

Message from the Head of School

Dear colleagues,

I would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone for all of their hard work this year. You get the sense that everyone is completely over 2016, and so it's good that we're ending it with a party just before the UNSW shut-down. 2016 has been a tough (trumporrid) year in many ways, with many changes to navigate, and I think that you can all congratulate yourselves on making it through more or less unscathed.

However, there were things to be thankful for. Highlights for me included:

- *Research funding success:* We had a bumper harvest, particularly from ARC, and it was also great to see more researchers discovering other avenues for funding.
- *Inaugural symposia with other schools/faculties:* Both the Biomedical Symposium with SOMS and Biomedical Engineering and the Bioinformatics Symposium with CSE were roaring successes. I also heard that Wallace and the BABSOC crew put on another fine BABS Symposium (regretfully I was travelling).
- *BADO* – was arguably the best yet, with research and teaching, strategy and practicalities all thrown together into the mix.
- *The End of the Build is Nigh!* As shown below, what a difference a year can make.

Geoff Kornfeld of course has been amazing and tireless in the lengthy and multifarious preparations for our new building (Stage I and II) and has been our 'go to' person for our imminent move into E26. Over the last few years, it really has become more than a full-time job, and personally I am very grateful to Geoff for his stoic and heroic efforts in ensuring that the University's massive investment becomes the world class environment envisioned.

I think that we were all shocked to learn of Geoff's accident, and it's fantastic that he and his wife are now back in the comfort of their own home, making remarkable progress in their recoveries. We wish them and their family all the best!

And speaking about our new building, apparently that's a big butterfly on the facade (although you may need to see it in the right light, perhaps after one too many Christmas parties). I must confess that I thought it looks like artfully arranged stacks of assorted Tim Tams, but maybe that's just me ...

I hope that each of you find more reasons to be cheerful than tearful as we enter the holiday season.

Best wishes to One and All!

Andrew

RAT

Research

Congratulations all our researchers for the great number of grants awarded through BABS, other UNSW Schools as well as external institutions in the latest announcements. CIAs for grants through BABS are:

- *ARC Discovery Projects:* Andrew Brown \$394,500; Mark Brown \$589,000; Rick Cavicchioli \$892,000; Merlin Crossley \$428,000; Mark Tanaka \$286,000; Marc Wilkins \$361,000.
- *NHMRC Project Grants:* Ruiting Lan \$763,447; Vladimir Sytnyk \$374,666.
- *NHMRC Fellow Dr Natalia Castaño Rodriguez (Mitchell lab)* has been awarded a one-year Young Investigator grant by Cure Cancer Australia for \$99,937.

Administration

- Promotion congratulations to Dr Kyle Hoehn and Dr Chris Marquis, both promoted to Associate Professor effective 1 January 2017, and to Research Fellow Dr Frances Byrne, promoted to Level B.
- BABS WHS Manager Theresa Kahwati (pictured with UNSW Director of Human Resources, David Ward) is the winner of the 2016 UNSW Staff Excellence Award for Health & Safety.



Teaching

- Dr Rebecca LeBard received a Citation in the Australian Government's 2016 Australian Awards for University Teaching, being recognised for engaging students in the practice of 'being a scientist' and taking a scholarly approach to helping students overcome obstacles in learning scientific inquiry.

'The Build' then and now!



November 2015



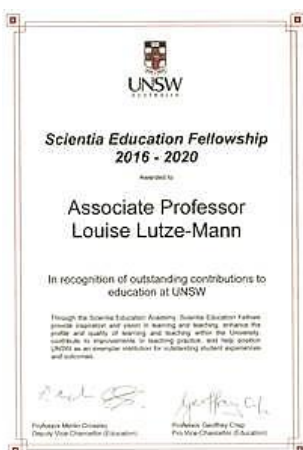
November 2016

BABS staff in the news

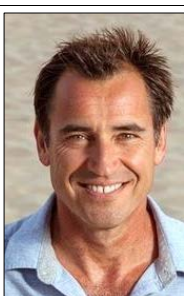
- Dr Irina Voineagu is a member of the research group that has made a major advance in understanding the biology of schizophrenia using 3D chromosome-mapping, a new technology for analysing DNA. The team includes researchers from UCLA and the work was published in *Nature* in October. The exciting work was featured on the [UNSW newsroom website](#).
- Professor Peter White works on molecular virology, with particular interest in identification of pandemic noroviruses. He was featured in a recent SMH facebook video explaining norovirus in layman's terms, helping to educate the community about relatively simple preventative steps that can be taken to stop its spread. Note the number of views is now up to 29,000.



BABS UNSW Inaugural Scientia Education Fellow



Deputy HOS and Director of Teaching Associate Professor Louise Lutze-Mann has been named as one of the new and prestigious UNSW Scientia Education Fellows. Only 15 academics were selected for this inaugural round, announced by UNSW President and Vice-Chancellor Professor Ian Jacobs in November. The Education Fellows will provide leadership in learning and teaching to support UNSW's commitment to be a teaching- as well as a research-intensive university and inspire staff and students through their demonstrated commitment to educational excellence.



BABS students in the news

A new book by Ruben Meerman (aka the Surfing Scientist) was launched at UNSW by Dr Karl Kruszelnicki in September, with BABS Head of School Professor Andrew Brown (Ruben's PhD supervisor) also presenting at the event. Most people assume fat turns into heat and energy, but Ruben has reminded us that it is actually converted to CO₂ and water. Energy is released, but no mass is created or destroyed.



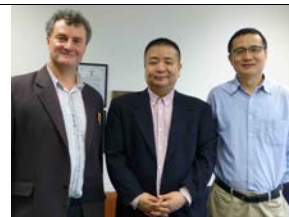
2016 UNSW Open Day



BABS was well represented by our great staff and students at the annual Open Day in September, a busy day with many keen prospective students (and parents) visiting us on campus. Hopefully we will see a number of them again in 2017 as commencing BABS students!

Fudan University Visitors

In July, the HOS and Prof Rob Yang were two UNSW hosts for delegates from Fudan University in China. Fudan is a global partner of UNSW and its research institute hosts a major innovation platform devoted to Shanghai's aim of becoming a global innovative and entrepreneurial centre.



BABS 2016 iGEM team



After a hectic final few months before the October Giant Jamboree in Boston, the 2016 iGEM is now done and dusted. Helped along the way with a bake-off and some crowdfunding, our team was one of around 300 taking part in this prestigious global competition. We're so proud of our students and their mentors for all their hard work on this unique Science event, and thrilled with the team's gold medal!



2016 BABS Research Symposium



The annual research symposium is an opportunity for our postdocs, HDR and Honours students to present their research to the wider School community. Organised by Dr Wallace Bridge and the talented BABSOC team, this year it was held at the Crowne Plaza Coogee. The symposium is a great showcase of the breadth of research being conducted in the School, with presenters comprising practising scientists at various levels of their careers.

BABS Facebook

<https://www.facebook.com/UNSWBABS>

Our 'likes' tally is now 882, up from 846 in June.

Pitter patter of little scientists



Congratulations to Lecturer Dr Anne Galea on the birth of new daughter Isabelle, sister to Millie (BABS teddy bear on the left!)



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