

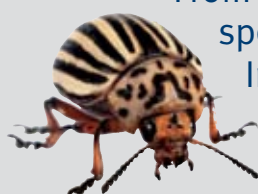
Recipe for success

A day in the life of catering and conferences ... CENTRE PAGES



**NEW YEAR
HONOURS**
Professor Spratt
and Dr Thomas-
Betts recognised
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SCIENCE ROUNDUP



From beetles to
sperm, read
Imperial's
science news
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LIFE'S A BEACH
Summer arrives
for Centenary
staff
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in brief

i-Snake on its way

A surgical robot which could enable more complex operations to be carried out by keyhole surgery is to be developed by a team from the Faculties of Medicine and Engineering, following a £2.1 million award from the Wellcome Trust. i-Snake, a long tube housing special motors, sensors and imaging tools, could allow heart bypass operations to be performed without the need for open heart surgery. Inserted through a blood vessel or the throat, the robot would act as the surgeon's hands and eyes, allowing them to navigate difficult and restrictive regions of the body.

Remembering Professor Rees

A special chemistry symposium, reception and photograph unveiling ceremony took place in the Department of Chemistry last month in memory of Emeritus Professor Charles Rees, who died in 2006 at the age of 78. Professor Rees, who first came to the College as Hoffman Professor of Organic Chemistry in 1978, took early retirement in 1993 but continued to work in the department on a daily basis until his death. On 7 December, his widow Trícia and son David unveiled a memorial photograph of Professor Rees in the Chemistry staff common room. An afternoon of special lectures followed featuring speakers including Professor Jim Feast, President of the Royal Society of Chemistry.

SAHSU celebrates jubilee

The Small Area Health Statistics Unit (SAHSU) celebrated its 20th anniversary on 18 December with a one-day Jubilee Scientific Conference. The unit was established in 1987 following a recommendation by the Black Enquiry into the incidence of leukaemia in children and young adults near the Sellafield nuclear plant. It aims to assess the risk to the health of the population of exposure to environmental factors, with an emphasis on the use and interpretation of routine health statistics. The conference was introduced by Professor Pat Troop, Chief Executive of the Health Protection Agency. Scientific lectures and policy-orientated talks followed.



Professor Fisher appointed

The Faculty of Medicine is pleased to confirm that Professor Mandy Fisher has been appointed to the position of acting Head of the Division of Clinical Sciences, with effect from 2 January. Professor Fisher has taken over the role from Professor Jo Hajnal. This follows the Medical Research Council's announcement of the appointment of Professor Fisher as interim Director of the Clinical Sciences Centre with effect from the same date.

► For more information, visit: www.sahsu.org.uk

Roll up, roll up!

The South Kensington Campus was the venue for the Cirque du Soleil's after show party following their premiere performance of *Varekai* in the Royal Albert Hall on 8 January. The College's Main Entrance, Tanaka Business School and the Mechanical Engineering concourse were transformed for the party. Dramatic lighting and performers throughout the crowds set the scene for the drinks and canapé reception hosted by the modern circus. The 800 guests included the Rector and Lady Sykes, Emma Watson, who plays Hermione in *Harry Potter*, and Alesha Dixon and Matthew Cutler from the BBC's *Strictly Come Dancing*.

► The show runs until 17 February. For more information visit: www.royalalberthall.com



Imperial College Healthcare

NHS Trust

NEWS

Senior clinical management team announced

A number of senior appointments have recently been announced, which will shape the clinical leadership of the Trust.

Professor David Taube is appointed Medical Director from December 2007 with a position on the Trust Board. His responsibilities include the clinical services redesign, liaising externally regarding clinical programmes, the West London Networks and providing professional leadership for the clinical programme group directors.

Dr David Mitchell has become Medical Director for External Liaison also from December 2007. His remit covers liaison regarding medical issues, including with the General Medical Council, and management of the medical services directorate for professional development for all medical staff. He will also act as the Trust lead on medicines management and on postgraduate medical education.

The new Clinical Programme Groups (CPGs) are based on clinical research adjacencies and an annual turnover of more than £50 million. They will be formed from 1 April 2008 and led by the following Directors who will take up their new appointments from that date:

Medicine: Dr Gill Gaskin, currently Clinical Director for Medicine at Hammersmith and Charing Cross

Surgery and Cancer: Mr Justin Vale, currently Consultant Urological Surgeon and Service Director for Surgery at St Mary's

Specialist Services 1: Professor James Van Dellen, currently Honorary Professor of Neurosurgery (Surgery, Oncology, Reproductive Medicine

and Anaesthetics) and Consultant Neurosurgeon at Hammersmith

Specialist Services 2: Professor Nick Cheshire, currently Visiting Professor of Vascular Surgery (Surgery, Oncology, Reproductive Medicine and Anaesthetics) and Associate Medical Director at the Trust

Women and Children: Mr Keith Edmonds, currently Clinical Director at Queen Charlotte's and Chelsea

Clinical Investigative Sciences: Professor Martin Wilkins, currently Professor of Clinical Pharmacology, Head of the Division of Investigative Science and Deputy Director of the Department of Health Toxicology Unit at Hammersmith

Director of Research appointed

Professor Jonathan Weber, Head of the Division of Medicine at Imperial, has been appointed Director of Research, responsible for bringing research into every aspect of patient care at the Trust.

Speaking of his appointment, Professor Weber said he was thrilled to be part of the UK's first Academic Health Science Centre (AHSC) and described the new role as the most exciting job to have in the country at this time.

In a recent interview for the Trust newspaper, *360°*, he said: "Although there is a huge amount of work to do in developing a genuine AHSC where research forms the foundation of advanced patient care, the Trust is already in a very good position. Imperial College undertakes a vast amount of world-class research, and by bringing this closer to patients, we can improve health outcomes for the local, national and international communities."

New year honours for Imperial staff

Two members of Imperial staff have been recognised for their dedication to science and the community in the 2008 New Year Honours List.

Professor Brian Spratt (Epidemiology, Public Health and Primary Care) and Dr Anna Thomas-Betts (Educational Quality Office) receive awards from The Queen for their exceptional achievements and service.

