Prof Trevor Lithgow awarded Australian Laureate Fellowship

On Tuesday 9th July, the Federal Minister for Innovation, Industry, Science and Research and Minister for Higher Education, Senator the Honourable Kim Carr visited Monash and announced that Prof Trevor Lithgow has been awarded the highly prestigious Australian Research Council Laureate Fellowship.

As a Laureate Fellow, Prof Lithgow will receive a funding package that includes four-year postgraduate scholarships to recruit six new postgraduate students to Monash to work on projects that range from imaging bacterial cell surfaces using super-resolution microscopy and atomic force microscopy, to imaging molecular machines using electron microscopy, neutron reflectometry and direct activity assays. It also provides for salary continuity for several post-doctoral fellows working in these and related areas of research in the Lithgow lab, currently comprised of 13 members.

Trevor was quoted: “The latest molecular and cellular imaging technology can now be applied to address bacterial cells; no longer need these microbes be dismissed as inscrutable due to their very small size. In terms of their cell biology, whole metabolic cycles are performed without significant diffusion of metabolites, due to clustering of enzyme “metabolosomes” in discrete locations within the bacterial cell cytoplasm. Likewise, DNA and DNA-associated proteins can be visualized and are confined to discrete territories in cytoplasm, and the segregation of RNA transcripts into sub-cellular territories dictates spatial control over their translation into polypeptides: transcripts encoding membrane proteins are first targeted to the inner face of the bacterial membrane before ribosomes engage to translate the membrane proteins.

My lab is working towards an understanding of how molecular machines are built in bacterial outer membranes, and to what extent this process needs to be spatially organised and controlled. These molecular machines function in protein secretion and antibiotic efflux, and are genuinely machines: each of the component parts has a defined structure and contributes a defined partial function, and only in the assembled machine do the parts coordinate together to a fully functional form. We are dissecting the assembly pathways, with an ultimate view of being able to interfere with the assembly of molecular machines.”

Trevor moved to our Department from Melbourne University in 2009 as an ARC Federation Fellow, to establish a research program in Cellular Microbiology. In 2010 he was honoured by election to the Australian Academy of Science, and a research team led by Trevor was awarded almost $9 million to develop the NHMRC Program in Cellular Microbiology. International acclaim followed in 2012 when Prof Lithgow and colleagues discovered a new molecular machine, the Translocation and Assembly Module (TAM) (publication details below), for which they were nominated for the prestigious Eureka Prize.

In sending his congratulations on behalf of the Department, Prof Roger Daly (Head of Dept) stated: “The award of this Laureate Fellowship represents an outstanding achievement and gives appropriate recognition for Trevor’s contribution to the field of bacterial and mitochondrial protein transport. The fellowship support will help Trevor maintain his presence at the cutting edge of this field and will also provide great opportunities for research training and technology development.”

Prof Lithgow’s webpage: http://www.med.monash.edu.au/biochem/staff/lithgow.html


(Lithgow Lab members in bold)
A/Prof Janet Macaulay receives inaugural award

A/Prof Janet Macaulay has been awarded the inaugural 2013 FAOBMB Education award. This is given triennially to a biochemist or molecular biologist in recognition of outstanding contributions to education in biochemistry or molecular biology in the FAOBMB region, with a special focus on innovation and productive outcomes in education.

The Award will be presented to Janet by the President, Professor Andrew Wang, at the 23rd FAOBMB Conference in Dhaka, Bangladesh, in December 2013.

Janet will receive an honorarium of USD 3,000.

Department webpage to be restructured

“As discussed at the last Department meeting, we are looking at restructuring our Department website so that it provides a more informative and attractive portal for engaging undergraduate and post-graduate students and upcoming and established researchers. One of our goals is to highlight the broad areas of research/disciplines and disease areas that we focus on.”

