Dear Colleagues & Students,

The long semester break is here and the Department is re-energising and preparing itself for the new semester. We have just completed the past semester’s exams and I would like to specially acknowledge and convey my sincere thanks to all our staff who were involved in ensuring, once again, 100% accuracy in all our marking results. We are very proud to have such a dedicated team upholding the education missions of our Department.

As you may have observed, our MD7 levels 1 and 2 have been completely refurbished. It is a relief that the phase 1 regularization was completed as scheduled. Level 1 will house the Life Sciences teaching lab and all its facilities for our practical classes. Level 2 will be home to the Administrative Office, Seminar Room, Conference Room, dry labs and some offices for our PIs. We look forward to the beginning of the Phase 2 regularization and the remodeling of levels 3, 4 and 5, which is expected to be completed by end of the year.

The Department is currently reviewing and proposing our possible peer and aspirant departments to the Deanery. These departments will be used as a form of benchmark for future recruitment of Assistant Professors and for promotion and tenure applications. Presently, the Department is actively engaged in recruiting faculty staff to further strengthen our 3 research themes. I hope the final choices of our peer and aspirant departments will certainly motivate our Department to soar to greater heights in research.

I also like to wish my very best to Dr Sherry Wang Xueying who has left us on 31 May 2014 to lead a research division in a private company. She will continue to maintain close links with the Department through her adjunct position with us.

As we forge into the second half of 2014, I hope the vacation break will give all of us some time to unwind, recharge and re-focus to take on the challenges in the upcoming new semester, especially the completion of MD7 regularization. I know many of us are looking forward to being back “home” and so do I.

Yours sincerely,

Professor Jean Paul Thiery
Head of Department
Leading the way in Biomedical Sciences

The Highlights

Staff Awards

A/P Gan Yunn Hwen  
Faculty Research Excellence Award AY2012/2013

Dr Deng Lih Wen  
Faculty Teaching Excellence Awards AY2012/2013

Dr Yeong Foong May  
Faculty Teaching Excellence Awards AY2012/2013

Ms Aniza A. Wahid  
NUS Quality Service Advocate Award 2013 for her outstanding contributions to the Department

Student Conferment

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Program</th>
<th>Conferred date</th>
<th>Supervisor</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Ms Choo Yin Yin</td>
<td>PhD</td>
<td>31-01-14</td>
<td>A/P Thilo Hagen</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mr Goo Chong Kiat</td>
<td>PhD</td>
<td>28-02-14</td>
<td>Prof Sit Kim Ping</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ms Charlene Priscilla Poore</td>
<td>PhD</td>
<td>31-01-14</td>
<td>A/P Sashi Kesavapany (main) A/P Markus Wenk (co-sup)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mr Jaichandran S/O Sivalingam</td>
<td>PhD</td>
<td>31-01-14</td>
<td>Prof Kon Oi Lian</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ms Hou Qian</td>
<td>PhD</td>
<td>31-01-14</td>
<td>A/P Chung Ching Ming, Maxey</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ms Ho Yoon Khei</td>
<td>PhD</td>
<td>31-03-14</td>
<td>A/P Too Heng-Phon</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mr Nguyen Thanh Hung</td>
<td>PhD</td>
<td>30-04-14</td>
<td>Dr Mathijs Voorhoeve</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Grants Awarded

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Month</th>
<th>Grant Call</th>
<th>Principal Investigator</th>
<th>Project Title</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>April 2014</td>
<td>NUHS Bench-to-Bedside</td>
<td>A/P Chua Kim Lee</td>
<td>Pre-clinical testing of a novel biomaterial coating for silicone catheters</td>
<td>$100,000</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Welcome to the Family

Chen Binbin  
Research Assistant  
PI: A/P Matthew Chang  
Date Joined: 07-04-14

Chen Ruilin Jacklyn  
Research Assistant  
PI: A/P Markus Wenk  
Date Joined: 25-02-14

Chen Xixian  
Research Assistant  
PI: A/P Too Heng Phon  
Date Joined: 24-01-14

Chin Cheen Fei  
Research Assistant  
PI: Dr Yeong Foong May  
Date Joined: 17-02-14

