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Dear Colleagues,

We are already half-way into 2017.

Personally, I have been enjoying the one-on-one meetings with many of you who I have not met in person for a chat previously. I tremendously value your views and feedback during these informal meetings. It will take a bit more time to organize thoughts, but clearly, I would expect new initiatives to emerge from this exercise.

Many congratulations to those who have won awards and grant, a large number as you will see in this edition of the Buzz. This includes, what appears to be an increasing frequency of research grants. In addition, the number of teaching awards in this cycle is unprecedented. The Department as a whole has scored high in safety which was recognized at the 2017 NUS Annual Safety & Health awards. The Commendation Award which we have received has become highly distinctive indeed.

We are now in the final preparations for the 90th Anniversary celebrations and of course the new academic year. I wish you all an enjoyable term break.

Many thanks and best wishes,
Markus
A/P Maxey Chung was elected as President of Asian Oceanian Human Proteome Organisation (AOHUPO) effective 1 January 2017 (3 years) 
And, appointed as the Deputy Chair of Medical Sciences Cluster from 1 June 2017 – 30 June 2018.

A/P Gan Yunn Hwen 
- Adjunct Associate Professor was appointed at Mechanobiology Institute effective 1 April 2017 (1 year) 
- Member of the Institutional Biosafety Committee effective 1 January 2017 (3 years) 
- Member of the NUS Senate Delegacy effective 1 July 2017 (2 years)

A/P Caroline Lee received the Inspiring Mentor Award at NUS High School Research Congress on 22 February 2017.

MiRXES Pte Ltd, founded by A/P Too Heng-Phon, together with Biochemistry alumni, Drs Zhou Lihan & Zou Ruiyang, was awarded the Scientist-Entrepreneur Award at A*STAR Awards 2017.

Source

NUS Annual Safety & Health Performance Award Ceremony 2016/2017

Thursday, 20 April 2017 @ NUS University Cultural Centre Theatre

The award plaque was presented to the Head of Department, Professor Markus Wenk by Senior Advisor to the President, NUS, Professor Barry Halliwell at the NUS 11th Annual Safety & Health Performance Ceremony on 20 April 2017 at University Cultural Centre.

A prize money of $3,000 was also awarded to the Department, which can be used for developing programmes and initiatives that promote safety and health culture among out staff and students.
Staff Awards

Congratulations

Faculty Teaching Awards for AY2015/2016

A/P Yew Wen Shan
NUS Annual Teaching Excellence Award
Yong Loo Lin School of Medicine
Educator of the Year
Yong Loo Lin School of Medicine
Teaching Excellence Award

A/P Thilo Hagen
Yong Loo Lin School of Medicine
Teaching Excellence Award

Dr Long Yun Chau
Yong Loo Lin School of Medicine
Teaching Excellence Award

Dr Lim Yoon Pin
Yong Loo Lin School of Medicine
Teaching Excellence Award

Staff Promotions

Johann has been promoted to Instructor with effect from 1 January 2017.

Amanda Lim has been re-appointed to Senior Executive with effect from 1 March 2017.
Staff Awards
Long Service Awards 2017

20 years
A/P Gan Yunn Hwen

15 years
A/P Tang Bor Luen

10 years
Dr Chen Ee Sin

5 years
Dr Kenneth Ban
Dr Sudhakar Jha
Dr Long Yun Chau
Dr Foo Jee Loon
Dr Lim Shen Kiat
Dr Russel Lee
A/P Tan Tin Wee together with a team of stellar editorial advisory committee, through a Singapore based publisher Asian Scientist Publishing Pte Ltd launched *Supercomputing Asia*, a new print title dedicated to track the latest developments in high performance computing across the region and making supercomputing accessible to the layman.

Source

Dr Sudhakar Jha along with his team at CSI, discovered that TIP60 interacts with 2 other proteins called DNMT1 and SNAIL2 to inhibit the spread of cancer cells. This is the first study which reports the novel function of TIP60 in regulating DMNT1-SNAIL2 axis and subsequently was published in *Journal of Molecular Cell Biology*.

Source

Dr Lim Yoon Pin and team uncovered the WBP2 gene in 2011 which has been determined to cause the rapid proliferation of breast cancer cells. The gene could be tapped as a biomarker for early detection and prognosis of breast cancer. The patent has been licensed to Singapore medical diagnostic company, Restalyst, to be commercialised into a test kit.

