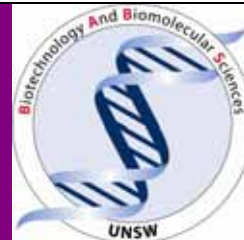


BABS Quarterly

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Message from HoS

Dear colleagues,

August was the month the Faculty of Science voluntary redundancy process began, and the proposed BABS restructure was announced. At the next staff meeting on Tuesday 8 September, directly affected staff will be advised in writing of the final structure, including details of any changes to the original proposal.

In parallel with the School restructure, the School Executive Committee has been reshuffled. This reflects my desire to rotate academics through the executive team during my incarceration as HoS. I wish to express my thanks for the many and varied contributions made by Hazel Mitchell, Brett Neilan and Marc Wilkins in helping BABS stumble to its feet over the past 18 months or so. I welcome Andrew Brown, Louise Lutze-Mann and Vincent Murray to the Executive team and also extend my condolences to the continuing members, Andrew Collins (DHoS), Rick Cavicchioli, John Foster and Peter White.

I would like to welcome new arrival Vladimir Sytnyk to the School, taking up his position as Senior Lecturer. Originally from the Ukraine, Vladimir was most recently at the Centre for Molecular Neurobiology in the Institute for Biosynthesis of Neuronal Structures at the Hamburg University Medical School. His research is on analysing signalling mechanisms by which cell adhesion molecules of the immunoglobulin superfamily regulate neuronal differentiation, synapse formation and functioning. His wife Iryna is also a scientist, and they have a 5 year-old son Stippan, who will be starting school in 2010.

The next major event on the School calendar is the Research Day at the Sydney Institute of Marine Science (SIMS) on Thursday next week, September 10. SIMS is located on the north side of Sydney Harbour at Chowder Bay, and has a spectacular ocean outlook. The general plan is to arrive at 9am (some by water taxi). The day will start with a brief introduction to the site by Peter Steinberg, the Institute's director, and we will progress through three one-hour sessions where a number of BABS staff will talk about their recent research.

The sessions will be broken up by morning/afternoon tea and lunch breaks, and the day will conclude with a discussion of the School's research directions moderated by Mark Hoffman.

We have organised professional catering for the day, and will conclude with wine/soft drinks in the final session.

For those who would like to stay on the harbour for an early dinner, Michele has sent out details of a group booking at Ripples restaurant, which is adjacent to SIMS. Please let her know by noon Monday 7 September if you will be joining us so that the booking can be confirmed.

Best, Bill

RAT News

Research

- The School Seminar Series for Semester 2 is underway; the next presenter will be Professor David Lambert from Griffith University on 9 September.
- The office of the DVC (Research) is hosting a series of Research Showcases aimed at identifying opportunities for collaboration across the University: <http://www.unsw.edu.au/research/res/researchshowcases.html>

Admin

- The BABS Student/Teaching Office counter opening hours are now 9.30am-12noon and 2pm-4pm. The office remains open for BABS staff from 9am-5pm

Teaching

- **2009 UNSW Learning & Teaching Forum** is on Friday September 11 at the Roundhouse. Rebecca LeBard is participating in the current pilot of the new Blackboard 9 online learning platform that will be introduced across UNSW from Semester 1 2010. Some of Rebecca's students will feature in the forum. <http://www.learningandteaching.unsw.edu.au/forum/>
- **New online service for lecturers:** From 26 August all those with an Instructor role can access personalised teaching, course, class and exam information on myUNSW. Login and go to the Academic Admin tab, then click 'Services for Lecturers'. If you can't see the Academic Admin tab, contact Michele Potter who will organise access for you.
- **New online service for internal program transfers:** From October 2009 students enrolled in UNSW undergraduate programs will be able to apply for transfer to another undergraduate program via myUNSW. See: <https://my.unsw.edu.au/student/atoz/InternalProgramTransfer.html>

Staff achievements and news



Eureka! The School is very proud to acknowledge Brett Neilan's 2009 Eureka award, the LWA Professor Peter Cullen Eureka Prize for Water Research and Innovation. This is the third Eureka Prize for Brett, making him the most awarded scientist in the history of the awards.



As well as the kudos and monetary prize, you'll see that Brett got to rub shoulders with some of the city's A-listers.

Watch a youtube video about the research at <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FIM7vJL3x6A>

Noel Whitaker and Ben Heng were interviewed on the Channel 10 Health report about their work into HPV in breast cancer, and the research was also covered by Channel 9 news this week. The research is looking at whether the cervical cancer vaccine could also be a breakthrough for breast cancer and other types such as head and neck tumours and prostate cancers.

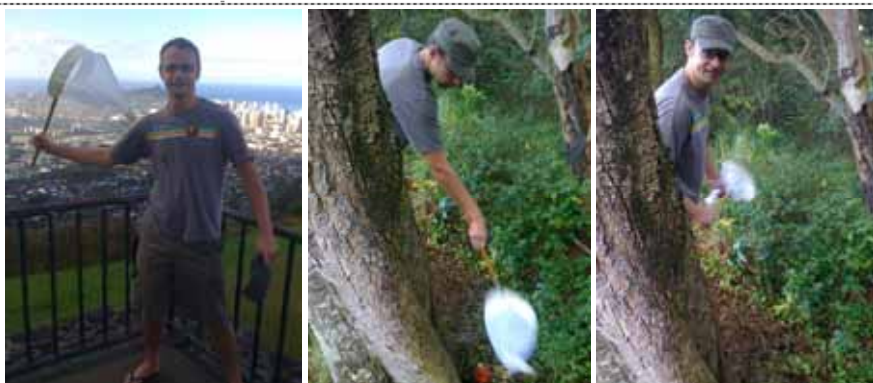
Louise Lutze-Mann and PhD candidate Sarah Ongeley have received wide media coverage for their research that reveals anti-psychotic drugs could be effective in treating certain major types of cancers. Initially gaining coverage from the ASMR meeting, the research has featured on the UNSW home page and Faculty of Science website and has now been picked up by global news agencies. A Google search reveals it has been published in SE Asia, India, Zimbabwe, Bulgaria and the US.

Student achievements and news

Congratulations to two BABS PhD candidates who graduated in August – Hannah Ginn, supervisor Brett Neilan and Gary Williams, supervisor Pauline Doran.

Flycatchers extraordinaire

On a recent quest to replace lost specimens of particular flies that have special mutations, HoS Bill Ballard and Postdoc Jonci Wolff equipped themselves with the latest cutting-edge fly-catching technology and headed off for the wilds of Hawaii. Jonci wonders if he'll ever be taken seriously again.



Madhatters ☺

The tech staff had brightened up the labs on Friday 28 August with a spectacular array of hats ... you'll note that some were a little more adventurous than others!

Winner of BABS guessing competition

And the winner is ... Laura Sharpe from Andrew Brown's lab with her guess of 1,234. The actual number was 1,287 with guesses ranging from 500 – 2,861. Sue Jackson ran a close second with 1,347. Laura has selected a mix of Smarties and jelly babies as her prize.



Daffodil Day



BABS staff again demonstrated their generosity for this day in support of the Cancer Council, which funds essential services, education and research programs. The total raised was \$233.50. Many thanks to Sue Jackson for organising this on our behalf.

Pitter patter of little scientists ...

Our congratulations go to Lachlan Yee and his wife Frida on the arrival of their new son, Toby Lionheart in June – great photo, great name!

