PhD Success

Many congratulations to Alex Rathbone who successfully defended her PhD thesis recently, entitled 'Characterisation of non-acetylcholinesterase actions of organophosphates in the rat brain by identification of novel protein targets'. Alex was supervised by David Ray and Rob Layfield.

Cannabinoids 'R' Us

Steve Alexander and Michael Randall

The November issue of the British Journal of Pharmacology (Volume 152, Issue 5) was a Themed Issue on Cannabinoids and their actions, guest edited by Steve Alexander and Michael Randall. This production was a follow-up to the Third European Workshop on Cannabinoid Research/British Pharmacological Society Focussed Meeting held in April at the Jubilee Campus of the University of Nottingham. The Themed Issue contains 12 reviews from invited speakers at the workshop, as well as a further 15 original articles, many of which were previewed by contributors at the meeting. Of the reviews, four were authored by members of the School, with topics of "Cannabinoids go nuclear: evidence for activation of peroxisome proliferator-activated receptors", "The complications of promiscuity: endocannabinoid action and metabolism", "Endocannabinoid metabolism and uptake: novel targets for neuropathic and inflammatory pain" and "Endocannabinoids and the haematological system". A further review "Supraspinal modulation of pain by cannabinoids: the role of GABA and glutamate" was contributed by Dave Finn (who left the School a couple of years ago) and colleagues.

In addition to the reviews, the School made a major contribution to the original articles. Thus, three papers were based on significant parts of the PhD projects of Amanda Wheal, Poungrat Pakdeechote (Tum) and Yan Sun, with respective titles of "Cardiovascular effects of cannabinoids in conscious spontaneously hypertensive rats", "Cannabinoids inhibit noradrenergic and purinergic sympathetic cotransmission in the rat isolated mesenteric arterial bed" and "Cannabinoid activation of PPARalpha; a novel neuroprotective mechanism". A further three papers were contributed wholly or in part by members of the School.

Taken together, the Themed Issue highlights one of the strengths of the School as an internationally recognised hotspot for cannabinoid research.

UK Advisory Committee Appointment

David Ray has just been appointed (2008-2012) as an independent member of the body that advises UK ministers on approval of pesticides (Advisory Committee on Pesticides). This is in addition to membership of the World Health Organisation / Food and Agriculture Organisation’s Joint Meeting on Pesticide Residues in food, and the UK Food Standards Agency Committee on Toxicology.
ICE4

The International Cultural Event held on the 6th November, proved to be yet another outstanding success. It provided the opportunity, not only to mix and chat with colleagues from all over the world, but also to sample their delicious cuisine and learn a little bit about their culture. An eclectic mix of ethnic music in the background added to the general, most enjoyable, ambience. Roll on ICE 5!

Just one of the many photographs, taken at the event, currently on display in the Common Room.

Staff Update

Newcomers

Ann Shardlow

Hi, my name is Ann Shardlow and I started work in the Clinical Skills Centre in September as a Clinical Skills Technician. I trained as a nurse at the Royal Infirmary of Edinburgh some years ago and more recently gained a BAHons Graphic Design at Derby University. I am crazy about dogs and I enjoy theatre and music. Thanks to my colleagues for making me feel welcome.

Photo etc to follow next month
Dr Roya Babaei-Jadidi, Research Fellow working with Kostas Tsintzas.

School Seminars

Wednesday 5th December 2007 in LT4
Dr Lauren May “Structure-function studies of adenosine A1 and muscarinic M2 receptor allosteric modulators”. Hosted by Steve Hill

All members of staff, postgraduate and project students are invited to attend, and attendance is compulsory at all seminars for all postgraduate students.

BMS Annual Postgraduate Seminars 2008

Sue Chan

Our Second Year Postgraduates will be presenting their research to members of the School at the BMS Annual Postgraduate Seminars 2008, which will be taking place on Wednesday January 9th 2008 (all day) and Wednesday January 16th 2008 (am), in Lecture Theatre C50.

Please note that all Postgraduates are highly encouraged to attend these seminar sessions, to support their colleagues and to partake in discussions.

A programme of speakers and abstracts will be made available soon.

Medical School Fire Lectures

Bob Armstrong, the University Fire Safety Advisor, will be giving a lecture on Wednesday 12th December at 2pm in LT4.

All staff and students are required to attend a Fire Lecture on an annual basis.
Vacancies

For current vacancies in the School of Biomedical Sciences and elsewhere in the University, see http://www.nottingham.ac.uk/hr/vacancies/vacancies.html

NEXT ISSUE

Please let Hazel have any items you wish to appear in the January issue by Friday the 21st of December 2007. Any comments/suggestions welcome (hazel.binks@nottingham.ac.uk)

You can find all of the above information, and more, on our website: http://www.nottingham.ac.uk/biomedsci/hab/School/Newsletter/30.11.07.