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## in brief



### Bradley to help physics review

Professor Donal Bradley, Head of the Department of Physics, has been appointed to the panel for the Wakeham review of physics. Professor Bill Wakeham, Vice-Chancellor of the University of South-

ampton and former Deputy Rector of Imperial, is chairing the Research Councils UK (RCUK) review, which seeks to provide a comprehensive picture of the health of UK physics and its role in underpinning research in many other disciplines.

### Imperial scientists advise UK on climate change

Imperial scientists have been appointed as members of the independent Committee on Climate Change established under the Climate Change Bill currently before Parliament. Sir Brian Hoskins, Director of the Grantham Institute, Professors Jim Skea and Michael Grubb (both Centre for Environmental Policy), and Lord Robert May, who holds a professorship jointly with Oxford University and Imperial, are among the founding members of the committee, which will provide expert advice on how the UK can best meet its climate change goals.

### Make the most of your ideas

Imperial Innovations is launching the first Imperial Innovator of the Year competition, which will recognise and reward aspiring inventors at the College with prizes of up to £1,000. The launch will take place at the Inventors Workshop on 14 March from 13.30 in the Flowers Building. Guest speakers, including Professor Nigel Brandon, one of the UK's leading science entrepreneurs, will share their experiences of turning ideas into inventions and businesses. To find out more visit: [www.imperialinnovations.co.uk](http://www.imperialinnovations.co.uk). To attend the workshop, email: [innovate@imperial.ac.uk](mailto:innovate@imperial.ac.uk)



### Search for Imperial's top teachers

Inspirational teachers have their chance to shine with the launch of this year's Awards for Excellence in Teaching and Teaching Fellowships. The annual awards are designed to raise the profile of teaching within the College. The 15 best entries will each receive a £200 cash prize and from these finalists up to three Teaching Fellows will be chosen to receive £1,500. Award entrants should be nominated by their Heads of Department and will be judged by a Panel chaired by the Pro-Rector (Education). The deadline for entries is 14 May. To find out more, visit: [www.imperial.ac.uk/registry/information/awardsforexcellence](http://www.imperial.ac.uk/registry/information/awardsforexcellence)

## Royal reward for fight against tropical diseases

**An initiative that has cured over 20 million people in developing countries of a debilitating tropical disease has been presented with a prestigious Queen's Anniversary Prize at Buckingham Palace.**

The Schistosomiasis Control Initiative, directed by Professor Alan Fenwick of Imperial's Department of Infectious Disease Epidemiology, received the Prize for its work tackling schistosomiasis in countries across sub-Saharan Africa, where approximately 200 million people are at risk of the disease, which can impair development and cause liver and kidney damage.

The Rector, Sir Richard Sykes, and Professor Fenwick visited Buckingham Palace on Thursday 14 February to collect the Prize from The Queen, accompanied

by team members Professor Joanne Webster, Mike French, Artemis Koukounari, Fiona Fleming, Lynsey Blair, Elisa Bosque-Oliva, all from the Department of Infectious Disease Epidemiology.

SCI advisory board chair and Rector-elect Sir Roy Anderson and Faculty of Medicine Principal and advisory board member Professor Stephen Smith also attended.

Professor Fenwick expressed delight at this recognition, and the memorable experience for him and the students. "I thank the

*"Our ambition is for SCI and their partners to expand their coverage to offer treatment to millions more disadvantaged children in Africa"*

many people who have contributed to the success of this project so far, and hope that the extra publicity will lead to a greater realisation of what can be done to improve the health and quality of life of people, and especially children, in Africa". He continued "Our ambition is for SCI and their partners to expand their coverage to offer treatment to millions more disadvantaged children in Africa".

Congratulating the team members at a lunch held at Imperial in their honour, Sir Richard said: "You are the kind of people the world needs more of. You haven't necessarily chosen the easiest of lives, but you make countless other people's lives better through selflessly giving your time and energy. We don't need a prize from Her Majesty, welcome though that is, to appreciate how important you all are."

