



THE UNIVERSITY OF
MELBOURNE

The Transcript

Department of Genetics Newsletter No. 3
May 2008



The Transcript is a newsletter published by the Department of Genetics to provide information to the students and staff of the Department.

Semester 1 has started well with strong student numbers in Genetics subjects and in the New Generation BSc degree established under the Melbourne Model. This augurs well for the future and we look forward to many of these students progressing into a Genetics major.

Dawn Gleeson, as Quality of Teaching coordinator, the Year-level coordinators and myself have met with student representatives this semester. This was an opportunity for us to obtain valuable suggestions on how to improve the learning experience of Genetics students.

We have extensively reviewed our undergraduate curriculum and have already implemented changes at 2nd year level in 2008. The review of our 3rd year offerings will be implemented in 2009. In 2009 we also expect to offer a Genetics program in the newly established two-year MSc. This is an innovative program offering combined coursework and research and opportunities to take subjects in science tools, science communication and business in science.

This year we have an Honours class of 15 who have made a good start to the year preparing an essay, presenting a talk and commencing their research project. This is just the beginning of a challenging and

Coming Events

Genetics 3rd Year BBQ

652-304 end of practical classes BBQ
Tuesday 29th May 5:15-8pm
Genetics Courtyard

Genetics 3rd Year Dinner

Celebrate the near completion of your Genetics major!
Date to be announced –second semester

Genetics MSc/Honours Information Evening

Date to be announced –second semester

Genetics Department Research Seminars

Tuesdays, 12:30-1:30 pm
Lower Theatre, ILFR building
www.genetics.unimelb.edu.au/news/seminars.html
ALL WELCOME

rewarding year in which Honours students get firsthand experience of research and build their skills in writing, presentation, critical thinking and data analysis. Information about next year's MSc and Honours programs will become available in second semester.

Our postgraduate students make a significant contribution to both the research activity and life in the Department. This year we have 9 new postgraduate students. Some have progressed from Honours in the Department while others have come to us from other Departments and Universities, including overseas. Welcome to you all.

Rowden White Foundation

In 2007 Genetics was awarded a grant of \$150,000 from the A.E. Rowden White Foundation towards the purchase of a new confocal microscope. We have combined with the Department of Medicine to purchase a state-of-the-art instrument that will contribute significantly to our research programs. The Department wishes to acknowledge the Foundation and its trustee, Mr Jock Chappell, for their generous support.

Postgraduate students are encouraged to attend conferences and meetings, with financial support from the Department and/or School of Graduate Studies. This Semester we have students attending

In the press...

Low WY, Ng HL, Morton CJ, Parker MW, Batterham P & Robin C (2007) Molecular Evolution of Glutathione S-Transferases in the genus, *Drosophila*. *Genetics* 177: 1373-1375.

Southon A, Farlow A, Norgate M, Burke R, and Camakaris J (2008) Malvolio is a copper transporter in *Drosophila melanogaster*, *Journal of Experimental Biology* 211: 709-716

Hynes MJ, Murray SL, Khew GS and Davis MA (2008) Genetic Analysis of the role of peroxisomes in the utilization of acetate and fatty acids in *Aspergillus nidulans*. *Genetics* 178, 1355-1369

Chung H, Bogwitz MR, McCart C, Andrianopoulos A, French-Constant RH, Batterham P and Daborn PJ (2007) Cis-regulatory elements in the Accord retro-transposon result in tissue-specific expression of the *Drosophila melanogaster* insecticide resistance gene *Cyp6g1*. *Genetics* 175:1071-1077

Haydon MJ, Cobbett CS (2007) A novel Major Facilitator Superfamily protein at the tonoplast influences Zn tolerance and accumulation in *Arabidopsis thaliana*. *Plant Physiology* 143: 1705-1719

York KL, Blaket MJ, Appleton BR (2008) The Bassian Isthmus and the major ocean currents of south-east Australia influence the phylogeography and population structure of a southern Australian intertidal barnacle, *Catomerus polymerus* (Darwin). *Molecular Ecology* 17: 1948-1961.

Hoffman AA and Willi, Y (2008) Detecting genetic responses to environmental change. *Nature Reviews* 9 1-9.

Boyce KJ, Andrianopoulos A (2007) A p21-Activated Kinase Is Required for Conidial Germination in *Penicillium marneffeii* *PLoS Pathogens* 3(11)

BioMetals 2008 at the University of Santiago de Compostela in Spain, the Federation of European Societies of Plant Biology in Finland, the 49th Annual *Drosophila* Research Conference in the USA and the Glutathione and related thiols microorganisms and plants conference in France.

In 2008, research in the Department is well supported by external grants from various government and industry sources both national and international with income exceeding \$3 M and includes grants from the Australian Research Council, the National Health & Medical Research Council, various industry research councils and companies.

I encourage you all to participate in the different activities highlighted in Coming Events. The annual BBQ following the final third year Genetic Analysis prac class is a good opportunity for students and staff to mix in an informal environment.

I would like to wish all students and staff of the Department an enjoyable and productive Semester.

Chris Cobbett
Head of Department

Congratulations

Carolyn Hine - Undergraduate student - John A McKenzie/Selby Scientific Foundation Award

Susan Harding - PhD student - Dame Margaret Blackwood Soroptimist Scholarship

Ann Gaeth - Postdoctoral Fellow
K.M. Brutton Bequest

PhD Students Passed

Kaeling Tan	Hayley Bugeja,
Narelle Cairns	Maggie Chow

PhD Students Submitted

Vanessa Kellermann	Henry Chung
Frank Rheindt	Ashley Farlow