Source

Asst Prof Lim (left) and Mr Peh holding a test kit prototype that detects the WBP2 gene causing breast cancer

A prototype immunohistochemistry kit for detection of WBP2 in clinical specimens
Helpful Nature Wins Heart

Fatihah’s readiness to help others is well treasured by her bosses and colleagues.

- Professor Markus R Wenk, Provost’s Chair and Head, Department of Biochemistry
  NUS Yong Loo Lin School of Medicine

Dedication, passion and always ready to lend a helping hand, are all second nature to Fatihah.

Throughout her career spanning three decades at the NUS Department of Biochemistry, Fatihah has never failed to render her full support to her colleagues. When asked for their views on Fatihah, her bosses and colleagues could not stop singing praises of her helpful ways and cited many instances when Fatihah “saved the day”. We concur that she is the lady which NUHS is grateful to have. You shine, Fatihah!

Ms Fatihah Bte Ithnin
Assistant Manager
Department of Biochemistry
NUS Yong Loo Lin School of Medicine
MOE Tier 1 (Oct call)
Novel regulators of centromeric chromatin integrity and genomic stability

Dr Chen Ee Sin  
$179,500

Study the role of CSE in Age-related Macular Degeneration: Cytoprotection against oxidative stress-mediated inflammation and neovascularization in retina pigment epithelium

A/P Deng Lih Wen  
$179,750

TCA cycle dysfunction and repair dictates pyruvate-induced HIF1α activation

Dr Long Yun Chau  
$178,500

NUHS Open Call for Collaborative Research Grant (O-CRG) FY 2016
Development and Characterization of Preclinical Disease Models for Dilated Cardiomyopathy Caused by Pathological Variants in LMNA gene

Dr Jiang Jianming  
$200,000

NUS Young Investigation Award PI 2016
Stress-induced lipid transporter Mfsd2b is critical for hematopoietic cell proliferation and formation

Dr Nguyen Nam Long  
$486,100

Summit Research Program (Synthetic Biology) FY2016-FY2017

A/P Matthew Wook Chang  
$2,182,000

August 2016 Call
Reversible Control of WBP2 Oncogene by Tumor Suppressors in breast cancer (MOE2016-T2-2-007)

Dr Lim Yoon Pin  
$560,426

Dynamic epigenetic control of genomic integrity by Set2 and H3K36 methylation (MOE2016-T2-2-063)

Dr Chen Ee Sin  
$810,708

Two is better than one – Her2 in combination with WBP2 improves anti-Her2 precision medicine in breast cancer. NMRC OF-IRG (OFIRG16nov012)

Dr Lim Yoon Pin  
$879,900
AGSC 2017 AWARDS

The 7th Annual Graduate Scientific Congress (AGSC) 2017 organised by the NUS Yong Loo Lin School of Medicine held on 26 and 27 January 2017 has closed with great success.

We would like to thank all students and staff for their enthusiastic participation and support.

Biochemistry Travel Fellowship January 2017 Call

Liew Wen Chiy
Supervisor: A/P Prabha Sampath

Tabaglio Tommaso
Supervisor: A/P Ernesto Guccione
LI ZILIN, PhD
Supervisor: Dr Lim Yoon Pin
Conferred Date: 30.09.2016

NG MEI YING, MSc
Supervisor: A/P Thilo Hagen
Conferred Date: 30.09.2016

NG WEI XIONG JONATHAN, MSc
Supervisor: Professor Markus Wenk
Conferred Date: 31.10.2016

YU SUE, PhD
Supervisor: Dr Wu Qiang
Conferred Date: 30.11.2016

ZEINAB MAMOUEI, PhD
Supervisor: Professor Wang Yue
Conferred Date: 30.11.2016

XINLEI YU, PhD
Supervisor: Dr Long Yun Chau
Conferred Date: 31.12.2016

MAN MOHAN SHRESTHA, PhD
Supervisor: A/P Han Weiping
Conferred Date: 31.01.2017

CORONEL CARRION LUIS EDUARDO, PhD
Supervisor: Dr Cheok Chit Fang
Conferred Date: 28.02.2017

SEMIH CAN AKINCILAR, PhD
Supervisor: Professor Vinay Tergaonkar
Conferred Date: 28.02.2017
New Students
January 2017 Student Intake

Daniel Lim Rui Xiang
Main Supervisor: A/P Gan Yunn Hwen

Esra Balikci
Main Supervisor: Professor Song Haiwei
Co-Supervisor: Professor Hong Wanjin