Chng Si Hui  
Research Assistant  
PI: A/P Matthew Chang  
Date Joined: 28-02-14

Choo Yin Yin  
Research Assistant  
PI: Dr Lim Yoon Pin  
Date Joined: 10-02-14

Ho Chun Loong  
Research Assistant  
PI: A/P Matthew Chang  
Date Joined: 06-01-14

Liang Junxin  
Research Assistant  
PI: Professor Fu Xin Yuan  
Date Joined: 11-02-14

Lo Tat Ming, Samuel  
Research Assistant  
PI: A/P Matthew Chang  
Date Joined: 18-02-14

Teo Wei Suong  
Research Assistant  
PI: A/P Matthew Chang  
Date Joined: 27-03-14

Wu Wei  
Research Assistant  
PI: A/P Maxey Chung  
Date Joined: 24-02-14

Zhang Congqiang  
Research Assistant  
PI: A/P Too Heng Phon  
Date Joined: 01-01-14

Liu Fujia  
Research Associate  
PI: Professor Jeyaseelan, K.  
Date Joined: 07-04-14

Liu Ruirui  
Research Associate  
PI: A/P Matthew Chang  
Date Joined: 13-03-14

Cho Han-Saem  
Research Fellow  
PI: A/P Matthew Chang  
Date Joined: 02-01-14

Hwang In Young  
Research Fellow  
PI: A/P Matthew Chang  
Date Joined: 02-01-14

Foo Jee Loon  
Senior Research Fellow  
PI: A/P Matthew Chang  
Date Joined: 14-04-14
Our Publications

January 2014 - May 2014


Lin*, Q, H T Tan, T K Lim, A Khoo, KH Lim and M C M Chung, "iTRAQ analysis of colorectal cancer cell lines suggests Drebrin (DBN1) is overexpressed during liver metastasis". Proteomics, (2014). (Germany). Publication no. 0611076


Tan, HK, C D Toh, HR Ma, BX Yang, TK Tan, Y P Lim*, C Stuart and Y Loh, "Finger-prick iPSCs Facilitate the Development of Stem Cell Banking". Stem Cells translational Medicine, (2014). (United States). Publication no. 0566413


Esakimuthu*, P N P, Y Okada, Woei-Yuh Saw, T H Ong, E Tantoso, W Xu, Authors 7-11, W Y Lim, Soong R, M R Wenk, Author 15, F R L PETER, Authors 17-18, K S Chia, Authors 20-21 and YY Teo*, "Predicting HLA alleles from high-resolution SNP data in three Southeast Asian populations". *Human Molecular Genetics*, (2014). (United Kingdom). Publication no. 0613412


Chua, C E L and B L Tang*, "Engagement of the Small GTPase Rab31 and its Effector, Early Endosome Antigen 1, is Important for Trafficking of Ligand-bound Epidermal Growth Factor Receptor from Early to Late Endosome". *Journal of Biological Chemistry*, (2014). (United States). Publication no. 0612520


Yeong, F M, How to read and Critique a Scientific Article: Notes to Guide Students Reading Primary Literature for the First Time (with Teaching Tips for Faculty members), Singapore: World Scientific Press, 2014. 102 pp. (The book aims to help undergraduate students to overcome their anxieties in reading scientific literature by providing a conceptual framework that should be applicable to different types of scientific articles). Publication no. 0608821
What’s Buzzing?

Department Staff Welfare Events

Lunch @ Carousel, Royal Plaza on Scotts
26 February 2014

Everyone was a winner for our lucky draw held after a scrumptious spread of lunch buffet at Carousel. A big thank you to the Staff Welfare Committee FY2013 (Dr Kenneth Ban, Ms Ooi Pei Kun & Ms Dee Pham) for organising this wonderful event.

Department Fruits Day
21 - 22 April 2014

In our support for a healthy lifestyle, the Staff Welfare Committee FY2013 provided all eligible Department-funded staff with one bag of packed fruits on Monday 21 April 2014.
The 4th AGSC Organising Committee, Assistant Dean A/P S Thameen Dheen and A/P Heng Chew Kiat, expressed their deepest appreciation for your invaluable contributions towards the Yong Loo Lin School of Medicine 4th Annual Graduate Scientific Congress (AGSC) 2014 as the Public Relations (PR) Director of the Congress Organising Committee. They highly commended the efforts of our 2 postgraduate students in leading the PR team and successfully securing notable industrial companies as the event’s sponsors. The school have received positive feedback from both participants and sponsors on the interactive experience they had in this year’s congress. In addition, we applaud our student’s teams’ outstanding efforts in producing a professionally compiled congress booklet. The Department and SOM were also well impressed with their performance as the emcee for the event. Both Beryl and Sweelin have shown great leadership, tenacity and versatility throughout the organizing process of this congress.