Professor Spratt, who last year led an official investigation into the foot and mouth disease outbreak from the Pirbright laboratory site in Surrey, is awarded a CBE for his services to science. He has played a major role in scientific research and policy development. He is a member of the Ministry of Defence's Scientific Advisory Council and in 2000 chaired the Royal Society's independent study into the health effects of depleted uranium on soldiers involved in the Gulf and Balkan conflicts.

He is now Professor of Molecular Microbiology at the College and became Head of the Department of Infectious Disease Epidemiology in 2004.

Expressing delight at receiving a CBE, Professor Spratt said: "I suppose it is for the basic scientific contributions from my lab over the last 35 years, and for the work I've done to provide a balanced

"It's a tribute to the very small number of women academics who were around in the 70s and 80s who showed great staying power"

independent scientific view for government on a number of controversial issues, such as the health hazards of depleted uranium munitions.

"As with most awards, it couldn't have happened without the help of many people, particularly those who have worked in my lab over the years, and the members of independent scientific advisory groups I have chaired."

Imperial is also represented in the honours list by Dr Thomas-Betts, who receives an MBE for services to education and the community. With a background in earth sciences, she first came to Imperial as a lecturer in geophysics, but became increasingly focused on student pastoral care after being appointed a College Tutor in 1998. She now works in the College's Educational Quality Office.

She said: "This came as a complete surprise and I and my friends, family and colleagues are delighted. It's a great privilege to be nominated by the College for an honour of this kind and I accept it as a token of acknowledgement and appreciation of the work of everyone at the College who is directly involved in the support of students at many levels."

Dr Thomas-Betts, who joined Imperial in 1966, added that she hoped her honour would inspire women and minority ethnic staff at the College: "It's a tribute to the very small number of women academics who were around in the 70s and 80s who showed great staying power, and I feel sure that many minority ethnic staff will take encouragement from it as well," she said.

— ABIGAIL SMITH, COMMUNICATIONS



ERC awards €6.5m to new research at Imperial

The Faculty of Engineering has been recognised with four grants worth a total of €6.5 million (approximately £4.6 million) in the inaugural Starting Independent Research competition of the European Research Council (ERC). The money is awarded with the aim of boosting the careers of promising researchers who are



establishing themselves as leaders of independent research teams. More than 9,000 applications were submitted across the EU, with only 275 projects receiving funding.

Three projects from the Department of Computing were recognised, and the Department of Materials and Institute for Biomedical Engineering also received funds for potentially life-saving research.

One of the winners, Dr Maja Pantic (Computing), is leading a team developing new computer vision and signal-processing technology that can automatically analyse human behaviour, from facial expressions, body movements and audio cues such as laughter, to interpret human emotion. Dr Pantic believes this technology could be used to automatically recognise fatigue in drivers and detect aggressive behaviour in public spaces.

Designing new algorithms to improve robot vision will form the basis of a research

project led by another winner, Dr Andrew Davison (Computing), who believes his technology could take the drudgery out of housework. He says his research will have applications in 'consumer robotics' in which low cost self-navigating machines are able to clean the home.

A new approach to modelling how complex software systems should function also received funding. Lead researcher Dr Sebastian Uchitel (Computing) and his team believe their theoretical technique will aid engineers in constructing higher quality software systems.

Imperial's last award went to a team led by Dr Molly Stevens (Materials) and the Institute of Biomedical Engineering, who are developing 'nanostructured scaffolds' that consist of intricate fibres which are inserted into the body and mesh with human tissue. Dr Stevens says her research will have enormous potential for cancer patients with large bone defects.

— COLIN SMITH, COMMUNICATIONS

"Dr Andrew Davison believes his technology could take the drudgery out of housework."

More tolerance to fight allergies

A mechanism which can lead to hay fever and other allergic reactions, by preventing the immune system from regulating itself properly, has been discovered by Imperial scientists in research published in the journal *PLoS Biology* on 27 December.

The research shows that a gene known as GATA-3 can block the development of regulatory T cells in the immune system by locking another gene. This other gene, FOXP3, is key to regulatory T cells and when blocked, new regulatory T cells stop being produced. The team hope that if they can develop therapies to stop FOXP3 being blocked, they can ensure that regulatory T cells are free to work normally.

Regulatory T cells are believed to be vital for averting allergic reactions in healthy individuals because they keep the other cells in check, suppressing pro-allergic cells and stopping the immune system from needlessly attacking the body.

Principal Investigator Dr Carsten Schmidt-Weber said: "This finding will help us to understand how healthy individuals are able to tolerate allergens and what we need to do to re-induce tolerance in the immune systems of patients with allergies."

—LAURA GALLAGHER, COMMUNICATIONS



Life's six-legged survivors

Most modern-day groups of beetles have been around since the time of the dinosaurs and have been diversifying ever since, according to new Imperial research published in *Science* on 21 December.

There are approximately 350,000 species of beetles on Earth, and probably millions more yet to be discovered, accounting for about 25 per cent of all known life forms on the planet. The reason for this large number of beetle species has been debated by scientists for many years, but, until now, never resolved.



"The large number of beetle species existing today could very well be a direct result of this early evolution"

The team of Imperial scientists has shown that large numbers of modern-day beetle lineages evolved very soon after the first beetles originated, and have persisted ever since. Many modern-day lineages first appeared during the Jurassic period, when the major groups of dinosaurs appeared too.

The lead scientist on the study, Professor Alfried Vogler (Life Sciences), explained: "The large number of beetle species existing today could very well be a direct result of this early evolution and the fact that there has been a very high rate of survival and continuous diversification of many lineages since then."

—DANIELLE REEVES, COMMUNICATIONS

Double the trouble for malaria parasites

Two new studies published by Imperial scientists in *PLoS Pathogens* in December focused on the developmental cycle of malaria parasites, and how to prevent this development in order stop the spread of malaria among humans.

Malaria parasites reproduce and develop inside the guts of mosquitoes.

The first study reported that a group of researchers had successfully genetically engineered a mosquito to release a sea cucumber protein into its gut which is toxic to the developing parasites, and therefore impairs their development inside the mosquito host.

