey CHUNG
ASIAN SCIENTIST WRITING PRIZE
2015 AWARD CEREMONY

Associate Professor Gan Yunn Hwen was awarded the Merit Award at the recent Asian Scientist Writing Prize Award 2015 held on Monday, 27 July 2015 which was presented by Minister for Education Heng Swee Keat, the Guest of Honour for the Award Ceremony. She received $500 in book vouchers from World Scientific Publishing Company as well as a pen set from Pilot Pen. This event was sponsored by World Scientific Publishing Company and co-organised by Science Centre Singapore and Asian Scientist Magazine.

Congratulations A/P Gan!
Many people think of enzymes only as proteins in saliva to break down food. But enzymes can do some truly amazing things and one man is reviving the old science of enzymology by combining it with synthetic biology.

In doing so, Assoc Prof Yew Wen Shan shows that enzymes have wide-ranging, everyday relevance: from anti-virulence drugs to treat infectious diseases, to novel drugs to address aging issues. It can also replace chemicals to recycle metals in an organic, safe and environmentally-sustainable process.

Thanks for helping us to see enzymes in a whole new light, Wen Shan.
AWARDS

LONG SERVICE MEDAL

Department congratulates two of our staff, Mdm Fatihah Ithnin and Mdm Long Lee Hua for their tireless efforts and contributions to the Department.

Fatihah Ithnin
(25 years)

Long Lee Hua
(25 years)

INTERNATIONAL FORUM FOR INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (INFITT) AWARD 2015

Associate Professor Tan Tin Wee was presented the International Forum for Information Technology (INFITT) Award 2015 at the 14th Tamil Internet Conference held at UniSIM on Saturday, 30 May 2015 for his contributions towards the Tamil community.
## AWARDS

### GRANT AWARD 2015

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Month</th>
<th>Grant Call</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>PI</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>May 2015</td>
<td>MSD International</td>
<td>To identify GLDC, SHMT and PSAT tool compounds to validate/invalidate the serine-glycine metabolic pathway as a target for cancer therapy</td>
<td>A/P Yew Wen Shan</td>
<td>$52,000</td>
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<td>GmbH</td>
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<td>June 2015</td>
<td>Smart</td>
<td>Synthetic Biology – A Broad Technology Platform for Therapeutics, Diagnostics and Cellular Engineering</td>
<td>A/P Matthew Chang Wook</td>
<td>$83,334</td>
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<td>July 2015</td>
<td>NMRC CBRG</td>
<td>Investigating the role of Npac in epigenetic regulation of ES cell identity and reprogramming</td>
<td>Dr Wu Qiang</td>
<td>$695,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>August 2015</td>
<td>MOE2015-T2</td>
<td>Role of Miro GTPase in regulation of life span</td>
<td>Dr Takao Inoue</td>
<td>$540,000</td>
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If your grants are not listed here, please email us at bchsec@nus.edu.sg.
Congratulations to all 2015 Graduating Students

Department is proud to present to you, our PhD students at the NUS Commencement held on Sunday, 12 July 2015 at University Cultural Centre. Thank you for sharing your photos with us. Congratulations to all!

**MSC**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Student</th>
<th>Supervisor</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Lim Hwee Ying</td>
<td>E. Prof Sit Kim Ping</td>
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**PHD**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Student</th>
<th>Supervisor</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Ma Wei</td>
<td>Prof Han Weiping</td>
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<tr>
<td>Lin Qifeng</td>
<td>A/P Maxey Chung</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Maulana Bachtiar</td>
<td>A/P Caroline Lee</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ma Hui</td>
<td>Dr Wu Qiang</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wong Pei Wen Daphne</td>
<td>A/P Thilo Hagen</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tan Gek Ling Janice</td>
<td>A/P Tan Tin Wee</td>
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<td>Chen Ruilin Jacklyn</td>
<td>A/P Markus Wenk</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ng Li Fang</td>
<td>Prof Barry Halliwell</td>
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<tr>
<td>Prameet Kaur</td>
<td>Prof Jeyaseelan Kandiah</td>
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<td>Chua Yee Liu</td>
<td>A/P Thilo Hagen</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tan Jun Rong</td>
<td>Prof Jeyaseelan Kandiah</td>
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<td>Kong Chiu Mee</td>
<td>Dr Kenneth Ban</td>
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<tr>
<td>Lim Yi Shan</td>
<td>A/P Tang Bor Luen</td>
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<tr>
<td>Vanitha Venkoba Rao</td>
<td>A/P Mridula Sharma</td>
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<td>Chin Cheen Fei</td>
<td>A/P Yeong Foong May</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ang Khay Chun</td>
<td>Dr Vinay Tergaonkar</td>
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<tr>
<td>Zahra Kabiri</td>
<td>Prof David Virshup</td>
</tr>
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</table>
WELCOME TO THE FAMILY