The Department joins SOM in thanking Ms Beryl Augustine from Dr Yeong Foong May’s lab and Ms Chew Sweelin from Professor Brigitte Lane’s lab for their outstanding contributions to this year’s Annual Graduate Scientific Congress. You have certainly made exceptional contributions to this year’s congress. Once again, congratulations for making the 4th AGSC a very successful event!

We would also like to congratulate the following winners for their excellence performance at AGSC 2014!

| 3rd Runner-up Oral Presentation Award ($100 cash + Certificate of Award) |
|---|---|
| Name           | Supervisor          |
| Faranak Ghazi Sherbaf | Prof Edison Liu |

| Best Poster Presentation Award ($100 cash + Certificate of Award) |
|---|---|
| Name           | Supervisor          |
| Zahra Kabiri   | Prof David Marc Virshup |
| Zhao Wei       | Dr Deng Lih Wen     |

| Best Research Publication Award ($200 Cash Prize each) |
|---|---|
| Name           | Supervisor          |
| Ma Hui         | Dr Wu Qiang         |
| Marco Bezzi    | Dr Ernesto Guccione |
What’s Buzzing?

Phase 1 completion for levels 1 and 2, MD7.

More updates coming soon...
Baby Joy!

Second child Jeanette of Ms Kate Ho, a Research Assistant in Professor Sit Kim Ping’s lab, born on 21 April 2014.

Our Farewell

We thank them for their contributions to the Department and wish them all the best in their future endeavors.

Anantharaj Rengara
Chan Siew Lee
Chong Yew Mei
Himani Kukreti
Joanne James
Juvvuna Prasanna Kumar
Law Kai Pong
Lee Junhong
Lee Mui Khin Nee Koh
Miow Qing Hao Eddy

Pallavi Tripathi
Sangiah Umamaheswari
Wang Jingbo
Zou Ruiyang
Dr Sherry Wang Xueying
Kanchi Madhu Mathi
Koh Yong Qin
Sebastian Schaffer
Xie Xiaojin
Yang Jin
Coming Up!

Inaugural NUHS Distinguished Mini-Symposium
“Challenges in Breast Cancer and Oncology”

Date: 14 October 2014
Time: 2pm – 5pm
Venue: To be confirmed nearer to date

Dr Lim Yoon Pin, Department of Biochemistry
Organising Committee, Chairperson

Synopsis
Despite advances in early detection, surgery and therapy, breast cancer remains one of the leading causes of cancer-related deaths. What are some of the day-to-day issues that surgeons, pathologists, oncologists and scientists face while managing and researching breast cancer? Effective management of breast cancer inevitably requires some of these issues to be confronted. Through the NUHS breast cancer mini-symposium series, challenges will be surfaced and insights into solutions will be discussed. Join us as we bring together a community of breast cancer and oncology researchers in the hope of achieving an integrated and concerted effort to improve the outcomes of our breast cancer patients in Singapore.

Did you know?

1. The oldest book in the NUS Libraries is “朱文公校昌黎先生文集” or The Collected Work of Han Yu, proofread by Zhu Xi. Currently housed in the Chinese Library, it was published between the late 13th-century and the first half of the 14th-century in Jianyang County (Fujian Province).
2. NUS is home not just for academics, but also for the arts. The NUS Museum houses over 7,000 artifacts – ranging from classical Chinese and Indian materials to modern and contemporary Southeast Asian art. Bet you didn’t know that we also manage the Baba House located along Neil Road!
3. Yong Siew Toh Conservatory of Music is named after Yong Siew Toh who was a music teacher and Dr Yong Loo Lin’s daughter, whose greatest joy is in sharing music with others.
4. The University is committed to providing a quality education for all our students and ensuring that no deserving student is denied an education because of financial difficulty. Bursary awards range from S$1,000 to S$20,000 per student per year.

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

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Editors: Ms Aniza A Wahid & Ms Rebecca Jackson
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Designer: Mr Ravi Gandhi