The second study showed that, in order to stop malaria being transmitted to humans by mosquitoes, all malaria parasites inside mosquitoes must be totally eliminated. This discovery arose from mathematical analyses which showed that a mosquito carrying 50 parasites is not substantially more infectious to humans than a mosquito carrying just five parasites.

Speaking about the first study, Professor Bob Sinden (Life Sciences), who was an author on both papers, said that there is still a lot of work to do before this genetic engineering technique could be used to combat the spread of malaria in a real-world scenario. This is because the sea cucumber protein does not totally remove all parasites from all mosquitoes.

Professor Sinden added: "It is clear that it will not be sufficient to develop techniques which get rid of 'most' of the malaria parasites inside a mosquito. We now know that the most important challenge for research in this area is to refine techniques so we reduce the number of mosquitoes that have any parasites in them whatsoever."

—DANIELLE REEVES, COMMUNICATIONS

Sperm could give cancer clue

Sperm's immune protection properties could provide link to how cancers spread.

Sugar-based markers on human sperm cells, which may prevent them from being attacked by the female immune system, could provide a vital clue to how some cancers spread in the human body, according to new Imperial research published on 14 December in the *Journal of Biological Chemistry*.

Professor Anne Dell (Life Sciences), one of the study's lead authors, explained: "Normal human cells carry chemical markers made of proteins which tell the immune system not to attack them. In the case of organ transplants, for example, doctors try to match these markers in both the donor and the recipient to prevent rejection. However, in the case of sperm cells, their sugar-based markers are different: they are recognised by everyone's immune system, meaning that no immune response is triggered during reproduction between any two people."

The study suggests that these sugar markers can be universally recognised by all human immune systems, regardless of the individual. This kind of marker is also found on some types of cancer cells, some bacterial cells, some parasitic worms and HIV-infected white blood cells. The scientists believe that these markers allow such dangerous cells and pathogens to evade destruction by the human immune system, leading to serious – sometimes fatal – illness.

—DANIELLE REEVES, COMMUNICATIONS



media mentions

—DANIELLE REEVES, COMMUNICATIONS

FINANCIAL TIMES ▶ 31 DECEMBER

MBA students wanted—piranhas need not apply

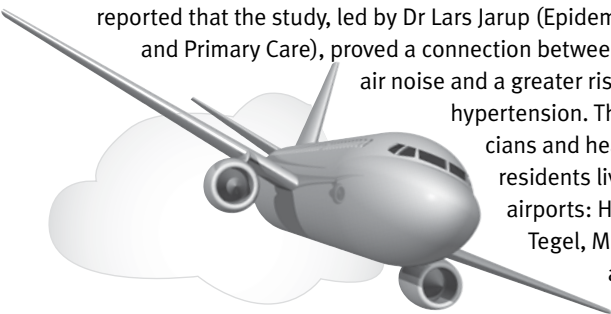
The *Financial Times* published an article on New Year's Eve examining what business school admissions tutors are looking for in MBA applicants. Professor Simon Stockley (Tanaka Business School) told the newspaper that while the Business School looks for people who can contribute alternative views to discussions or tasks, the ability to disagree is not universally attractive. "If someone has been headstrong and combative in their style in the past, that can be a turn-off for me," he said. "We don't believe that a pool of piranhas is the best environment in which to learn and innovate."



RICHMOND AND TWICKENHAM TIMES ▶ 20 DECEMBER

Heart risk under flight path

New research showing a link between aircraft noise and heart attacks was the subject of an article in the *Richmond and Twickenham Times*, a paper based in suburban west London, underneath the Heathrow flight path. The paper reported that the study, led by Dr Lars Jarup (Epidemiology, Public Health and Primary Care), proved a connection between prolonged exposure to air noise and a greater risk of heart attacks and hypertension. The study involved acousticians and health scientists surveying residents living near six European airports: Heathrow, Schiphol, Berlin Tegel, Milan Malpensa, Stockholm and Athens.



THE GUARDIAN ▶ 2 JANUARY

Going underground

With renewable energy technologies not yet ready to take over from polluting fossil fuels as our primary source of energy, an article in *The Guardian* explored the idea of capturing and storing underground the carbon dioxide emitted from power stations. Dr Jon Gibbins (Mechanical Engineering) told *The Guardian*: "Carbon capture and storage is probably the quickest way of making really significant cuts in British CO₂ emissions." Capturing and storing carbon dioxide needs 20–40 per cent more energy to be burned in the first place, but if British power plants were retrofitted with carbon capture equipment, Dr Gibbins said, it could cut emissions by a third overnight.



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awards and honours

Best seller success for Physics academic

A book by an academic in the Department of Physics has been placed in the top 20 sellers of the genre for 2007. Dr Stefan Maier's *Plasmonics: Fundamentals and Applications*, which describes the new field of optical nanotechnology, was published in April last year, and is named by *Library Journal* as the 20th best-selling physics book of the year. The first edition is currently being reprinted and the book is soon to be translated into Russian and Polish.



Thesis the best, IOP tells PhD student

Imperial physics postgraduate student Dr James Kirkpatrick has been awarded the Institute of Physics Roy Prize, which recognises the best PhD thesis in condensed matter or materials physics submitted during the previous year. Dr Kirkpatrick, now an Engineering and Physical Sciences Research Council (EPSRC) postdoctoral fellow in the Experimental Solid State Physics group, won the prize for his thesis on the theory of charge transport in molecular semiconductors after being nominated by his supervisor Professor Jenny Nelson.

EPSRC supports new Structural Ceramic Centre

The Departments of Materials and Mechanical Engineering have won £6 million of funding from the EPSRC to support the new Imperial College Structural Ceramics Centre. The new centre will develop structural ceramics with great strength and durability for applications such as producing greener energy and building the next generation of reusable spacecraft. "These materials underpin many key areas of the UK economy, from energy generation to healthcare, and I look forward to working with industry and academia," said Professor Bill Lee, Head of the Department of Materials and Director of the Centre.



