In this Issue:
HOD’s Message
Awards
Welcome to the Family
Research Publications
Press Release
Events
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
As we approach the end of 2015, this will be the last issue of Biochemistry Buzz for this year. Herein, I wish to provide an update on the activities in the Department since the last issue in September 2015. I am most happy to share with you on the great achievements of several staff in the Department.

Firstly, A/P Chua Kim Lee was awarded the Teaching Excellence Award for AY2014/2015 from Faculty of Dentistry. This is her second award running.

Secondly, Prof Barry Halliwell was presented the Nutrition Research Award by the Society of Nutrition and Food Science (SNFS) at a recent joint conference on Redox Biology Meets Nutrition.

Thirdly, Dr Yvonne Tay was the recipient of the Young Scientist Award 2015 for her research on “Non-coding RNA networks in cancer”.

Fourthly, Dr Khor Chiea Chuen (CC), our new academic staff has been awarded the 2015 EMBO Young Investigator Award. This award recognises young and promising researchers under the age of 40 who have established their first laboratories outside Europe or an EMBO cooperation partner country. Notably he was among the 5 recipients outside Europe and its neighbouring countries to have been conferred this award. On the other hand, Dr Lim Yoon Pin, together with a local medical diagnostic company called Restalyst, has successfully commercialised a new blood-based gastric cancer screening kit called GC-REAAD™.

On the research front, A/P Matthew Chang, together with A/P Yew Wen Shan and others, have recently launched the synthetic biology initiative, NUS SynCTI, with $25 million in funding from NRF, MOE and other government agencies and industry partners. SynCTI aims to bring together the disciplines of engineering, medicine and science to take on societal grand challenges.

I am also pleased to announce the establishment of the Environmental Sustainability Committee (ESC) to be headed by Dr Yap Lai Lai. The main aims of the committee are to effect a committed shift towards environmental sustainability in different aspects of the Department by integrating sustainability into our operations, education, research and public services. The current committee members are myself as Chair, Dr Yap Lai Lai, Mr Kelvin Tan, Mr Melvin Dai, Mr Terence Tay, Mr Chow Kean Pang, Ms Smita Narain, Ms Kwok Wee Chiew, Ms Fanny Ng and Ms Iman Hameed. We hope to work together with everyone in the Department to make our building and workplace more environmentally friendly, as well as to do our part towards a more sustainable future. We will be working closely with the NUS Office of Environmental Sustainability to roll out “Think Green, Act Green, Go Green” plans and projects.

With regards to staff movement, A/P Tan Tin Wee has been seconded to head the National Supercomputing Centre (NSCC) located in Fusionopolis as the Director for 2 years. We congratulate him for this key appointment. We are sad to lose a long serving academic staff, Prof Jeyaseelan Kandiah as he is retiring at the end of this year. Prof Jeyaseelan Kandiah first joined the Department on 30 August 1984, and has made substantial contributions in teaching, research and service in his 31 years with us. We offer him our deepest thanks and appreciation for his long and dedicated service, and wishing him a healthy and enjoyable retirement.

In summary, I believe we have had a successful year in research, teaching and service. I thank you all for your help and past support, and moving forward, I hope we can do better next year. I look forward to your continuous and strong support, and as a team we should be able to achieve this aim.

Lastly as we approach the festive season, I would like to wish all of you happy holidays, Merry Christmas, and a Happy Near Year.

A/P Maxey Chung
The Department celebrates your achievements

Senior Advisor to NUS President, Tan Chin Tuan Centennial Professor Barry Halliwell, was awarded the Society of Nutrition and Food Science (SNFS) Advances in Nutrition Research Award at a recent joint conference; Redox Biology Meets Nutrition of the Society for Free Radical Research – Europe and the Society of Nutrition and Food Sciences which was held on 2 – 4 September 2015 at the University of Hohenheim. The conference included award lectures by Professor Barry Halliwell, who is the first scientist to hold the SNFS Advances in Nutrition Research Lecture together with many esteemed researchers who presented their cutting-edge science at the conference. Congratulations Prof Halliwell!
http://www.snfs.org/

Dr Yvonne Tay was the recipient of the Young Scientist Award 2015 for her research on “Non-coding RNA networks in cancer” at the award ceremony organised by Singapore National Academy of Science and supported by A*STAR. The award was presented by Mr S. Iswaran, Minister, Prime Minister’s Office and Second Minister for Home Affairs and Trade & Industry. Congratulations Dr Tay!

