

Elisa Laurenti arrives at SCI

The SCI's new group leader has arrived in Cambridge and is based in the Clifford Allbutt Building (see map opposite). Elisa had this to say about her move:



“Hematopoietic stem cells (HSC) are the best characterised stem cell type, owing to decades of intensive studies almost exclusively in mouse models. However, I have been personally confronted with the disconnect between human physiology and animal models and the consequences this might have for translating basic research findings to the clinic. Thus, my research focuses on primary human hematopoietic samples.

My goal is to understand the unique functional properties and molecular circuits of human HSC and how these are perturbed upon malignant transformation. Human HSC seem to have evolved mechanisms subtly distinct from that of other species to ensure life-long blood production. In particular, in injury- or stress-related contexts, the molecular basis for these processes is currently unknown. My group will combine genome-wide profiling and functional assays to identify the changes triggered by stress. This is part of an ongoing effort to understand the molecular networks of human HSC in homeostasis and conditions of stress. We will investigate those stimuli such as DNA damage, ER stress or inflammation that are known to contribute to the development of malignancy. As perturbations of the normal responses to these factors are considered stepping stones for leukemogenesis, knowledge of these HSC-specific responses to stress will prove important to understanding how leukemia arises.”

Elisa will speak at the Stem Cell Club on 29 October.



Visit the SCI website and Intranet for further information on SCI activities and to access members-only information.

www.stemcells.cam.ac.uk

Member Newsletter

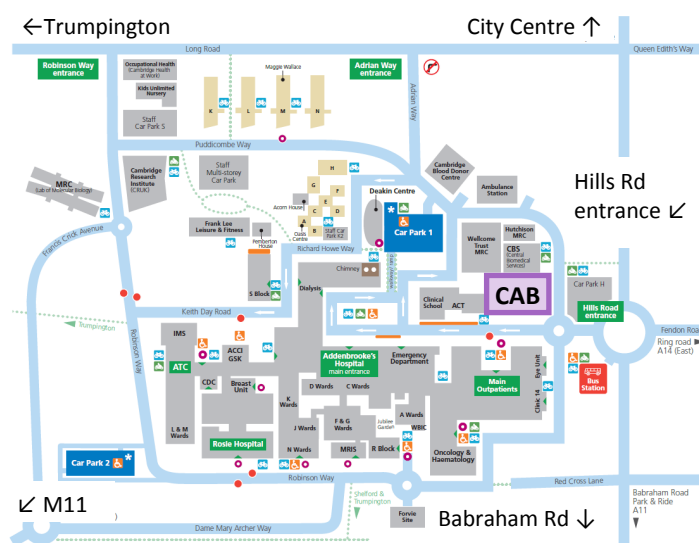
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2014 WT/MRC Annual Report

The deadline for the SCI's annual report has been brought forward to January 2015. Consequently, the administrative team will be contacting you in mid-October to request your 2014 data. This data will be used at the SCI Annual Meeting and by the ISAB in December as well as in the report to the WT-MRC.

Clifford Allbutt Building

Robin Franklin, Stefano Pluchino, and Elisa Laurenti are all now located in the Clifford Allbutt Building (CAB) on the Cambridge Biomedical Campus.



New SCI building

The new SCI building is on track to be operational in late 2017. The architects and construction company have now been appointed. Stage 2 of the construction design is due to start in October. The academic groups have provided excellent input to the design process so far, such that one of the tendering constructors said that the building brief was the best he had ever seen and meant that the project was in a really good position to deliver on time.

Other News



Lynn Kennedy, SCI Administrator, retired on 4 September 2014 after eight years with the Institute. We wish her a long and fulfilling retirement. Recruitment of Lynn's successor is underway.



Jelena Aleksic (Frye lab), and her collaborator Dr Daniel Masiga of 'African Insect Science for Food and Health', were among 29 recipients of awards granted by the Cambridge-Africa Alborada Research Fund for her work on bioinformatics approaches for next generation sequencing analysis.