ASSISTANT PROFESSORS

DR JIANG JIANMING
AOD: 06-05-2015

DR NGUYEN NAM LONG
AOD: 03-08-2015

RESEARCH ASSISTANTS

AKSHAMAL MIHIRANGA GAMAGE
PI: A/P Gan Yunn Hwen
AOD: 03-08-2015

WU SHUKE
PI: A/P Matthew Chang
AOD: 01-07-2015

CHUA PUAY SUAN JASMIN
PI: A/P Yew Wen Shan
AOD: 03-08-2015

GAN JIA-HUI STEPHANIE
PI: A/P Chua Kim Lee
AOD: 05-05-2015

LIM SI-HUI, JOLANDER
PI: A/P Markus Wenk
AOD: 04-06-2015

ZHAO WEI
PI: A/P Deng Lih Wen
AOD: 03-08-2015

LIM YAN PING
PI: A/P Yew Wen Shan
AOD: 03-08-2015

ZHU BEI
PI: A/P Matthew Chang
AOD: 04-06-2015
WELCOME TO THE FAMILY

JAYASHREE DO SELVALATCHMANAN
PI: A/P Markus Wenk
AOD: 08-06-2015

CHUA NIYING
PI: A/P Matthew Chang
AOD: 01-07-2015

RESEARCH ASSOCIATES

CHOI EUNGYEONG
PI: A/P Matthew Chang
AOD: 15-04-2015

SANGIAH UMAMAHESWARI
PI: A/P Mridula Sharma
AOD: 14-05-2015

RESEARCH FELLOWS

GOURVENDU SAXENA
PI: A/P Matthew Chang
AOD: 04-05-2015

LIANG XU
PI: Dr Lim Yoon Pin
AOD: 03-08-2015

SHIN-AE KANG
PI: Dr Lim Yoon Pin
AOD: 20-04-2015

ZHOU YI
PI: A/P Matthew Chang
AOD: 16-07-2015
WELCOME TO THE FAMILY

LABORATORY EXECUTIVES

WANG YUWEI, CHERYL
PI: A/P Gan Yunn
A/P Chua Kim Lee
AOD: 19-01-2015

MAGESWARI GANESAN
PI: A/P Matthew Chang
AOD: 02-02-2015

LABORATORY TECHNOLOGIST

ONG SI YU
PI: Dr Chen Ee Sin
AOD: 02-06-2015
RESEARCH PUBLICATIONS


RESEARCH PUBLICATIONS

in vivo”. Cell, (2015). (United States)


RESEARCH PUBLICATIONS


EVENTS

SINGAPORE MICROBIOME NETWORKING SYMPOSIUM

The symposium was attended by nearly 100 participants from NUS, NTU and various institutes across Singapore. Topics presented included how the gut microbiota was shaped during birth, its modulation during various life stages and in diseased states, as well as during aging. Furthermore, there was much discussion on our nascent understanding of the interaction between the microbiota and host metabolism.
EVENTS

SINGAPORE MICROBIOME NETWORKING SYMPOSIUM

Besides exciting talks from the speakers, a networking session in the afternoon generated much interest among the participants. Selected participants presented their research related to microbiome in 5 minutes and as well as to ask for interest in collaboration. It was a great match-making session! This event is jointly sponsored by the Department of Biochemistry, NUS and the American Society for Microbiology.
BIOCHEMISTRY SAFETY TEA

The first Department’s Safety Tea for 2015 was held on 5th August 2015 in LT35, and more than 130 staff and students attended the Safety Tea. The welcome speech was given by Acting Head, A/P Maxey Chung who re-affirmed the importance of safety and the Department’s commitment to improving safety standards. He urged everyone to maintain a positive safety attitude in the laboratory and adopt a self-sustaining proactive safety culture. Dr Takao Inoue (Safety Chairperson) and Dr Kenneth Ban (Deputy Safety Chairperson) presented and shared audit findings, accidents and incidents in the department, as well as safety updates and new safety initiatives. This was followed by a delightful tea reception and mingling session.
EVENTS

BIOCHEMISTRY SAFETY TEA
EVENTS

DEPARTMENT CELEBRATES SG50

Our staff commemorated the Nation’s birthday by dressing in the nation’s unifying colours – red and white – as well as snapping fun shots using the SG50 icon props, on Thursday, 6 August 2015. We appreciate your efforts thus a special thanks to those who have shared your photos with us. Happy SG50 to all!
UPCOMING EVENTS

7TH BIOCHEMISTRY STUDENT MINI-SYMPOSIUM AND WRITING WORKSHOP

The Department, led by Associate Professor Thilo Hagen, is organising the 7th Biochemistry Student Mini-Symposium and Writing Workshop on Wednesday, 23 September 2015. The symposium will be held in the morning at Level 1 CeLS Auditorium while the writing workshop will be in the afternoon at MD7 Level 2 Seminar Room M9.

Students and research staff are encouraged to present and attend the writing workshop by registering via http://form.jotformpro.com/form/52014336715953. See you there!

