Fire Safety Excellence Award 2012

We are very proud to announce that our MD7 building has won the prestigious Platinum Award for Fire Safety Excellence [2012] for the third time running; only a few buildings in all of NUS have done so. This Platinum award is given to buildings that have attained the Gold standard for 3 consecutive years or were a previous year platinum award winner. The evaluation criteria include not just fire safety compliance but also participation in the annual fire drill, the updating and deployment of Fire Emergency Plans and training of fire wardens. Our success was only possible with the concerted effort and cooperation from all of our staff and students. To everyone, our deepest thanks and appreciation. Well done!

Message from the Head

Dear Colleagues,

We are almost approaching the halfway mark in 2013 and it has been just slightly over one year since I joined the Department. I am still in the learning process and appreciative of your patience and support rendered to me during the past year.

April 2013 was a busy month for our faculty members as we hosted the visits of 2 separate Scientific Advisory Boards. My intention of inviting these internationally respected scientists was to seek their unbiased expert advice on our Department’s strengths and areas of improvement to take our research productivity to the next level. I will be conducting further discussions with the faculty to implement strategies that will bring the Department to the peak of excellence.

With the NUS examination just over, I would also like to give special acknowledgment and convey my thanks to all our staff who are involved in this important mission. Their prompt marking of scripts and the many rounds of mark checking by our administrative and technical staff have ensured zero errors in all of the modules hosted by our Department these past few years and I am confident that this will continue as evidenced by the commitment of the staff involved.

Our next extensive project is the regularization of MD7, which is scheduled to take place from September 2013 to October 2014. All MD7 occupants will shift to MD6 level 14 as a temporary “decanting place” while MD7 is refurbished into a more modern building with newer facilities and space optimization. MD 4A Level 1 which will house some of our PIs is expected to be completed by early August 2013.

I do understand the inconvenience and sacrifice that our staff have to endure during this renovation but let us bite the bullet now in order to enjoy a much more conducive and safer working environment in the revamped MD7 at the end of 2014. I must make special mention of Veen Senn who has been hard at work with the MD4A and MD7 renovations, in accommodating the requests of the PIs and myself!

We are very fortunate to have capable staff – academic, administrative and technical staff in the Department. Let us soldier on and brave the upcoming challenges together with hope for a better future for our Department.

I will be conducting further discussions with the faculty to implement strategies that will bring the Department to the peak of excellence.

Inside This Issue

- Fire Safety Excellence Award 2012 (pg. 1)
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- Welcome to New Students - January 2013 Intake (pg. 7)
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CONGRATULATIONS – STAFF

- Our adjunct staff, Prof Birgitte Lane and Dr Prabha Sampath for their paper in *Nature* titled “‘See-saw’ expression of microRNA-198 and FSTL1 from a single transcript in wound healing”.

- NUS Long Service Awards 2013 Recipients:
  - 10 Years – Dr Lim Yoon Pin
  - 15 Years – A/P Marie Clement
  - 25 Years – A/P Tan Tin Wee
  - 30 Years – A/P Chua Kim Lee

- NUS Annual Teaching Excellence Award (ATEA) AY2011/2012 Recipient
  - Dr Yew Wen Shan

- Our Education Director, A/P Maxey Chung was appointed to become the Secretary General of Human Proteome Organisation (HUPO) after serving as Secretary General at the Asia Oceania Human Proteome Organisation (AOHUPO) for 5 years from 2008 – 2012.

- NUHS Values-in-Action (VIA) awardees 2013:
  - Mr. Chow Kean Pang; SOM Individual
  - Ms Iman Fahim Hameed; SOM Individual

CONGRATULATIONS – STUDENTS & ALUMNI

- Our PhD student, Wu Wei (Supervisor: A/P Maxey Chung), won the second prize for the Young Investigator’s award at the Proteomic Forum 2013 in Berlin, Germany. The Department is proud of her achievement and glad that the Department’s Travel Fellowship have provided her with the opportunity to experience this milestone in her postgraduate candidature.

- Dr Justin Choo Khar Heng, Biochemistry PhD Bioinformatics (2002 – 2006) (picture below), who is now CEO and CoFounder of Knorex Pte Ltd, has provided an opportunity for readers to download an application on our smartphones and then scan photos and advertisements in the paper to instantly get extra content on our devices. These include 3D images, video clips, photo galleries, product catalogues and contest forms.
## Students Conferment