The SCI was established with a donation of \$30 million from the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation in 2002 and is a collaboration between the Foundation, Imperial's Department of Infectious Disease Epidemiology, the Harvard Centre for Population and Development Studies and the World Health Organisation. With further funding received from USAID and Geneva Global, SCI is now operating in 8 countries in Africa.

— ABIGAIL SMITH, COMMUNICATIONS



The Queen congratulates students on their work for the Schistosomiasis Control Initiative following the presentation of the Queen's Anniversary Prize at Buckingham Palace on 14 February. From left to right are: Fiona Fleming, Elisa Bosque-Oliva, Michael French, Lynsey Blair (hidden) and Artemis Koukounari (back to camera).



## Lifetime achievements of former Rector celebrated

The achievements of Sir Eric Ash, Rector of Imperial 1985–93, were celebrated in February with an 80th birthday dinner hosted by Imperial’s Institute of Biomedical Engineering at the Royal Society.

Professor Christofer Toumazou, Director of the Institute, told 160 guests that Sir Eric had played a pivotal role in the development of the College.

“Sir Eric cemented the relationship between Imperial College’s science and engineering and the medical school based at St

Mary’s during his tenure as Rector. His early efforts helped lay the foundations for the merger of the two institutions,” he said.

Sir Eric also played an important role in establishing multidisciplinary research between engineering and medicine. His work with the Bagrit Trust, a charitable organisation established in memory of the distinguished engineer Sir Leon Bagrit, lay the foundations for the Centre for Biological and Medical Systems—later renamed the Department of Bioengineering.

“His pioneering efforts in developing the department later on provided a springboard for me to establish the Institute of Biomedical Engineering, which is now breaking new ground in the field of personalised healthcare, and is a true compliment to the Department of Bioengineering,” said Professor Toumazou.

Sir Eric studied at Imperial as both an undergraduate and postgraduate in electrical engineering and worked under Nobel laureate Denis Gabor as a PhD student. He went on to be a professor and head of University College London’s Department of Electronic and Electrical Engineering.

Five of his former PhD students attended the dinner to pay tribute to their old supervisor, including Eric Yeatman, now a professor in Imperial’s Department of Electrical and Electronic Engineering. He said that Sir Eric was a great researcher and excelled at finding interesting problems for his students to work on.

He added: “I was often invited to make up the numbers at dinner parties held by Sir Eric. I remember well being a young scruffy PhD student sitting amongst much older and more eminent company. They were interesting and happy occasions.”

Sir Eric was presented with a vintage bottle of port to celebrate his birthday, and the College has also made a donation in Sir Eric’s name to conserve a copy of Beethoven’s Violin Concerto under the Royal College of Music’s ‘Restore a Score’ scheme.

—COLIN SMITH, COMMUNICATIONS

## Imperial comments on RAE replacement

Imperial’s response to the consultation on the Research Excellence Framework, which is expected to replace the Research Assessment Exercise (RAE), was submitted to the Higher Education Funding Council for England (HEFCE) earlier in February. HEFCE has been seeking views on proposed new methods for assessing and funding research in UK Higher Education Institutions.

The consultation focused mainly on the bibliometrics system, which would be used to assess most subjects researched at Imperial. Under this system, quality would be measured by the citation rates for research publications. Michelle Coupland, Director of Planning, explained that a key concern was the ability of the new system to recognise and assess the highest quality research. She said: “The RAE is recognised across the world as an important measure and benchmark of the quality of the UK research base. Any future system must be regarded as credible by the academic sector, by international bodies and by other stakeholders to the process if it’s to be an appropriate replacement for the RAE.”

Imperial’s submission to HEFCE proposed that there be careful consideration of the measures of quality

to be used in the new bibliometrics system and that one common system, with appropriate subject variation, be used for all subjects. It also stressed the importance of conducting a wide-scope pilot of the new system to test its rigour, applicability and fitness for purpose.

Imperial has volunteered to take part in the pilot of the new bibliometrics system, due to take place later in 2008. HEFCE intends to publish the results of the consultation in autumn 2008.