Imperial does the double

Two Imperial medics won top prizes from the Royal Society of Medicine before Christmas for their original cardiology research. Research Fellows Dr Alexander Lyon and Dr Julian Jarman, both from the National Heart and Lung Institute, respectively won the £1,000 first prize and £500 runner-up prize in the President's Medal competition, after giving presentations about their work to a panel of judges.

Clinical Research Fellow hailed a future leader for the NHS

A fellowship aimed at nurturing the next generation of healthcare leaders has been awarded to Oliver Warren, a Clinical Research Fellow at Imperial. He is one of only 15 young medics to be appointed Health Foundation Leadership Fellows, providing two years of leadership development skills training. The Health Foundation is an independent charity working to improve the quality of healthcare across the UK and beyond. The award scheme provides one-to-one coaching sessions, group seminars and workshops and tailor-made training.





A day in the life of... Catering and Conferencing

Catering and Conferencing run food outlets across the College's campuses and cater for the thousands of meetings that take place each term. They also play a key role in some of the College's most high profile events, such as celebrations on the annual Commemoration Days. Following the graduation ceremonies in the Royal Albert Hall, the team serves 18,000 glasses of fizz and 50,000 canapés to graduates and their families.

Reporter's Alex Platt went to meet the team to find out what happens on a typical day to keep the College community well-fed from early morning until late in the evening.

06.00 Stock begins to arrive. Fresh food to be cooked that day is taken to the main kitchen, while food for the various outlets around the College is gathered together and delivered. Stores Officer Kevin Palmer said: "There can be up to 20 trucks arriving at this point from different suppliers."

06.30 Chefs prepare breakfast for the Senior Common Room (SCR), offering full cooked and continental buffet style options. The morning will also see them preparing any food that has been ordered for meetings and events that day, while next door the team in the Hospitality room begin to brew their first urns of coffee. Michael St Clair Lang, Event Manager, said: "I work closely with our Account Handlers and will have been fully briefed about the requirements for each event, which can range from a formal sit down dinner in the SCR, to a working lunch or breakfast. We can have up to 100 bookings on any particular day and serve up to 5,000 cups of coffee!" He added: "Each week I will sit down with the chefs to ensure that they are able to cater for the various events we have coming up. I will also organise staffing and anything else that's needed – for



10.00

example, AV equipment." Charlotte Duggan, an Account Handler, said: "The way we work is currently changing. There will be Account Handlers designated to certain areas of the College, which means we'll be able to build personal relationships with those in the area we are responsible for. For simple booking requests, for meeting rooms and tea and coffee, I would ask that staff use our web booking system, but for anything else, we're on hand to lead them through every aspect of the event they would like to hold."

Now breakfast is over, the SCR is cleaned and prepared for the lunchtime rush. In the kitchen, chefs are preparing lunch to be served in both the SCR and the Main Dining Hall (MDH), as well working through the orders for the working lunch and meeting refreshments that have been booked for the day. Today students and staff will be able to choose from a beef curry, roast lamb, char-grilled chicken and vegetarian strudel as well as the freshly prepared salad bar. The MDH also offers more international cuisine, with a grab-and-go noodle bar and dishes from Thailand, India and China regularly on the menu.

11.30

Assistant Catering Manager Steven Salter heads over to the Hammersmith Campus to check how the catering outlet, which opened there in November, is getting on. Steven is responsible for all the College's coffee shops and has been instrumental in Imperial winning Fairtrade status. He said: "Fairtrade at the College is going from strength to strength. The catering team have worked hard alongside representatives from the Union and all the tea and coffee we serve is now fairly traded, and we are constantly increasing the range and quality of our products." The next big challenge for Steven is the launch of the coffee bar in the new Central Library. He said: "It'll have internet access and be a great place for students and staff to relax."

11.00 The South Kensington Campus kitchen is buzzing with chefs continuing lunch preparations. There is also an assembly line of catering team members who are making up fresh baguettes, panini, yoghurts and fresh fruit pots.

"The diversity of people in our team is wonderful and having the support of the College and being part of the Commercial Services team just cements our motivation."





12.00

The SCR and MDH are both full once again with hungry staff and students all wanting something different. Lindy Jamieson, Head of Catering Operations, said: "We try our best to offer something for everyone. All our chicken and lamb is Halal and we can cater for any special dietary needs. We're also keeping the College as healthy as possible with our re-launched healthy option range, which includes freshly made smoothies and fresh and organic salads in the JCR. Another thing we're working towards is accreditation from the Food for the Brain Foundation who advise what to eat to maintain optimum intelligence and concentration. We're also looking to implement a nutritional signposting campaign, which will allow customers to fully understand what they are eating and what they should combine to ensure that they're eating as well as possible."

19.00

Once again the SCR is transformed, this time for a seated dinner for 150 people being hosted for senior member of staff who is leaving the College. This is business as usual, as Exec Chef Alan Staford explained: "Tonight we are responsible for four buffets and two canapé receptions. My role is very rewarding when the job is done properly and everyone is happy with the event."

01.00

Once again the SCR is cleared ready for the next day and Catering and Conference team members head home, ready to start again in the morning. Jane Neary, Head of Catering and Conferencing, said: "I work with a fantastic team. The support of the College and being part of the Commercial Services team is incredibly motivating. The Centenary year has been wonderful and offered us a lot of opportunities, including catering for the royal visit, the staff party and the Runners and Riders fundraising event. This year promises to be every bit as busy with the development of the Catering and Conferencing service which will see members of the College offered a seamless service in line with Imperial's status as fifth best university in the World."

Vital stats

- 180** Catering and Conferences employees
- 150** breakfasts served each day
- 1,200** lunches served each day
- 2,200** coffees sold on the South Kensington campus every Monday
- 4,000** catering bookings per year
- 9,000** rooms booked for meetings per year

► For more information about Catering and Conference facilities across the College's campuses, visit: www.imperial.ac.uk/cateringandconferences

inventors corner



Professor Timothy Williams and his colleagues have enabled the development of potential therapy for asthmatics that could help 5.2 million sufferers in the UK, through their exceptional research and the support of Imperial Innovations.