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Prog</th>
<th>Supervisor(s)</th>
<th>Date of Conferment</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Ms  Lee Pei</td>
<td>MSc</td>
<td>Dr Deng Lih Wen</td>
<td>30/04/2012</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ms  Hou Yanyan</td>
<td>MSc</td>
<td>Dr Wang Xueying</td>
<td>31/05/2012</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ms  Toh Ling Ling</td>
<td>MSc</td>
<td>Dr Wang Xueying</td>
<td>06/08/2012</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ms  Liu Lizhen</td>
<td>MSc</td>
<td>A/P Caroline Lee</td>
<td>30/09/2012</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ms  Chng Xuemei, Charmaine</td>
<td>MSc</td>
<td>A/P Markus Wenk</td>
<td>31/10/2012</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mr  Yew Chow Wenn</td>
<td>MSc</td>
<td>Dr Deng Lih Wen</td>
<td>31/12/2012</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ms  Aishwarya,S</td>
<td>MSc</td>
<td>Dr Yew Wen Shan</td>
<td>31/01/2013</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ms  Zhao Qianyi</td>
<td>MSc</td>
<td>Dr Wu Qiang</td>
<td>01/04/2013</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Prog</th>
<th>Supervisor(s)</th>
<th>Date of Conferment</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Mr  Zhang Peiqing</td>
<td>PhD</td>
<td>Dr Song Zhiwei</td>
<td>31/05/2012</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ms  Tan Yong Wah</td>
<td>PhD</td>
<td>Professor Hong Wanjin</td>
<td>19/06/2012</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ms  Shaveta Goyal</td>
<td>PhD</td>
<td>A/P Song Jianxing</td>
<td>31/07/2012</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ms  Migliori Valentina</td>
<td>PhD</td>
<td>Dr Ernesto Guccione</td>
<td>30/09/2012</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mr  Goh Shijie</td>
<td>PhD</td>
<td>A/P Clement, Marie-Veronique</td>
<td>30/09/2012</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mr  Zhou Lihan</td>
<td>PhD</td>
<td>A/P Too Heng-Phon</td>
<td>31/12/2012</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mr  Ye Peng</td>
<td>PhD</td>
<td>Professor Barry Halliwell</td>
<td>31/12/2012</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ms  Wang Yue</td>
<td>PhD</td>
<td>A/P Han Weiping</td>
<td>31/01/2013</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mr  Teh Boon Eng</td>
<td>PhD</td>
<td>A/P Gan Yunn Hwen</td>
<td>28/02/2013</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ms  Karolina Dwi Seliowati</td>
<td>PhD</td>
<td>Professor Jeyaseelan, K.</td>
<td>28/02/2013</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ms  Wong Hui Hui</td>
<td>PhD</td>
<td>Dr Frederic Bard</td>
<td>01/04/2013</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ms  Lim Kai Ying</td>
<td>PhD</td>
<td>Professor Jeyaseelan, K.</td>
<td>01/04/2013</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
PUBLICATIONS (NOVEMBER 2012 – APRIL 2013)


<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Month Awarded</th>
<th>Principal Investigator</th>
<th>Project Title</th>
<th>Amount Awarded</th>
<th>Source of Fund</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>November 2012</td>
<td>Dr Kenneth Ban</td>
<td>Development of Transposon-based Approach for Combinatorial Testing for Cancer Genes in Human Cell Lines</td>
<td>$96,500</td>
<td>NMRC-CS-NIG</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Dr Wang Xueying</td>
<td>β-catenin/TCF complex positively regulates telomerase (hTERT) in cancer cells</td>
<td>$179,850</td>
<td>MOE Tier 1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>December 2012</td>
<td>Dr Yew Wen Shan</td>
<td>Synthetic Isoprenoid Enzymology: Establishing an enabling platform within the US synthetic biology research consortium</td>
<td>$200,000</td>
<td>NUS Synthetic Biology Initiative</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Dr Chen Ee Sin</td>
<td>Basic for synthetic biological engineering of budding yeast host for ubiquinone biosynthesis</td>
<td>$200,000</td>
<td>NUS Synthetic Biology Initiative</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>January 2013</td>
<td>Professor Sit Kim Ping</td>
<td>Autism: Derangement of sulfate metabolism of neurotransmitter amines in the brain?</td>
<td>$180,000</td>
<td>ACRF Tier 1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Dr Sudhakar Jha</td>
<td>Why is TIP60.com hacked by viruses?</td>
<td>$179,953.88</td>
<td>ACRF Tier 1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Dr Thilo Hagen</td>
<td>Cancer drug target identification using a thymidine kinase fusion protein screen</td>
<td>$176,200</td>
<td>ACRF Tier 1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>A/P Gan Yunn Hwen</td>
<td>Defining the virulence potential of Acinetobacter baumannii and its associated virulence factors</td>
<td>$150,000</td>
<td>NUHS Seed Fund for Basic Science Research Grant</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>A/P Marie Clement</td>
<td>Superoxide: the oncogenic reactive oxygen species?</td>
<td>$150,000</td>
<td>NUHS Seed Fund for Basic Science Research Grant</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Dr Yew Wen Shan</td>
<td>Solving the Mechanistic Riddle of Glycine Decarboxylase, an Unusual Amino Acid Decarboxylase involved in Tumorigenesis</td>
<td>$150,000</td>
<td>NUHS Seed Fund for Basic Science Research Grant</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Dr Chen Ee Sin</td>
<td>Molecular study of nucleolus as a stockpile compartment for coordinating DNA damage response</td>
<td>$149,950</td>
<td>NUHS Seed Fund for Basic Science Research Grant</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Professor Jayaseelan, Kandiah</td>
<td>Aquaporins and biomimetic membranes</td>
<td>$2,371,200</td>
<td>NRF-EWI Grant</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>February 2013</td>
<td>Professor Jayaseelan, Kandiah</td>
<td>MicroRNAs profiles in heart failure</td>
<td>$2,536,000</td>
<td>NMRC-TCR (Tier 1)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>March 2013</td>
<td>A/P Chang Chan Fong</td>
<td>Isolation and characterization of novel inhibitors of CD38/ADP-ribosyl cyclase</td>
<td>$100,000</td>
<td>Bridging Fund</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>April 2013</td>
<td>Dr Yeong Foong May</td>
<td>Understanding the mechanistic links among the CDK, endocytosis and cytokinesis</td>
<td>$832,127</td>
<td>MOE Tier 2</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
WELCOME NEW STAFF