—CAROLINE DAVIS, COMMUNICATIONS



► The College response to the consultation is available at: [www.imperial.ac.uk/planning/about/whatwedo/futureofresearchassessment](http://www.imperial.ac.uk/planning/about/whatwedo/futureofresearchassessment). For details of the discussions about the Research Excellence Framework which took place at the Rector’s Away Day, visit the Rector blog: [www.imperial.ac.uk/rectorblog](http://www.imperial.ac.uk/rectorblog)

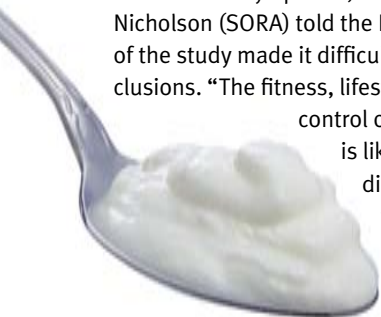
# media mentions

—NAOMI WESTON, COMMUNICATIONS

BBC NEWS ONLINE ▶ 14 FEBRUARY

## Probiotics could be key to keeping fit

Taking probiotic supplements can help athletes fend off infections according to Australian researchers, reports the BBC. Long distance runners who undergo strenuous exercise can be affected more by colds and coughs as their training affects their immune system. The study found that taking probiotics more than halved the days the athletes had symptoms, though Professor Jeremy Nicholson (SORA) told the BBC that the small size of the study made it difficult to draw any firm conclusions. “The fitness, lifestyles, diets and dietary control of long-distance runners is likely to be substantially different from those of the general population,” he said.



DAILY MAIL ▶ 18 FEBRUARY

## Wireless phones may damage our health

Experts have warned that digital wireless phones may be dangerous to your health as they use the same technology as wi-fi computer systems and mobile phones, the *Daily Mail* reports. A recent survey by the Dutch Electrohypersensitivity Foundation found that cordless telephones, which have a base station acting like a miniature mobile phone mast, frequently cause headaches, fatigue, heart palpitations and concentration and sleep problems. Dr Andrew Goldsworthy (Biology), told the paper: “The effect is you have a double whammy, because the base station is powering up 24 hours a day and the handset is picking up and sending signals whenever it’s held to the head.”



NEW SCIENTIST ▶ 22 FEBRUARY

## MBAs for the business-savvy scientist

Scientists with an urge to make it in the cut-throat world of business now have a new route to commercial success thanks to the growth of science-specific MBAs, writes the *New Scientist*. These courses are tailored to provide scientists with strong business skills and show them how to turn their research into commercial products, skills which also make them highly attractive to established companies, according to Professor David Gann (Tanaka Business School). “If you look at the FTSE-200 companies, more and more businesses such as BP, Shell or Cadbury Schweppes are appointing scientists to board level,” he says.



DAILY TELEGRAPH ▶ 13 FEBRUARY

## Good news for Hawking from black hole

An artificial black hole that has been created by scientists in Scotland may allow a theory of physicist Stephen Hawking to be proved correct, reports the *Daily Telegraph*. Professor Hawking believes that radiation is given off at the rim of black holes which allows them to evaporate, shrink and ultimately disappear, but has never been able to prove it because only small black holes would give off enough radiation to be detected, and these seem to be few and far between. Congratulating the researchers in Scotland, Professor Ray Rivers (Physics) said: “They’ve done some clever stuff to give us a chance of seeing Hawking radiation for the first time.”

BBC NEWS ONLINE ▶ 20 FEBRUARY

## Anger and stress prolong recovery rates

Stress has a big impact on the human body’s ability to repair itself, reports the BBC. Participants in a study at Ohio State University were asked to rate how well they could control their temper, and the speed at which they recovered from a blister was monitored. Hot headed people were found to take longer to heal than people with good anger control. Steve Bloom (Investigative Science) commented to the BBC that stress was increasingly recognised as a factor in recovery rates. He said: “Your body prioritises and sorts one thing out at a time, so if you are stressed—angry in this case—your body works through that before it gets on with the process of healing.”