Professor Timothy Williams is the Asthma UK Professor of Applied Pharmacology and the Head of the Leukocyte Biology Section within the National Heart and Lung Institute at the College. He was involved in the discovery of a protein which was ground-breaking in the field of asthma and allergy.

Professor Williams and his colleagues have carried out extensive research into the role of a certain type of leukocyte (white blood cell), called the eosinophil, in asthma. Eosinophils form part of our natural defence to worm infections. However, in asthmatic patients these normally beneficial cells accumulate in inflamed tissue in the lungs and cause lung dysfunction and changes in tissue structure.

In 1994 the group made an important breakthrough when they identified a new protein that attracts eosinophils to tissues, which they called eotaxin. Clinical research showed that asthmatic patients had high levels of eotaxin in their lungs and that these levels were linked with the severity of lung dysfunction.

Patents covering eotaxin and antibodies to it were filed worldwide by Imperial Innovations. They were first licensed for the development of eotaxin antagonists to LeukoSite Inc., and Professor Williams joined the Scientific Advisory Board of the company. Speaking about this experience with commercialisation he said: "It was very exciting to see a basic discovery in the laboratory grow into a major drug development programme."

Eotaxin is now used widely experimentally and diagnostically and several more licences have been granted, generating a steady royalty stream for the College and the inventors. A therapeutic neutralising antibody has also been taken through clinical trials. Not all of this work is concerned with asthma: eotaxin is implicated in other diseases, most recently in atherosclerosis—although its precise role in blood vessel disease is yet to be established.

Professor Williams believes that research teams, such as his, should concentrate on basic research with clear scientific aims, but adds: "researchers should always be alert to new opportunities to develop and protect intellectual property." He also recommends that scientists confer with Innovations at an early stage to explore ideas with commercial potential.

The eotaxin discovery encouraged the recruitment of an innovative team of scientists to the Leukocyte Biology Section and Professor Williams is very optimistic about new avenues that have opened up: "Exciting new research areas are being explored—for example, tissue remodelling and stem cell trafficking—which have resulted in possibilities for novel therapy in a range of diseases."

—MICHELLE COTTERILL, IMPERIAL INNOVATIONS

► For further information about Imperial Innovations please visit www.imperialinnovations.co.uk or contact the technology transfer team on 020 7581 4949.

Staff have a swell time at Centenary beach party



Summer arrived at the College on 14 December as senior staff celebrated the hard work of the catering, commercial services, security, fire, post, alumni, sport, and communications teams after a momentous year of Centenary events.

The day was hosted by senior staff, who helped set up the marquee on the Queen's Lawn, decorated the interior, served food and drink and tidied up after the event.

The Rector greeted staff as they arrived and opened the party by riding the first wave on the surf simulator. He said that the party was a way of saying thank you to all of those who had worked extra hard in the



Centenary year. He added: "I think it's been a great year for everyone at the College. It's been really gratifying to see staff and students get so involved, from the launch day in January to the royal visit on the College's birthday and the staff party in July, as well as the many other smaller events across all of our campuses throughout the year."

Dr Chris Towler, Director of Project Management, was serving fish and chips at the party. He said: "It's been a great year here at Imperial, the campuses have been buzzing and lots of events have been happening. We just need to keep the momentum going!"

Jane Neary, Head of Catering and Conferencing, added: "The highlight of the year for me was the Staff Party, running backwards and forwards around the South Kensington Campus dressed up in an Edwardian bathing suit!"

—NAOMI WESTON, COMMUNICATIONS



celebrating long service

40 years



Miss Christine Wright, Assistant Safety Director, Health and Safety Services

Christine Wright joined the College in 1968 from her previous role as lecturer in biological sciences for the external University of London BSc degree. Christine joined Professor Sir Ernst Chain's Fermentation Pilot Plant team before becoming a Senior Research Officer in the Biochemistry Department. In 1977 she moved to the Chemistry Department, taking the role of Departmental Superintendent. Christine said: "At this point in my career I became very interested in the College's Apprenticeship Scheme. I moved to Personnel (now HR) as College Training Officer in 1984, before Staff Development was formed." Christine was the Secretary of the Rector's Award for Excellence for Non-Teaching Staff for many years: "Awareness of health and safety issues was evolving during the late 1980s and in 1991 I took up secondment in the Safety Unit (now Department)." Christine is now the Assistant Safety Director and has been involved in establishing the National Examination Board in Occupational Safety and Health Certificate course and extensive in-house training. She said: "I have seen much growth and development in the College. It has been a privilege to have worked with world class, dynamic and interesting colleagues across the organisation."

30 years

Dr Pat Leevers • Reader, Mechanical Engineering



Professor Stephen Richardson, Head of Department, Chemical Engineering

Professor Stephen Richardson, who completed both his undergraduate degree and PhD at the College, joined Imperial as a lecturer 30 years ago. He is now Head of the Department of Chemical Engineering, a post he has held for six and a half years. In this time, as well as his teaching and research, he has recruited 22 members of academic staff. He explained: "I am delighted with how excellent all the staff in the Department are. It has been a significant recruit-

ment task, but it is gratifying to see so many of them being promoted and doing so well." Over the past year he has also been heavily involved with the RAE process. As Chairman of the panel for Chemical Engineering, he said: "The future of the Department and the whole subject depends on getting it right. I have to live with the team after the results are published!" When Professor Richardson began his career at Imperial there were 42 staff members in Chemical Engineering and 210 students. Now there are just 36 staff and 500 students. He said: "Imperial is a much busier place today and much more businesslike." He added: "There is a real buzz here and you work with the best. I do a lot of teaching, more than some other Department Heads, because I really enjoy it. The students are all so different and teaching a course is never the same each year."