Professor Jeyakumar Henry
Adjunct Professor
Singapore Institute of Clinical Sciences
Assumption of Duty: 15/12/2012

Dr Laurent Martorelli
Adjunct Assistant Professor
Roche International Hub
Assumption of Duty: 15/12/2012

Dr Giulia Rancati
Adjunct Assistant Professor
Institute of Molecular Biology
Assumption of Duty: 01/05/2013

Fanny Ng
Laboratory Executive
Supervisor: A/P Tang Bor Luen
Assumption of Duty: 14/03/2013

Federico Tesio Torta
Research Fellow
Supervisor: A/P Markus Wenk
Assumption of Duty: 29/03/2013

Han Xiaoyan
Research Assistant
Supervisor: Prof Fu Xin-Yuan
Assumption of Duty: 12/10/2012

Kim Sheng Quan, Reuben
Research Assistant
Supervisor: Dr Deng Lih Wen
Assumption of Duty: 17/04/2013

Lin Fan
Research Fellow
Supervisor: Dr Lim Yoon Pin
Assumption of Duty: 18/04/2013

Lok Xue Li
Research Fellow
Supervisor: A/P Chua Kim Lee
Assumption of Duty: 07/01/2013

Lu Sau-Yi
Laboratory Executive
Supervisor: Dr Lim Yoon Pin
Assumption of Duty: 11/03/2013

Manickarathnam Ranjan
Research Assistant
Supervisor: Prof Barry Halliwell
Assumption of Duty: 25/01/2013

Naing Naing Mon
Research Fellow
Supervisor: Dr Lim Yoon Pin
Assumption of Duty: 01/02/2013

Ravi Gandhi
Specialist Associate
Supervisor: Aniza A Wahid
Assumption of Duty: 02/05/2013

Seow Vui Yin
Laboratory Technologist
Supervisor: A/P Too Heng-Phon
Assumption of Duty: 01/11/2012

Sim Yi Loong, Arthur
Laboratory Executive
Supervisor: Dr Long Yun Chau
Assumption of Duty: 04/02/2013

Sing Wei Qin, Ethel
Research Assistant
Supervisor: A/P Gan Yunn Hwee
Assumption of Duty: 01/04/2013

Teo Qi-Wen
Elizabeth-Raye
Research Assistant
Supervisor: Dr Deng Lih Wen
Assumption of Duty: 11/03/2013

Wen-Hsin, Sandy
Research Fellow
Supervisor: Dr Lim Yoon Pin
Assumption of Duty: 23/01/2013

Zou Ruiyang
Research Assistant
Supervisor: A/P Too Heng-Phon
Assumption of Duty: 29/10/2012
Welcome to New Students – January 2013 Intake

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Prog</th>
<th>Main Supervisor</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Mr Chai Tin Fan</td>
<td>MSc</td>
<td>Dr Wang Mei</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ms Chan Hui Shan Christine</td>
<td>PhD</td>
<td>A/P Too Heng-Phon</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ms Habiba Zorgati</td>
<td>PhD</td>
<td>A/P Robert Charles Robinson</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ms Lim Hwee Ying</td>
<td>MSc</td>
<td>Professor Barry Halliwell</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mr Matias Jose Caldezes</td>
<td>PhD</td>
<td>Co Sup: Emeritus Professor Sit Kim Ping</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mr Semih Can Akinlar</td>
<td>PhD</td>
<td>A/P Philipp Roland Kaldis</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>A/P Vinay Terganokar</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Events – Staff Welfare Lunch @ Fairmont Singapore