Toh Li Ping
Main Supervisor: A/P Deng Lih Wen
Co-Supervisor: Dr Tam Wai Leong
Welcome to the Family

Cheah Wai Yuen  
Research Fellow  
RO: A/P Yew Wen Shan  
Date joined: 08-10-2016

Han Ping  
Research Fellow  
RO: A/P Matthew Chang  
Date joined: 28-11-2016

Zhang Xiaoming  
Research Fellow  
RO: A/P Deng Lih Wen  
Date joined: 03-01-2017

Teo Wei Zhe  
Research Fellow  
RO: A/P Matthew Chang  
Date joined: 10-01-2017

Aow Shao Bing, Johanan  
Research Associate  
RO: A/P Matthew Chang  
Date joined: 16-01-2017

Gazi Sakir Hossain  
Research Fellow  
RO: A/P Matthew Chang  
Date joined: 01-02-2017

Vu Minh Thiet  
Research Fellow  
RO: Dr Nguyen Nam Long  
Date joined: 01-02-2017

Ang Shy Min, Jean  
Research Associate  
RO: Professor Markus Wenk  
Date joined: 13-02-2017

Zhang Lei  
Research Fellow  
RO: A/P Matthew Chang  
Date joined: 23-02-2017

Neo Sin Hui  
Research Assistant  
RO: A/P Tang Bor Luen  
Date joined: 01-03-2017

Xue Bo  
Senior Research Fellow  
RO: A/P Matthew Chang  
Date joined: 02-03-2017

Maciej Bartosz Holowko  
Research Associate  
RO: A/P Matthew Chang  
Date joined: 13-03-2017
Welcome to the Family

Rahmah
Specialist Associate
RO: Ms Violet Teo
Date joined: 20-03-2017

Yang Xiaqing
Research Assistant
RO: Dr Kenneth Ban
Date joined: 30-03-2017

Alexander Triebl
Research Fellow
RO: Professor Markus Wenk
Date joined: 30-04-2017

Pranul Mishra
Research Assistant
RO: A/P Matthew Chang
Date joined: 03-04-2017

Saravanan Prabhu Nadaraja
Research Fellow
RO: A/P Matthew Chang
Date joined: 06-04-2017

Jung Harin
Research Fellow
RO: A/P Matthew Chang
Date joined: 05-05-2017

Madhuvinthi Chandrananthan
Research Assistant
RO: Dr Nguyen Nam Long
Date joined: 08-05-2017

Foo Chuan De
Research Assistant
RO: A/P Yeong Foong May
Date joined: 18-05-2017

Maulana Bachtiair
Research Fellow
RO: A/P Caroline Lee
Date joined: 26-05-2017

Raissa Eka Fedora
Research Assistant
RO: A/P Matthew Chang
Date joined: 29-05-2017

Wen Ke Yan
Research Fellow
RO: A/P Matthew Chang
Date joined: 19-06-2017

Dee Pham
Executive
RO: Ms Violet Teo
Date joined: 27-06-2017
Mageswari Ganesan’s Baby Girl
Laveena Belu
06.01.2017

Johann & Vivian’s Baby Boy
Jovian Tian
16.02.2017

Melvin’s Baby Boy
Matthias Dai
21.03.2017
5th – 9th December 2016 marked the Department’s inaugural “Clear Your Freezer Week” where all the research labs in the Department thawed and cleaned their freezers, and threw out unwanted items. The successful event ended with an ice cream treat from the Department. Ice cream vendor, Uncle Chua and his ice cream cart was engaged to serve the traditional ice cream (on waffle biscuit, bread or cone) to all Department staff who had worked hard to make the event a success. It was definitely a great way to say “Good Job” after a long week of cleaning!

Contributed by Dr Yap Lai Lai, member of Department’s Safety Committee.
Biochemistry Welcome Party was the first event organized by Biochemistry Graduate Student Association (BiGSA), a newly formed graduate student committee in the department. The purpose of this gathering was to welcome and initiate fresh graduate students who just started their PhD journey in Aug 2016 and Jan 2017. It would also act as a mean for them to interact and network with senior PhD students and hopefully allay their fears and concerns regarding grad school.