Prof Tony Tiganis, Deputy Head of Dept (Research)

Could all Lab Heads please ensure that they contact Tony regarding which research themes and disease areas they would like their groups to be associated with? The circulated list of choices is not absolute; he is open to suggestions for alternative/additional themes/disease areas.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Lab Head</th>
<th>New Staff Member</th>
<th>Position</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Ian Smith</td>
<td>Jirawat Saetan</td>
<td>OT</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Janet Macaulay</td>
<td>Benjamin Lang</td>
<td>Casual Sessional</td>
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<tr>
<td>Caroline Speed</td>
<td>Daniel Epstein</td>
<td>Casual Sessional</td>
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<tr>
<td>Caroline Speed</td>
<td>Grace Florescu</td>
<td>Casual Sessional</td>
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<td>Tony Tiganis</td>
<td>Tariq Butt</td>
<td>RA</td>
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<td>Tony Tiganis</td>
<td>Garron Dodd</td>
<td>RF</td>
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<tr>
<td>David Jans</td>
<td>Kirilly Wagstaff</td>
<td>Casual General</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lee Wong</td>
<td>Maheshi Udugama</td>
<td>RA</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

A complete list of the Department's publications to June 2013 has been added to our website.


Publications released after this date are being collated and will be listed in next month's edition of the newsletter.

Department website:
www.med.monash.edu.au/biochem

Section of the frieze in Bld 76 level 2
POSTGRADUATE MATTERS

PhD Graduates

Lydia Murdiyarso
Thesis: "Fitness of P. berghei carrying atovaquone-resistance mutations in the mitochondrial DNA"
Supervisor: Sangot Marzuki

All queries on Postgraduate matters:
Please contact Prof Mibel Aguilar (mibel.aguilar@monash.edu)

STUDENT SOCIETY

New Committee
2013 has seen the election of a new NOTDRS committee. More details to come in the July newsletter.

June Beer Club Photos

MBio Graduate School Three Minute Thesis Competition
The MBio Graduate School Three Minute Thesis Competition will be held on Thursday 18th July, 2pm - 3pm in lecture theatre S4, bld 25.
More information can be found on the MBio Graduate School Website or contact shae.cox@monash.edu

OHS MATTERS

“NEW INCIDENT REPORT FORM”
The final two pages of the newsletter contain the revised version of the Hazard & Incident Report form. Read carefully through the Instructions, as the form needs to be completed in full and handed to the Safety Officer to report any hazard and incidents.

Note that the Safety Officer MUST be contacted the same day of the hazard/incident even if the form has not been fully completed.

CONTACT US:
Department of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology, Monash University, Building 77, Wellington Road, Clayton VIC 3800 Australia
Tel: +61 3 990 29400     Fax: +61 3 990 29500
Content and Layout: Yvonne.Dooley@monash.edu     Photography: MNHS Multimedia Services

Link to MBio e-bulletin:
INCIDENT NUMBER (issued by OH&S)
TYPE OF REPORT
Hazard □ Near miss □ Injury/Illness □ Environmental □ Unacceptable Behaviour □

DETAILS OF PERSON REPORTING HAZARD OR INCIDENT
Surname: ................................................. Given Name: ................................................. ID No.: .................................................
Telephone: ................................................ Email: ..............................................................
Signature of person reporting hazard or incident: .......................................................... Date: / /

DETAILS OF PERSON INVOLVED IN INCIDENT (must be completed for near misses and injury/illness)
Surname: ................................................. Given Name: .................................................
Telephone: ................................................ Email: ..............................................................
Employee □ Adjunct □ ID No.: ................................................. Faculty/Division: ......... Unit: ..........
Contractor □ Employer: ................................................. Engaged by: .................................................
Visitor □ Reason for visiting: .................................................
Undergraduate □ Course: ................................................. Student ID: .................................................
Honours □ Postgraduate □ Faculty of enrolment: ................................................. Student ID: .................................................
Signature of person involved in incident: .......................................................... Date: / /

INJURY/ILLNESS DETAILS (if applicable)
Describe injuries/illness

Treatment details:
None □ First aider □ On-campus medical service □ Own doctor □ Hospital: Out-patient □ In-patient □

DETAILS OF WITNESS (if applicable)
Surname: ................................................. Given Name: .................................................
Telephone: ................................................ Email: ..............................................................