More information on the CAARF and the project at: <http://www.cambridge-africa.cam.ac.uk/initiatives/alborada-research/funded-projects-201415/>

The SCI's Mid-term Review

A Mid-term Review of the SCI by the WT/MRC took place on 25 September at the Wellcome Trust's headquarters in London. It comprised presentations given by SCI PIs and senior University representation and Q&A sessions with the Expert Review committee.

Search for Funding

The *Research Professional* funding opportunities database offers the opportunity to search for research funding in all disciplines from a wide range of sponsors in the UK and overseas. All funding information in the database is pre-screened for eligibility for UK researchers: www.researchprofessional.com/0/rr/home

New Admin Staff

A warm welcome to **Bethan Rees** who has been appointed as Austin Smith's PA and to **David Hughes** and **Liz Irvine** who have joined the Finance team. They are based in the admin offices at CSCR.



Bethan



David



Liz

Health and Safety



Each month **Jeanne Estabel**, the SCI Principal Assistant, will focus on how she is improving our labs and facilities.

If you have any questions or would like to meet with Jeanne please contact her on je353@cam.ac.uk.

Know your chemicals – Which documents can help you?

The chemicals you use at work may include ready-to-use products or products that you will mix in a solution. The lifecycle of a chemical doesn't stop at the experiment, but continues until it is properly disposed of. As chemicals are now part of the routine in laboratories, scientists sometimes overlook the risks to which they are exposed.

When buying a chemical product that is classified as 'dangerous to supply', it will come with a **Material Safety Data Sheet (MSDS)**, which will help you to make a risk assessment. The sheet describes the hazards accompanying the chemical and it will give information on storage, handling, disposal and emergency measures in case of spillage or accident.

When you use or generate chemicals or other hazardous substances at work that could put people's health at risk, a **chemical hazard (also known as COSHH) risk assessment** should have been written and read prior to the experiment to ensure people are aware of the risks when handling and disposing of the chemicals.

Did you know that phenol and its vapours are corrosive to the eyes, the skin, and the respiratory tract? Repeated or prolonged skin contact with phenol may cause dermatitis, or even second and third-degree burns. Phenol is also a reproductive toxin causing increased risk of abortion and low birth weight indicating retarded development *in utero*. Chemical burns from skin exposures can be decontaminated by washing with polyethylene glycol.

If in doubt, contact your Department Safety Officer. There is also a chemical safety course available at the University of Cambridge. For further information, go to:

<http://www.admin.cam.ac.uk/offices/safety/training>



Public Engagement Activities

Sinha lab in BHF video

Sanjay Sinha and his lab were recently visited by a film crew to record a video as part of the British Heart Foundation's 'Mending Broken Hearts' appeal:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=In2PjK334qQ>

In the video, Sinha and colleagues describe how BHF funding is advancing research in his lab for regenerative therapies targeting heart failure.



PluriMes Outreach Champion

Mariya Rostovskaya has been appointed as the University of Cambridge Outreach Champion for the PluriMes project. She will receive training from Euro-StemCell in outreach delivery and will be able to assist members of the SCI with running outreach events.



Big Biology Day

On Saturday 18 October 2014, the SCI will be participating in the **Cambridge Big Biology Day**, as part of Biology Week, at Hills Road Sixth Form College in Cambridge.

The day will involve fun, engaging and informative hands-on biology activities

primarily aimed at children. We currently have 7 volunteers to run the SCI stand on the day.



Science Festival 2015... Come and Volunteer

The SCI will be participating in the Cambridge Science Festival in 2015 and we are looking for about 30 volunteers to help run our drop-in sessions, 'Stem Cell Discoveries', on each of the dates below.

We know that many of you are keen to get involved in outreach activities and this is an excellent opportunity to do so. They are fun-packed days and previous volunteers can confirm how rewarding the event is—and it looks pretty good on your CV too!