Staff Welfare Lunch at Asia Market Café @ Fairmont Singapore was organised on 5th February 2013. There were 20 lucky draw winners and top 10 prizes sponsored by various organisations. A big thank you to the Staff Welfare Committee FY2012 (Dr Lim Yoon Pin, Aniza, Qian Feng and Irwan) for organizing this wonderful event.
EVENTS – DIABETES, OBESITY AND OTHER METABOLIC DISEASES SYMPOSIUM

An event co-chaired by HoD on 12 April 2013 and some of our PIs presented in this interesting half day Symposium.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Presentation Title</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Dr Liam R. Brunham</td>
<td>ABCA1 and HDL-cholesterol in Inlet Dysfunction and Type 2 Diabetes.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dr Zhu Jian</td>
<td>Development of an Artificial Heart, using Soft Active Materials.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dr Roshini R. Singaraja</td>
<td>Hip14 and glucose metabolism.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A/Prof Michael Raghunath</td>
<td>Brown/beige adipocytes generated from human bone marrow stromal cells.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Prof Jayakumar Henry</td>
<td>Clinical Nutrition Research Centre: Research Themes, and Collaborative Opportunities.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dr David T. Leong</td>
<td>Nanomaterials induced endothelial cell leakiness: curse or opportunity?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dr Veronique Angeli</td>
<td>Lymphatic drainage is essential for reverse cholesterol transport.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dr Yew Wen Shen</td>
<td>Addressing the Metabolic Disease of Ageing through Synthetic Enzymology.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dr Takao Inoue</td>
<td>C. elegans, aging and mitochondria.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dr Feng Lei</td>
<td>Nutrition, metabolic disorders and the Brain.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dr Lim Yun-An, Andrea</td>
<td>Mitochondrial dysfunction in Alzheimer’s disease and type 2 diabetes.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dr Roger Ho</td>
<td>Psychiatric Aspects of Metabolic Syndrome.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dr Wang Xueying</td>
<td>Nutrition and metabolism: the missing link and insights from the mammalian cell clock-telomere length.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mr Navin Prabhu Balakrishnan</td>
<td>Personalized Lifestyle Prescription and Evidence-Based Participatory Learning Tools for Diabetics.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dr Esther Woon</td>
<td>New Therapeutic Approaches to Obesity-FTO and Brown Fats.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dr Raymond Ng</td>
<td>Exploring The Therapeutic Potential Of microRNAs In Lipid Metabolism.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Prof Fu Xin-Yuan</td>
<td>Stat3 in Body Homeostasis.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A/Prof Jimmy So Bok Yan</td>
<td>Centre for obesity management &amp; surgery.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Diabetes, Obesity and Other Metabolic Diseases Symposium**
Friday, 12 April 2013, 1pm – 5pm, NUHS Tower Block, T12-03
All NUHS and NUS Staff are welcomed!

A unique opportunity for NUHS Clinicians and Scientists and NUS Staff to meet and discuss potential collaborations across Bench to Bedside research

**Who Should Attend**
If you have special interest in Diabetes, Obesity and Other Metabolic Diseases research and are looking for collaborators in your research work, this is the golden opportunity for multi-disciplinary interaction.

**What to Present**
Please prepare 3-5 slides (max. 5mins) to explain:
1. What is your main research interest and your proposed research for collaboration?
2. What collaborations you are looking for and what is required to pursue your project further?

If you are interested to attend or present, please email Sherline Tay at medipss@nus.edu.sg by 28 Feb 2013. For presenters, please provide the proposed topic or title of your research.
Baby Joy!

Second child of
Ms Sangiah Umamaheswari,
Research Assistant in
A/P Mridula Sharma’s lab.

Farewell

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

Chai Siaw Ching
Lim Jing Yan
Sudarkodi Sukumar
Lee Yun Hwa
Sen Paromita

Lau Pei San
Nurfadillah Mahmood
Gan Bin Qi
Muhammad Irwan

Editorial Team

Biochemistry Buzz is brought to you by the Department of Biochemistry,
Yong Loo Lin School of Medicine, National University of Singapore

Advisor
Prof Jean Paul Thiery

Editors
Dr Rebecca Jackson
Ms Aniza A Wahid

Writer
Miss Fatin

Designer
Ravi

If we missed featuring your news in this edition, please drop us an email at bchsec@nus.edu.sg