

Message from the Head of School

Dear colleagues,

A Senior Lectureship position within the school is currently being advertised. This is an important position as recruitment of quality academics is a keystone to improving the schools research and teaching. We are seeking an outstanding candidate in the area of bioinformatics, with a research focus in the 'omics'. If you know of any suitably qualified applicants, please encourage them to apply. Unsurprisingly, Marc Wilkins is the contact for this position.

Honours recruitment is also important for the continuing success of the School, as these students form the basis for our future HDR community. I wish to acknowledge the contributions of those individuals who made the recent Honours information night a success. Brendan Burns organised the event and did a great job with the overall planning. Hazel Mitchell, Louise Lutze-Mann, Brett Neilan and Andrew Brown gave overviews of the four research groups. Alana McHattan, Caroline Hueston and Joanna Tjojoatmodjo sourced and supplied the canapes and beverages.

Finally, I note that the 2012 RAT Pack has now reached the external reviewers. These reviewers will be available for discussions with academics on **Wednesday 24 October**. If you would like to chat with them, please send an email to Michele or Kylie. The School Executive will discuss what we wish to achieve through the process. If you have any specific ideas, please send me an email and I will include them in our discussions.

Best

Bill

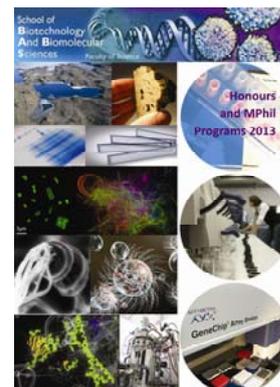
RAT News

Research

- NHMRC 2013 Project Grants results will be released on 19 October, together with all categories of Fellowships.
- ARC DP13, DECRA and LEIF release dates are yet to be announced.
- 2013 Linkage Projects grant applications – internal close 31 October, external close 14 November.
- Torsten Thomas is CI on a successful grant in the 2012 Linkage Projects Round 2, totalling \$340k over 4 years.

Teaching

- Undergrad enrolments for Semester 1 2013 opened on Monday 8 October.
- Over the past 2 months, the School has held two successful networking events for students interested in undertaking Honours or an MPhil(BABS) in 2013, providing an opportunity to talk directly with potential supervisors.



Admin

- The School's Abridged Annual Report for 2011 is now available on the website at: http://www.babs.unsw.edu.au/webfm_send/401
- The update to the design of the BABS website to comply with the new UNSW branding has now been completed, with some new features added, including a second video on the home page.

BABS in the news

- 👉 A/Prof Noel Whitaker and his team received extensive media coverage in early August in relation to their research findings that HPV and EBV are present in more than half of malignant prostate cancers found in Australian men. As well as an interview on ABC News Radio, the team had coverage in The Australian and on news.com.au.
- 👉 The same team also had their research exploring the link between Epstein-Barr virus infection and some cancers featured in the Spring 2012 issue of Uniken, in an article titled "Sealed with a Kiss".
- 👉 A/Prof Kevin Morris had a featured article in the October issue of *The Scientist*. The article was also on the cover.

Student achievements

- 👉 Simone Li, supervised by Prof Marc Wilkins, is the first PhD student in Australia to be accepted into the prestigious European Molecular Biology Laboratory in Germany to complete her PhD under the EMBL Australia PhD program. Simone will carry out her research partly at EMBL in Heidelberg as well as BABS, her PhD being awarded jointly by both organisations.
- 👉 PhD student Hazlin Hazrin Chong, supervised by A/Prof Mike Manefield excelled in the 2012 Faculty of Science postgrad research competition, winning first prize as well as the People's Choice Award. One of the judges was the ABC Science Show's Robyn Williams.

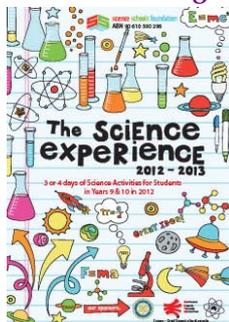


2012 UNSW Innovation Awards



A/Prof Mike Manefield and his team were awarded the UNSW Advanced Innovation (Partnership) award and the overall UNSW Innovation Award for 2012. The award was for their research in cultivating bacteria that break down industrial toxins in contaminated groundwater. Through a process known as bioremediation, Manefield and postdoctoral researchers Matthew Lee, Adrian Low and Joanna Koenig showed the bacteria's natural ability to degrade and clean up chlorinated solvents. Each award carried with it a cash prize of \$4,000, and received wide coverage, including a USW home page video.

Outreach to high school students



BABS staff and postgrad students participated in the [2012 Science Experience at UNSW](#), held on 24 September. A workshop entitled 'Investigating DNA and Forensic Science' included some hands-on lab experience by Year 9 and 10 high school students, who experienced a life as a university student. As well as the BABS workshop on DNA and forensic science, students were offered exposure to robotics, human disease, astronomy, psychology, optometry, quantum computing, photovoltaic and renewable energy. The BABS team was ably led by Dr Anne Galea, who was assisted by Elessa Marendy, Ashlea Grewar, Zach Webb-Harvey, Geoff Kornfeld, Jani O'Rourke and Shamima Shirin.

BABSOC 2012 ball

This year's "Cranium Couture" (Mad Hatters) theme is encouraging attendees to wear their favourite headdress in honour of the late A/Professor Alan Wilton, a proud hat enthusiast and BABSOC supporter. The ball will be held on 19 October at The Tea Room, Queen Victoria Building. Information re tickets is available at www.babsoc.com/2012-annual-ball



Pitter patter of little scientists

Congratulations to Helder Marcal and wife Donna, who welcomed their first baby, Silvio, in August, and also to Mike Manefield and his wife Astrid, who have a new arrival, daughter Nina.



Wedding bells

And congratulations and best wishes to Elessa Marendy and Liz Daly, both of whom were recently married.

If you would like something included in the next BABS Quarterly please email Michele at m.potter@unsw.du.au