Dr Khor Chiea Chuen was among the 5 recipients outside Europe and its neighbouring countries to have been awarded the 2015 EMBO Young Investigator Award. This award recognises young and promising researchers under the age of 40 who have established their first laboratories outside Europe or an EMBO cooperation partner country. Well done Dr Khor!

A/P Chua Kim Lee was presented the Teaching Excellence Award for AY2014/2015 from Faculty of Dentistry on its 17th Faculty Awards Day 2015 on 13 October 2015 at MD6 LT35. This is her second time receiving from the category. Congratulations A/P Chua!
## GRANT AWARDS

The Department celebrates your achievements

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Month</th>
<th>Grant Call</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Main PI</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>August 2015</td>
<td>AcRF Tier 1 FRC</td>
<td>FAT10 Variants in Hepatocellular Carcinoma (HCC) patients</td>
<td>A/P Caroline Lee</td>
<td>$179,900</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>AcRF Tier 1 FRC</td>
<td>Rab31’s modulation of EGF receptor trafficking - roles in regulating astroglia differentiation and function</td>
<td>A/P Tang Bor Luen</td>
<td>$178,800</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>September 2015</td>
<td>Teaching Enhancement Grant</td>
<td>Formative student feedback - Evaluating and improving feedback of student assignments</td>
<td>A/P Thilo Hagen</td>
<td>$6,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>November 2015</td>
<td>Hanoi Research Collaboration Grant</td>
<td>Identification of CAPE (Cytoprotective activity against pollutants in environment) agents from traditional Asian medicinal plants for lung cancer treatment</td>
<td>Dr Chen Ee Sin</td>
<td>$20,000</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
NEW STAFF

Welcoming our new staff into our Department

Assistant Professor

Dr Khor Chiea Chuen
RO:A/P Maxey Chung (Acting HOD)
Date Joined: 01/07/2015

Research Assistant

Lee Hui Ling
RO:A/P Matthew Chang
Date Joined: 13/08/2015

Wang Zhengjie Benny
RO:Dr Jiang Jianming
Date Joined: 16/09/2015

Ren Bingbing
RO:Dr Chen Ee Sin
Date Joined: 07/09/2015

Lim Kim Kiat
RO:Dr Chen Ee Sin
Date Joined: 04/08/2015
NEW STAFF

Welcoming our new staff into our Department

Laboratory Executive

Oh Yu Song
RO: Dr Nguyen Nam Long
Date Joined: 01/10/2015

Management Assistant Officer

Aganda Grace Sia
RO: Ms Aniza A Wahid
Date Joined: 02/09/2015
PUBLICATIONS

July 2015 to 16 December 2015


PUBLICATIONS

July 2015 to 16 December 2015


**CHAPTERS PUBLISHED IN BOOKS**

**PRESS RELEASE**

**Singapore company launches more accurate gastric cancer detection kit**

**Dr Lim Yoon Pin | Wednesday 11 November 2015 | Channel NewsAsia**

SINGAPORE: Medical diagnostic company Restalyst has launched a new gastric cancer screening kit that is more accurate, the National University of Singapore (NUS) announced on Wednesday (Nov 11).

The kit, known as GC-REAAD, is a blood-based test that has demonstrated a better ability to detect without false positives compared to other tests. Validation studies were conducted on patient samples collected by the Singapore Gastric Cancer Consortium.

The test was developed from technology invented by Asst Prof Lim Yoon Pin from the Department of Biochemistry, NUS Yong Loo Lin School of Medicine. Dr Lim’s team managed to identify a protein that is expressed at significantly higher levels in gastric cancer patients compared to patients without gastric cancer.

**Full Article:**

**NUS finding may lead to new cervical cancer treatments**

**Dr Sudhakar Jha | Friday 4 December 2015 | The Straits Times**

A new finding by scientists from the National University of Singapore (NUS) could pave the way for more targeted treatment of cervical cancer.

The team from the NUS Cancer Science Institute of Singapore (CSI Singapore) found new molecular interactions involved in the development of tumours in cervical cancer.

They found that the human papilloma virus (HPV), which causes cervical cancer, interacts with a protein called EDD1 to destabilise a tumour suppressor protein, which stops the formation of tumours.

The three-year study also showed that an increase in a tumour suppressor protein called TIP60, found in the human body, could prevent the growth of cancer cells.