This year we would also like volunteers to help update, or even create new, hands-on activities to run at the Science Festival.

Stem Cell Discoveries: Biology Zone drop-in sessions:



14 & 15 March 2015, The Corn Exchange
22 March 2015, Cambridge Biomedical Campus

If you would like to volunteer for the drop-in sessions, design a new outreach activity or have any questions, email: sci-coordinator@stemcells.cam.ac.uk

Alumni Tour of CSCR

As part of the University's Alumni Festival 2014, there was a tour of the CSCR on Friday 26th September for 15 Cambridge University Alumni. The tour was introduced by Robin Franklin and was followed by a demonstration of the facilities, and a Q&A session afterwards with Jose Silva and Thora Karadottir. Thank you to everyone involved. The feedback was extremely positive.

SCI Public Engagement Officer

The Wellcome Trust has funded a full time Public Engagement Officer for the SCI. This post will help the SCI to expand its public engagement programme by carrying out the administration for public engagement events as well as providing training and mentoring for SCI members. Interviews are currently underway for the position.

NEW - Open Access Fee Scheme

The University changed its open access fee paying system from the beginning of October.

Susana Camacho is our administrator responsible for processing paperwork relating to all Institute publications. This includes assisting you with payment of open access fees. She can be contacted at:

sci-records@stemcells.cam.ac.uk.

Step 1: Contact Susana and tell her that you have a manuscript accepted for publication.

Step 2: Susana will send you our standard publication form for completion. You must also send Susana a copy of the *accepted manuscript*.

Step 3: Susana will upload your accepted manuscript into the University's system.

Step 4: Within 24 hours of upload the University will tell Susana (a) which pot of money will pay for your open access fees, (b) whether the journal is "open access compliant" and (c) which licence option you

need to choose in the journal's paperwork.

Step 5: The University will send the billing details for you to insert on your open access fees form for the publisher

Step 6: The University will pay your open access fees directly to the publisher. You no longer need to pay the fees yourself and then reclaim them from the University.

Step 7: Susana will inform the relevant press offices of your paper (if applicable) and help ensure the correct media coverage occurs (including articles on the SCI website etc). She will also inform the Wellcome Trust / MRC of your paper.



Tell us about your publications and get your open access fees paid!

sci-records@stemcells.cam.ac.uk

Upcoming Events

* Important Date *

15-16 December 2014

SCI Annual Meeting and International Scientific
Advisory Board Meeting
Homerton College Cambridge

BioBeat14: 50 Movers and Shakers

Martyna Popis, a member of SCI's Athena SWAN panel, is co-organising an event for women in science, '50 Movers and Shakers'. The event is being run as a part of the Innovation Forum society, whose mission is promoting the careers of women in science and bringing together women holding leading positions in biobusiness with a new generation of researchers.



Thursday 23 October, 17:30 – 20:30
McGrath Centre, St Catharine's College

The event is open to all, and especially bio entrepreneurs, industry experts, academics and students. Information and registration at:

www.inno-forum.org/#!50-movers-and-shakers/c12an

Stem Cell Club

Invited speakers are members of, or visitors to, the Cambridge stem cell community. The talks are followed by refreshments and an opportunity to discuss the topics of the evening. *From September onwards Stem Cell Club will take place on a Wednesday:*

Wednesday 29 October, 18:30-20:00
Wednesday 19 November, 18:30-20:00

Please contact Austin Smith with any breaking stories: ags39@cam.ac.uk

Chalk Talks

All *PIs* and *Affiliate PIs* are welcome



Monday 27 October, 16:00

Dr Ludovic Vallier & Prof Alfonso Martinez Arias

Herchel Smith seminar room, Addenbrooke's
www.psychiatry.cam.ac.uk/files/2014/07/HSB_map.pdf

Refreshments provided.

Future Chalk Talks:

28 November, 16:00, Anna Philpott/B. K. Koo