20 years

Professor Julia Buckingham • Pro Rector for Education, Educational Quality Office



Dr Adrian Chester, Senior Lecturer, NHLI

Dr Adrian Chester is a Senior Lecturer at the National Heart and Lung Institute. He explained: "I do some teaching but my position is now almost exclusively research based, looking at heart valve biology and tissue engineering under the direction of Professor Sir Magdi Yacoub." In 1988 Dr Chester left a position at GlaxoSmithKline (GSK) to begin his research at Imperial. He explained: "I found that I enjoyed the research so much that I decided to do a PhD at Harefield and have never looked back. The relevance of the research at the Heart Science Centre attracted me; it was so easy to relate it to treating patients and to see that it could potentially have such a big impact." Dr Chester has been based at Harefield since he joined the College. He said: "The facilities have always been good and a pleasure to work in." However, he has noticed some changes over the years: "Health and Safety awareness has increased and the development of more stringent ethical guidelines has also impacted on our research." When asked what keeps him at Imperial he explained: "Working here provides me with new opportunities. I get the chance to travel and the discovery of new things means that

our research is never stationary. I always look forward to completing a paper or another student achieving their PhD."

Dr Mark Forster • Network Consultant, ICT

Mrs Wendy Grant • Secretary, Investigative Science

Mrs Jane Miller • Senior Executive Officer, Medicine



Dr Paul Robinson, Reader, Aeronautics

Dr Paul Robinson joined Imperial as a lecturer in the Department of Aeronautics, before which he worked as a Structural Engineer for British Aerospace. He is now a Reader and the Head of the Composite Centre. He explained: "As Head of the Centre I help to promote and market Imperial's extensive research capability in composite materials which, for example, are being used extensively in new civil aircraft. In addition, I also teach and have my own research activities." When asked what keeps him at the College, he said: "The people—my colleagues are all very smart, bright and creative, as are the students. Imperial attracts the best and many graduate and then want to work with us in the future. Very recently I was contacted by someone who I taught 19 years ago, wanting to send PhD students to join our research." Dr Robinson believes there is an exciting future for the Department: "Because of environmental and cost issues there is a strong demand for more efficient air transport, but much research and development remains to be done to meet future environmental targets. There is a clear role for our research expertise."



Ms Paulette Shelley, Network Administrator, ICT

Paulette is the Network Administrator for the College's ICT Network Group, and is responsible for organising the distribution of mobile phones and broadband for people wishing to work from home. In her time here Paulette has seen ICT grow substantially. She explained: "Not only has the Department grown, but it has had about three different names!" Whilst working at the College, Paulette has completed a part-time degree and now teaches IT to adults in the evenings: "Teaching is my passion. It was great that Imperial supported my choice to carry out some more study." She added: "It's a good place to work, but it's the people that have kept me here. I have made good friends." As a member of Imperial as One, Paulette's role is to maintain and facilitate a network of interested parties, such as equality practitioners. She said: "I'm happy working with Dr John Shemilt who has been very supportive." Paulette is also a Harassment Support Contact, providing confidential support when approached by individuals feeling harassed or bullied.

Obituaries

Barry Woodgate • Barry Woodgate, who was the College's Chief Security Officer, Support Services, died at the end of last year. His colleagues, Terry Branch and Ceri Davies, share their memories of Barry, who began his Imperial career on 16 January 1995: "Barry's role was integral to the Security Department. He was responsible for looking after the technical side of things, including CCTV, access control to buildings and intruder alarm systems. Any new building or refurbishment project needed input from Barry and he was well known throughout the organisation. He was a larger than life character who was incredibly family orientated. Barry, who leaves his wife, two daughters, a son and four grandchildren, with another on the way, enjoyed spending many of his weekends with his family at one of his daughters' houses on the Isle of Wight. Barry was also an active member of his local bowls club and maintained strong links with the Navy Regulators Association after a stint in the Navy in his youth. Barry was very proud of this time and proud too of his Welsh heritage. He was also a keen rugby fan and supporter of Wrexham football club and was fond of DIY, often starting more projects than he finished! Barry was great to work with and always the first to volunteer. I'm sure he would include his involvement in the Queen's visit to the College last year as one of the highlights of his career."



Dr Robert Kinghorn • Dr Robert Kinghorn, held research, academic and administrative roles at Imperial during his career from 1969 until 2006, died on 17 October 2007.



Dr Mike Ala (Earth Science and Engineering) writes of Dr Kinghorn: "Robert was educated at Eastbourne College and read chemistry at Edinburgh University. He went on to undertake research in organic chemistry at the Northern Polytechnic, now the University of North London, and obtained his PhD in 1969. In the same year, he joined the Geology Department at Imperial as a research assistant and took charge of a newly established organic geochemistry laboratory at the Royal School of Mines. To gain tenure, he was required to obtain a degree in geology, which he did by enrolling at the Open University. Following the completion of his degree he joined the academic staff and became involved in source rock studies in several parts of the world. His work resulted in a number of articles and culminated in the publication of a book entitled *The Chemistry and Physics of Petroleum* in 1982. Robert was a Fellow of the Geological Society and of the Royal Society of Arts.

In 2001 he took early retirement from the College but continued to serve the Department of Earth Science and Engineering, the successor to the Geology Department, on a part-time basis in an administrative capacity. He retired fully in March 2006.

Robert was a life-long supporter of the Conservative party and stood as a parliamentary candidate for Blyth Valley in 1987 and Norwich North in 1997. He was strongly committed to local government and served as a councillor for Islington during 1968–71 and for Hounslow (Chiswick Riverside ward) from 1986 until his death. Robert was a very sociable and friendly character and was described by one of his Hounslow Council colleagues as exceptionally charming, informed and passionate. He was a devoted family man and leaves a wife, Rosemary, and two sons, James, 12, and Phillip, 22 months."

John Archer • John Archer, who was appointed as the College's first Deputy Rector in 1994, died of cancer last month. John initially joined the College as a postgraduate research student in 1965, and rejoined in 1980 as an academic in the Department of Mineral Resources Engineering. Sir Eric Ash, Rector of Imperial from 1985 to 1993, shares his memories of his former colleague: "Those of us who were at the College before 1997 will remember John Archer and find it incredibly hard to accept that he is with us no longer. I got to know John when he was Head of the Department of Petroleum Geology, a responsibility which he fulfilled with verve and humour whilst at the same time continuing with his distinguished research on the flow of liquids through porous materials. He was an internationally recognised scholar—and he also knew how to balance the books.