The protein acts as a “guardian of the cell” against cancerous growth, said Assistant Professor Sudhakar Jha, principal investigator at CSI Singapore, who was involved in the study.

**Full Article:**
EVENTS

Universitas Indonesia Visit

Lab Tour @ Department of Biochemistry on 17 September 2015

The Department of Biochemistry was delighted to host Top Management delegates (which comprise of Rector, Vice rectors, Deans, Vice Deans) from Universitas Indonesia on 17 September 2015. Safety representatives from the Department conducted guided tours to our teaching and research labs, and showcased our research facilities, as well as how we implemented workplace safety and health in the Department.

"We would like to express our sincere thanks to the Department of Biochemistry for hosting the visitors from Universitas Indonesia on 17 September 2015.

Thank you very much for your warm hospitality. We are extremely grateful to you for taking time out from your busy schedule to welcome the visitors and sharing on the Department’s Safety & Health Management System. A special note of thanks to the Department Safety Committee, Dr Takao Inoue and team. The guided tours to practical class, fire-fighting equipment and control room, different types of chemical storage cabinet and spill kits by Dr Yap Lai Lai.

Your generous refreshments at the end of the tour was indicative of the superb signature hospitality of the Department of Biochemistry.

Thank you for your invaluable partnership in ensuring a safe & healthy workplace in NUS. We wish the Department of Biochemistry every success!"

Email from Dr Lim Cheh Peng dated 25 September 2015
Senior Safety & Health Manager, Office of Safety, Health & Environment, National University of Singapore
This year’s Biochemistry Student Symposium had the theme “Oral & Written Communication” and was organised with a unique format. Students were invited to give 3 minute presentations about their research projects. 16 postgraduate students, staff and undergraduate students signed up and came up with interesting and engaging talks. In between the presentations, our faculty members, including Dr Jan Gruber, Dr Chen Ee Sin, Dr Wu Qiang, A/P Yew Wen Shan and A/P Too Heng-Phon as well as our adjunct faculty, A/P Lisa Ng, talked about the importance of oral and writing skills based on their own experience and gave some tips on how to become good oral and written presenters.

The programme of the symposium proved to be very interesting and exciting for the audience and many participants suggested adopting similar structure in future. The best presenter of the day was Zhao Wei, who won both the first prize in the postgraduate student and staff category, as well as the ‘Best overall presenter’ audience prize. A big thank you again to all participants and presenters as well as to the judges and Biochemistry Admin staff who were involved in preparing the symposium!

In conjunction with the Student Symposium, we also held a 4-hour writing workshop sponsored by the American Society of Microbiology (ASM). The workshop was co-organized by A/P Gan Yunn Hwen, A/P Yeong Foong May and A/P Thilo Hagen and was well received by the participants.
Department would like to thank all participants for joining us at the symposium and also would like to extend our heartiest congratulations to all the winners of the recently held 7th Student Symposium 2015 on Wednesday 23 September 2015.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Awards</th>
<th>Recipients</th>
<th>Supervisor</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Department of Biochemistry Honours Book Prize</td>
<td>Wan Zhi Yi</td>
<td>Dr Long Yun Chau</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Socrative Quiz Winner</td>
<td>Michelle Fong Hei Tung</td>
<td>Dr Takao Inoue</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Socrative Quiz Second Prize</td>
<td>Hong Shin Yee</td>
<td>A/P Thilo Hagen</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Best Research in Progress Presenter First Prize</td>
<td>Goh Kah Yee</td>
<td>Dr Takao Inoue</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Best Research in Progress Presenter Second Prize</td>
<td>Terence Tay Song Buck</td>
<td>A/P Yew Wen Shan</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Best Research in Progress Presenter Third Prize</td>
<td>Pham Hoang Long</td>
<td>A/P Matthew Chang</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Best UROPS Student Award</td>
<td>Ng Jeng Haur</td>
<td>Dr Wu Qiang</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Postgraduate students and staff**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Best Oral Presentation First Prize</th>
<th>Zhao Wei</th>
<th>A/P Deng Lih Wen</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Best Oral Presentation Second Prize</td>
<td>Lim Kim Kiat</td>
<td>Dr Chen Ee Sin</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Best Oral Presentation Third Prize</td>
<td>Wu Shuke</td>
<td>A/P Matthew Chang</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Undergraduate students**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Best Oral Presentation First Prize</th>
<th>Pek Min Qian Nicole</th>
<th>Adjunct Assistant Professor Adrian Teo</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Best Oral Presentation Second Prize</td>
<td>Salai Kaung Htet Tun</td>
<td>A/P Thilo Hagen</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Audience Award for the best overall presentation</td>
<td>Zhao Wei</td>
<td>A/P Deng Lih Wen</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Audience Award for the most innovative presentation</td>
<td>Alisha Ramos</td>
<td>Dr Lim Yoon Pin</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
EVENTS