HAZARD OR INCIDENT DETAILS (attach additional details if required)

Report is being sent directly to OH&S without further details or signatures as confidential issues are involved

SUPERVISOR (or nominated delegate)

Given name: ................................................. Surname: ................................................. Signature: .................................................
ID no.: ................................................. Date: / /

DISTRIBUTION

Original □ Safety Officer
Copy □ Person involved in incident
Copy □ Local OHS Committee Chairperson
Copy □ Health and Safety Representative
Electronic Copy □ OHS Consultant or Advisor

OHS Hazard and Incident Report, v5
Date of first issue: May 2006
Page 1 of 2

Responsible Officer: Manager, OH&S
Date of last review: May 2013
Page 4

For the latest version of this document please go to: http://www.monash.edu.au/ohs/
PLEASE NOTE THIS IS NOT A WORKCOVER CLAIM FORM
For information regarding WorkCover please contact HR, Employee Assistance x29573

INSTRUCTIONS

This form is for reporting all hazards and incidents (including non-injury or near-miss incidents, as well as environmental incidents)

PERSON INVOLVED IN INCIDENT, OR REPORTING HAZARD OR INCIDENT OR ENVIRONMENTAL EVENT

- Copy form and retain copy as a receipt of injury notification
- Staff member: Pass form on to your supervisor or safety officer and participate in investigation of the incident with the safety officer and health & safety representative
- Student: Pass form on to your supervisor, safety officer or Faculty office and participate in investigation of the incident
- Non-staff member: Pass form on to the supervisor or the safety officer of the area, OH&S or to Security & Traffic
- Supervisor or person providing initial treatment should fill in the form if the injured person is unable to do so

Reports containing confidential issues can be forwarded directly to OH&S, bypassing any party as necessary.

SUPERVISOR

- Notify OH&S (990 51016) immediately of all serious incidents
- Notify safety officer immediately (if not available, notify health & safety representative)
- Review and sign form
- Forward original to safety officer
- Scan and email to OHS Consultant/Advisor
- Scan and email to Return to Work unit if WorkCover claim is possible

SAFETY OFFICER

- Notify OH&S (990 51016) immediately of all serious incidents
- Lead investigation of reported hazard or incident
- Ensure Health and Safety Representative receives a copy

HEALTH AND SAFETY REPRESENTATIVE

- Notify OH&S (990 51016) immediately of all serious incidents
- Participate in investigation of reported hazard or incident
- Discuss the matter with staff involved and consult with management on resolution of incident

OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH & SAFETY (OH&S)

- Report appropriate incidents to relevant regulatory authorities
- Enter information into database and follow up on missing details

OHS COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSON

- Receive copy of form for tabling at next local OHS committee meeting

ENVIRONMENTAL OFFICER

- Review status of preventive and corrective actions

Privacy statement:
The information on the form is collected for the primary purpose of reporting, investigation and recording of hazards and incidents. The information may also be used for a related secondary purpose, providing required information to relevant units within Monash University such as Employee Assistance & Rehabilitation and Risk & Insurance; providing you with information about OH&S matters; to comply with legislative reporting requirements; attending to day to day administrative matters; and preparing statistical analyses. The information collected on this form may be disclosed to other organisations such as government departments e.g. WorkSafe Victoria; external organisations where Monash University employees regularly work such as hospitals, Monash owned companies or other tertiary organisations; the university’s legal advisers or other professional advisers and consultants engaged by the university. If all of the information requested is not provided, it may not be possible for the university to meet its legal obligations. You have a right to access personal information that Monash University holds about you, subject to any exceptions in relevant legislation.

QHS Hazard and Incident Report, v3
Date of first issue: May 2005
Responsible Officer: Manager, OH&S
Date of last review: May 2013
Page 2 of 2
21/06/13
For the latest version of this document please go to: http://www.monash.edu.au/ohs/