I was very fortunate when in 1991 I was able to persuade him to take on the job of Senior Pro Rector (Deputy Rector in modern parlance). I worked very closely with John and was ever impressed by his strategic vision coupled with his ability to keep both feet on the ground. University finances are always a problem—but in that period the pressures imposed on us were particularly severe. The College resources were distributed by a formula vote which had to be structured so as to make Heads of Department approximately equally unhappy. John played a major and successful role in this balancing act. Successful, in the sense that the College continued to flourish academically. If one believes in

RAEs this was the first time that Imperial was judged to be a whisker behind Cambridge and ahead of Oxford.

In those days it was not wholly unheard of for some to see apparent imperfections in the Rector, but the criticism also landed on the head of the Pro Rector. Throughout that time, I do not believe that anyone ever doubted John Archer's total integrity and fairness nor his passionate commitment to academic excellence. No doubt it was these qualities that inspired Heriot-Watt to recruit him to the Vice Chancellorship.

When John left Imperial to take up that post, I told him that being a VC was not really at all difficult. All he had to do was to find a John Archer to do the work."



welcome new starters

Mr Vladimir Ajvaz, ICT
 Mr Alexandre Almeida, Catering Services
 Dr Mark Bannister, NHLI
 Miss Louise Birrell, Development and Corporate Affairs
 Ms Wendy Bowman, Catering Services
 Mrs Mary Bown, Educational Quality Office
 Mrs Linda Campbell, NMH
 Dr Clive Cheong Took, EEE
 Miss Emma Clark, Faculty of Natural Sciences
 Ms Amy Cock, Investigative Science
 Mr Jacques Deere, Biology
 Mrs Dagmar Durham, Department of Materials
 Miss Catherine England, EPHPC
 Miss Charlene Fairs, Registry
 Dr Mario Falchi, Medicine
 Mrs Megan Grace, NHLI
 Dr Abderrahman Hachani, Cell and Molecular Biology
 Ms Emma Hair, Library Services
 Mr Benjamin Harden, Climate Change Institute
 Dr Caroline Hargreaves, Graduate Schools
 Miss Raunaque Hasnat, NHLI
 Miss Samantha Holland, NHLI
 Mr Jonathan Hope, ICT
 Dr Xiaopeng Hu, Computing
 Miss Amalia Kati, Biology
 Mr Andreas Katsiamis, Bioengineering
 Dr Isidora Kitsou-Mylona, Investigative Science
 Miss Kasia Kozlowski, Investigative Science
 Dr Felix Llovell, Chemical Engineering
 Miss Alex Lord, Biology
 Miss Patricia Luna-Tomas, Faculty of Engineering

Ms Deborah Malin, Faculty of Engineering
 Mr Timothy McIlhinney, Faculty of Medicine
 Mr Christopher Millett, EPHPC
 Miss Jocelyn Mora, SORA
 Dr Robert Nyman, Physics
 Mr Gavin Oliver, Faculty of Engineering
 Mr Christos Paliompeis, Investigative Science
 Ms Zoi Pipirou, Molecular Biosciences
 Dr Marios Politis, NMH
 Mr Zia Rahman, Estates
 Ms Chandra Ramakrishnan, Cell and Molecular Biology
 Ms Angharad Roberts, Library Services
 Dr Maria Romaguera Bosch, EPHPC
 Miss Lisa Sheridan, Security Services
 Dr Sabine Steinbach, Investigative Science
 Dr Fiona Turner, Physics
 Dr James Uprichard, Investigative Science
 Ms Valeria Ventura, Molecular Biosciences
 Mrs Teresa Wadeson, Humanities
 Dr Andrew Webb, Medicine
 Mr Allan Webb, Estates

Mr Elliott White, Tanaka Business School
 Mr Christopher Wood, Chemistry
 Mrs Suzanne Woodcock, Human Resources
 Mrs Benek Zengin-Nicholl, Student Residences

Dr Katie Wood, Institute of Biomedical Engineering
 Dr Shuncong Zhong, Mechanical Engineering

retirements

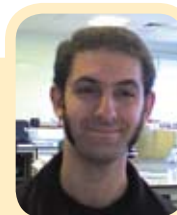
Mrs Charity Gauslin, SORA (8 years)
 Miss Loretto O'Callaghan, Educational Quality Office (19 years)

farewell moving on

Mr Wynn Abbott, Humanities (7 years)
 Dr Hassan Abdulrazzak, SORA
 Dr Nikolaos Apostolou, EEE
 Miss Veronique Blanc, NHLI
 Dr Alexander Blinov, EEE
 Mr Anthony Breen, ICT
 Mr William Britten, Sport and Leisure Services
 Mrs Lauren Broom, NMH
 Mrs Samantha De Mello, Chemistry
 Ms Dawn Duke, NMH (5 years)
 Ms Ruth Ellis, Registry (5 years)
 Mr Christopher Field, Sport and Leisure Services
 Mrs Louise Gallagher, Faculty of Natural Sciences
 Dr Sebastien Greder, Physics
 Mrs Emira Khalili, Institute for Mathematical Sciences
 Miss Faizah Malik, EPHPC
 Dr Gianluca Marcelli, Mathematics (6 years)
 Dr Stephen Morris, Medicine (5 years)
 Miss Tahiri Mortal, Student Residences
 Ms Catherine Muckett, Faculty of Medicine (6 years)
 Dr Bettina Nier, Bioengineering
 Dr Patrick O'Shea, Medicine
 Miss Winnie Phiri, Catering Services
 Mr Christopher Ridgers, Physics
 Dr Namrata Syngal, NHLI
 Mr Ramin Tabibi, NHLI
 Dr Richard Winkle, Institute of Biomedical Engineering

► Dr Robert

Nyman has recently joined the Quantum Optics and Laser Science Group in the Department of Physics after completing a post-doc at the Institut d'Optique where he built a machine to make and manipulate clouds of ultra cold, laser-cooled atoms. At Imperial he will be working on integrating fibre optics and waveguides into atom chip experiments, which are tools for future experiments in statistical mechanics and quantum information.