SynCTI Opening Ceremony and Symposium
30 September - 1 October 2015 @ CeLS Auditorium

NUS Synthetic Biology for Clinical and Technological Innovation (SynCTI) opening ceremony and symposium held in October 2015 was a resounding success with the participation of about 200 researchers and industry representatives across all levels. The programme officially kicked off with an opening address and ribbon cutting ceremony by Professor Barry Halliwell, Senior Advisor to President at the University, followed by a two day scientific symposium which featured distinguished scientists from UC Berkeley, Imperial College London, University of Illinois Urbana Champaign, University of Maryland, NUS, NTU, A*STAR and industries. SynCTI Corporate Lab was launched on the second day with A/P Matthew Chang (programme leader of SynCTI), Mr Harry Singer (MD of Singer Instruments) and Ms May Cheong (Vice-President for BD Biosciences Asia) taking to the stage. Exciting times indeed for NUS!

www.syncti.org
The 6th International Singapore Lipid Symposium and the 6th Asian Symposium on Plant Lipids were jointly organized and hosted by the Singapore Lipidomics Incubator, SLING, late this year at the Yong Loo Lin School of Medicine. The event drew approximately 200 participants and key speakers from across the globe in a 5-day scientific exchange of novel research and innovation within the field of lipidomics. All in all, the symposium was well-organized with a diverse range of topics being categorically presented over the week, and was furnished with contributions from both academia and industry. Proud sponsors for the event included Agilent Technologies, Thermo Scientific, Avanti Polar Lipids, Larodan, SCIEX, Scientific Resources, NUS- Department of Biochemistry, NUS- Department of Biological Sciences and NUS- Life Sciences Institute. SLING also presented six travel awards to young scientists showing very promising work.
EVENTS

Farewell Tea Party organised for Prof Jeyaseelan Kandiah

10 December 2015

In deepest appreciation to

Professor Jeyaseelan Kandiah

for your 31 years of dedicated service, commitments and invaluable contributions to the Department of Biochemistry, Yong Loo Lin School of Medicine, National University of Singapore

With thanks,
Staff & Students
Department of Biochemistry

[Image of a group of people standing together]
Thank You Professor Jeyaseelan Kandiah!
UPCOMING EVENTS

Staff Welfare Committee FY 2015 invites you to...

Monday 22 February 2016 @ Desaru Farm

DEPARTMENT OF BIOCHEMISTRY

STAFF WELFARE COMMITTEE FY2015 INVITES YOU TO DESARU FARM

22 FEBRUARY 2016 | ONE DAY DESARU NATURE TOUR

7 AM | Meet up Point
MD11, Roundabout

Breakfast in Johor Bahru
Breakfast will be at your own expenses at JB eating place.

Places we will be visiting

Desaru Fruit Farm:
Where you can see rows of honey lime trees with fruits hanging on the trees. Many other tropical fruits such as rose apple (jambul), breadfruit, etc, hanging on the trees. You can purchase the fruits freshly harvest from the orchard. Freshly cut fruits skewer on sticks are also available for sale.

Bee Farm at Penggerang:
An educational and informative talk on bee and honey where you can get the first-hand knowledge about honey followed by sampling of varieties of honey. Commentary will be done by in house guide.

Lunch in Penggerang
Open outdoor lunch and fruits fiesta. Drop by Penggerang local product shop for the most famous “Dou Sha Bing”, “Bong Bing”, etc which is a must to buy items.

Shopping
Free and easy shopping at Aeon Tebrau.

6 PM | Dinner
Seafood Dinner at Senibong Restaurant.

7.30 PM | Back to Singapore
Commence journey back to Singapore.
FAREWELL

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

Lim Yi Shan

Sng Wei Qian Ethel

Zhu Bei

Chen Gek Joo Isabelle

Farewell is not the end, but a new beginning.