The event commenced with warm welcome speeches from Professor Markus Wenk and A/P Thilo Hagen. Two interactive games were planned as part of the ice-breaking session. The first game called ‘Guess What Is Wrong’ required each student to state three interesting facts about themselves one of those facts being incorrect. This game got the students actively involved and also helped them know more about each other. This was followed by a game of ‘Charades’ - a word guessing game mediated via miming. The students were divided into 4 teams. Each team was given 10 minutes to think of words for the opposing team to act, and 10 minutes to play the game. Team D (see the photo below) won the game and got a $40 Starbucks voucher as the prize.

The event finished off with a closing speech by Ms Liew Wen Chiy, the President of BiGSA. A dinner-cum-networking session was also organized, sponsored by the department outside M9. It was encouraging to see active participation from the newcomers for the welcome party and we are looking forward to a better event in the coming semester.

Contributed by Ms Liew Wen Chiy, President of BiGSA
before the event

during the event

ice breaking session
Introducing BiGSA

Biochemistry Welcome Party is proudly brought to you by Team BiGSA.

The Department Staff Welfare team organised an interactive event learning all about coffee. The seminar was held at Starbucks Fullerton Waterboat House. Staff were fascinated by the different coffee taste when matched with various types of foods. It was truly a learning experience for all.

After the coffee seminar, staff had a wonderful lunch at Carousel at Royal Plaza on Scotts. Staff enjoyed themselves and the event ended with a group photo.

Contributed by Mr Chow Kean Pang, member of Department Staff Welfare Event

Source for video
Head of Department’s Address to Biochemistry Postgraduate Students

HOD addressed the Department’s postgraduate students to seek their inputs on professional or personal skills that our postgraduates wished to acquire by the end of their studies and the type of team building activities that they hoped to participate during their course of studies. HOD also took the opportunity to formally introduce the newly formed Department postgraduate student association to the students – BiGSA, short for Biochemistry Graduate Student Association.

Students appreciated the address by HOD and hoped to be involved in the activities organised by BiGSA in future.
Biochemistry Safety Tea

The Safety Tea was attended by close to 200 staff and students, which was held in LT35 at MD6. HOD gave an opening speech urging all staff to observe highest standards of safety in the labs and to put on safety glasses while working in the lab. He also announced that the Department has been awarded the Commendation Award for 2016/2017.

The Safety Committee continued the afternoon with updates of the relevant safety measures and sharing the learning outcomes from the accidents/incidents that had happened in the last few months. The event ended with a delicious afternoon tea treat for all.

Contributed by Dr Yap Lai Lai, member of Department’s Safety Committee.
MD7 Firedrill

The fire safety committee conducted an annual fire drill for the department on 23 February 2017. With full cooperation of our staffs and students, they were led out of the department in a calm and orderly manner to our new assembly point at the multipurpose field by our fire wardens. MD7 was fully evacuated in 6 minutes with an attendance of 74.5%.

Contributed by Mr Melvin Dai, Department’s Fire Coordinator.
In conjunction with Biochemistry’s 90th Anniversary theme, “Back to the Past”, Department hosted a Biochemistry Alumni Dinner on Thursday, 9 March 2017. Former students and their respective supervisors were present to grace the fruitful event.

Through this event, it was gathered that networking is essential for future work experiences and internship is useful in providing students more exposure to the working life, before actually embarking to one. Above all, elegant dinner was served and attendees dines and chat throughout the event.
Biochemistry Honours Open House 2017

Department held a Biochemistry Honours Open House for incoming honours students. Former and current honours students shared their personal experiences and the learning curves that they had learnt while doing honours projects with the Department. The event ended with a Question & Answer session followed by a light tea reception.

## Program

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<tr>
<th>TIME</th>
<th>DETAILS</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>12.30 pm</td>
<td>Guests to be seated</td>
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<tr>
<td>12.30 pm – 12.40 pm</td>
<td>Welcome Speech by Education Director</td>
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<tr>
<td>12.40 pm – 12.50 pm</td>
<td>Presentation by Module Coordinator</td>
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<tr>
<td>12.50 pm – 1.10 pm</td>
<td>Presentation by Former Honours Student</td>
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<td>1.10 pm – 1.20 pm</td>
<td>Q &amp; A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1.20 pm – 1.30 pm</td>
<td>Interaction &amp; Tea Reception</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Farewell Lunch Reception for Dr Takao Inoue and Dr Wu Qiang on 22 May 2017

Department sincerely thanked Dr Takao Inoue and Dr Wu Qiang for their contributions to the department for all this years.

Department wished them the best of luck in their future endeavours!


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Goodbye Dear Staff

Farewell is not the end, but a new beginning

If we missed any news that you would like to share, please contact:
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