This data is supplied by HR and covers the period 29 December–4 January. It was correct at the time of going to press. Years of service are given where an individual has been a member of College staff for over five years. Asterisk (*) indicates where an individual will continue to play an active role in College life.

◆◆◆ Please send your images and/or brief comments about new starters, leavers and retirees to the Editor, a.platt@imperial.ac.uk who reserves the right to edit or amend these as necessary.

► **Dr Felix Llovell** has recently joined Imperial as a Postdoctorate Research Academic after completing his PhD at the Science Materials Institute of Barcelona. He previously worked in a Technological Innovation Centre in his home town of Tarragona in Spain. Dr Llovell is a member of the Molecular and Modelling Thermodynamics Group in the Department of Chemical Engineering and Chemical Technology. As part of his research, he is estimating the thermophysical properties of crude oil in order to improve oil extraction processes from a technological and ecological point of view.



Take note



With refurbishment of the Sheffield Building on the South Kensington Campus now complete, several departments have relocated to the new accommodation. See below for a list of those with new homes.

Level 3

Commercial Services (including the Student Accommodation Centre, Sport Imperial and Sales and Marketing), the International Office, Finance, Outreach, HR Operations and Pensions

Level 4

ICT (including the Help Desk)

Level 5

Careers, Project Management Office, Staff Development Unit, Equality and Diversity, and Safety Department

► Please note that the Registry remains located on Level 3, Occupational Health on Level 4 and Facilities Management, Building Projects and Property Management on Level 5.

moving in. moving on.

what's on

17 JANUARY 17.30–18.30

Leverhulme Lecture Series

*Discovering prions—
some personal reflections*

Part A: Looking for a way out of the fog Professor Stanley B. Prusiner MD, Nobel laureate, Leverhulme Visiting Professor, presents the first part of this three-part lecture

Lecture Theatre G16,
Sir Alexander Fleming Building

☒ Registration in advance: email
amy.thompson@imperial.ac.uk

23 JANUARY 17.30–18.30

Inaugural Lecture

Anarchy and physical laws

Professor Joao Magueijo, Department of Physics
Blackett Lecture Theatre, Blackett Laboratory

☒ Registration in advance:
email events@imperial.ac.uk

24 JANUARY 17.30–18.30

Leverhulme Lecture Series

*Discovering prions—
some personal
reflections*

Part B: Searching for a virus and finding only protein

Professor Stanley B. Prusiner MD presents the second part of this three-part lecture

Lecture Theatre G16, Sir Alexander Fleming Building

☒ Registration in advance: email
amy.thompson@imperial.ac.uk



24 JANUARY 13.00–13.45

Lunchtime concert

*Tippett Quartet: Beethoven
Quartet in C sharp, Op. 131*

Read Lecture Theatre, Level 5 Sherfield Building

☒ First come, first served

► All events are at the South Kensington Campus unless otherwise stated.

29 JANUARY 17.30–18.30

Perspectives on global health

*Dr Tachi Yamada presents his
prestigious end of Centenary Lecture*

Lecture Theatre G16, Sir Alexander Fleming Building

☒ Registration in advance: email
e.powell@imperial.ac.uk



31 JANUARY 17.30–18.30

Professorial Lecture

*Prevention of cardiovascular disease—
science, practice and politics*

Professor David Wood, Garfield Weston Professor of Cardiovascular Medicine

Paul Wood Lecture Theatre, Guy Scadding Building,
Royal Brompton Campus

☒ Registration in advance: email
e.powell@imperial.ac.uk

31 JANUARY 13.00–14.00

Cathedrals and their saints in medieval England

*Paul Binski, University of Cambridge,
presents this special art lecture*

Cockburn Lecture Theatre, Queen Elizabeth the Queen Mother Wing, St Mary's Campus

☒ First come, first served

31 JANUARY 13.00–13.45

Lunchtime concert

Gary Ryan (guitar)

Read Lecture Theatre, Level 5 Sherfield Building

☒ First come, first served

05 FEBRUARY 19.00–18.00

Six impossible things before breakfast— the biology of belief

*Lewis Wolpert, Professor of Biology as
Applied to Medicine, University College
London, presents this Friends of Imperial
Special Lecture*

Sir Alexander Fleming Building,
South Kensington Campus

☒ Registration in
advance: email admin@
friendsofimperial.org.uk



Imperial Fun Fact • In 2005 Imperial researchers led by Professor Ian Owens produced the first full map of where the world's birds actually live. This revealed their diversity 'hotspots' and will help to focus conservation effort in the future. It took five years to get the data into a digital mapping format known as a GIS system. This database was then used to score the presence or absence of each of the nearly 10,000 different bird species in a grid covering the world's land area.

volunteering

Back to nature

Project: Practical Nature Conservation Volunteers
Project ID: 1932
Organisation: Groundwork West London
Date: 13 February (this is a one-off project)
Time: 11.00–15.00
Location: W10, nearest tube White City

Volunteers are needed to help with vegetation management and other nature conservation tasks in Little Wormwood Scrubs Park. This is an excellent opportunity for volunteers to get their hands dirty in real nature conservation whilst doing something useful for the wider community. Groundwork West London will provide instruction and supervision of volunteers on the day. Tools and gloves will be provided, travel and lunch expenses will be paid, and a qualified first-aider will be present at all times. Groundwork West London is an environmental charity which supports local communities in need, working with partners to help improve the quality of people's lives, their prospects and potential, and the places where they live, work and play. For further details, visit www.gwk-wl.org.uk.



i For more information

To take part in a scheme or to hear more about volunteering in general, contact Minna Ruohonen
• 020 7594 8133 • m.ruohonen@imperial.ac.uk

For full details of over 250 volunteering opportunities visit:
www.imperial.ac.uk/volunteering

Subscribe to the weekly newsletter by emailing:
volunteering@imperial.ac.uk

Reporter is published every three weeks during term time in print and online at www.imperial.ac.uk/reporter.



The copy deadline for issue 187 is Friday 25 January. Publication date is 7 February. Contributions are welcome (no more than 300 words). Please note the editor reserves the right to cut or amend articles as necessary. Information correct at time of going to press.

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