7th Biochemistry Student Mini-Symposium and Writing Workshop

Wednesday 23 September 2015
CeLS Auditorium (Morning session)
Seminar Room M9 (Afternoon Writing Workshop)

Morning session (9am to 1pm):
Present your Research Project to the Department in 3min
You can present your completed, ongoing or planned projects in no more than 3 minutes.
Available slots for postgraduate students (14), research staff (8) and undergraduate students (8).
Attractive cash prizes: $150 for the winner and $80 for runner-up in each category
Evaluation criteria: How interesting? How clear? How informative?

Plus Audience Awards for the Best Overall Presenter and for the Most Innovative Presenter
Register to attend the Mini-Symposium at http://form.jotformpro.com/form/52014336715953
Register to give a 3min oral presentation by emailing A/Prof Thilo Hagen (bchth@nus.edu.sg).
(Submissions to give 3min oral presentations are accepted on a ‘first come first served’ basis.)

Scientific Writer’s Block?

Join the
Afternoon Writing Workshop (1:45 to 5:45)
for PG students and postdocs

WHAT?
American Society for Microbiology Workshop
on Scientific Writing and Publishing

WHY?
Develop your skills to write and submit
scientific manuscripts

HOW?
Video presentations by Prof Roberto Kolter,
Harvard Medical School
Practice Exercises (facilitators A/Prof Gan Yunn Hwen and Thilo Hagen)

REGISTER NOW
(Registration deadline 31 August 2015 or when quota is reached)

A certificate of completion will be issued at the end of the workshop.
UPCOMING EVENTS

NUS SYNTHETIC BIOLOGY FOR CLINICAL AND TECHNOLOGICAL INNOVATION OPENING CEREMONY & SYMPOSIUM
30 SEPTEMBER TO 1 OCTOBER 2015
http://tinyurl.com/nkp4qzd

The NUS Synthetic Biology for Clinical and Technological Innovation (SynCTI) strives to define and translate the fundamentals of synthetic biology into benefits for human health and environmental sustainability. The Consortium blossomed from the NUS Synthetic Biology Initiative established by the Office of the Deputy President for Research and Technology, NUS. Founding members of the Consortium are drawn from the Faculties of Engineering, Medicine and Science. The Consortium continually seeks to engage the scientific community in Singapore and around the globe for strategic collaborations between academia and industry. SynCTI is currently led by Associate Professor Matthew Chang from the Department of Biochemistry, NUS Medicine.

The Opening Ceremony for SynCTI will be held on 30 September 2015 at the NUS Center for Life Sciences Auditorium; this will be followed by a 2-day Synthetic Biology Symposium featuring speakers such as Professor Jay Keasling (UC Berkeley), Professor Paul Freemont (Imperial College London), Professor William Bentley (Maryland), Professor Richard Kitney (Imperial College London), Professor Zhao Huimin (Illinois) and Professor John Gerlt (Illinois). Our Guest-of-Honour would be Professor Ho Teck Hua, NUS Deputy President for Research and Technology. Distinguished guests include Professor Barry Halliwell (Senior Advisor to the President), Deans (or their representatives) of the Yong Loo Lin School of Medicine, Faculty of Engineering, Faculty of Science, Faculty of Design and Environment, Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences, Heads of Departments, and Leaders from Industry.
UPCOMING EVENTS

INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON SYSTEMS BIOLOGY
23 TO 26 NOVEMBER 2015
http://icsb15.apbionet.org/

Associate Professor Tan Tin Wee along with Dr Kenneth Ban, encourage staff to attend the International Conference on Systems Biology which will be at Biopolis, Singapore from 23 – 26 November 2015. It is hosted by the International Society of Systems Biology (ISSB), A*Star and JST. This is the continuation of the annual series of conferences initiated by Professor Hiroaki Kitano and the ISSB in Tokyo in 2000.

All are welcome to attend and register via http://icsb15.apbionet.org/index.php/registration-rates/. See you there!
BIOCHEMISTRY BUZZ

BABY JOY

ZACHARY ANG,
1st baby boy of Ms Chew Yuan Yuan,
Laboratory Executive of
A/P Yeong Foong May’s lab.

Congratulations Yuan Yuan on your precious bundle of joy!
Enjoy your parenting journey and maternity leave.
FAREWELL

Boh Boon Kim
Chen Xixian
Cheung Chun Yue Maurice
Chua Shu Xian Serene
Dam Duc Tai, Tommy
Goh Ziyi
Han Xiaoyan
Hee Kai Sheng
Lalchhandami Tochhawng
Laura
Lim Boon Kiat Lennon
Liu Fujia
Melanie Fan Hui Min
Nin Sijin Dawn
Norazlina binti Rahmat
Prameet Kaur
Tan Yue Rong
Yao Lin
Zhang Congqiang
Zhuang Qiushi
Lin Qifeng
Dee Pham

Saying goodbye doesn’t mean anything.
It’s the time we spent together that matters, not how we left it.

The Department appreciates your contribution
and wishes you the very best in your future endeavours...