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## US academic medical centre chief gives SORA lecture

Paul Levy, President and CEO of the Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Centre, Boston, gave an inspiring account of his leadership of one of the US’s top hospitals, as recognised in the *US News & World Report Best Hospitals 2007 rankings*, in the annual SORA lecture on 18 February.

Mr Levy became CEO of Beth Israel, one of the hospitals affiliated with the Harvard Medical School, in 2002 and since radically improving its financial position, has focused on what the institution stands for and what it is trying to accomplish. He explained that patients often describe the Beth Israel as warm, welcoming and respectful but its reputation for clinical care has not been at the top when compared with the other Boston hospitals. He said, “We decided to turn our clinical care around and tell the world about it.”

*“People are energised, excited and raring to go”*

A key step to achieving this aim was to declare that being better than average was not good enough. Mr Levy also wanted to share the hospital’s results openly in order to hold clinicians to account for their patient care. He started to do so on his blog, *Running a hospital*, and then in an area of the hospital’s website, *We’re putting ourselves under a microscope*. Members of the public can read there in plain English what the hospital is measuring, why it is important and the results to date.

Explaining his driver for transparency, Mr Levy said, “As an academic medical centre the public have a right to know what we’re doing. We have an obligation to tell them when we get better and when we get worse.” Describing how staff across the hospital have reacted to the new ethos, he said, “People are energised, excited and raring to go. Other hospitals in town are relying on their reputation but we’re relying on our achievements.”

—CAROLINE DAVIS, COMMUNICATIONS

▶ Download the lecture at: [www.imperial.ac.uk/college/media/onlinelectures](http://www.imperial.ac.uk/college/media/onlinelectures)

Read Paul Levy’s blog at: [www.runningahospital.blogspot.com](http://www.runningahospital.blogspot.com)



Steve Trapmore (left) in the winning stroke seat at Sydney 2000

## Olympic gold winner to coach rowers

**“Dare to dream” is the advice Olympic gold medallist Steve Trapmore, Imperial’s new Head of Rowing, is giving to budding athletes.**

Steve Trapmore MBE has taken over from previous head Simon Cox in this strategic role, giving him responsibility for overseeing facilities at the Boathouse on Putney Embankment as well as coaching and expanding the club.

Steve will be working with a range of athletes from complete novices to national level rowers. He will be joined by a number of part-time coaches to help with training on and off the river.

Speaking of his new role, he said: “I am delighted to be working at Imperial College which has such a long record of success in rowing. I want to encourage students, not just in rowing, but in all sports to see that there are possibilities to achieve great things. Louis Attrill for example started out as a novice rower at the College and ended up as an Olympic champion.”

Steve has big plans to expand rowing. “This next academic year I really want to bring in more freshers, postgraduates and international students to extend

our appeal and expand our rowing scholarships programme. Following on from Oxford and Cambridge’s rowing success, we want to attract world class rowers here,” he said.

Working with Sport Imperial, Steve is also Imperial’s Olympic Ambassador, which will involve engaging with the London Organising Committee of the Olympic Games

(LOCOG) and other agencies in the run-up to the 2012 Olympics in London. Imperial is bidding to host either the Youth Camp for the Games, a small nation’s training camp or individual team hosting.

Steve started rowing aged 15 at the Walton Rowing Club and by 17 was in the Great Britain Junior Team. His career highlight was winning the gold medal at the Sydney Olympics in 2000 in the men’s eight, the first win for Great Britain since 1912. He said: “I will cherish the positive effect our successful Olympic team had on the nation and knowing that I was a part of that.”

— NAOMI WESTON, COMMUNICATIONS

## awards and honours

### HIV research paper a must-read

Medical journal *The Lancet* has shortlisted a paper by researchers in the Department of Infectious Disease Epidemiology for its Paper of the Year Award. *Variation in HIV-1 set-point viral load: epidemiological analysis and an evolutionary hypothesis*, by Dr Christophe Fraser, Dr Deirdre Hollingsworth, Professor Frank de Wolf and Dr William Hanage, revealed that people with medium levels of HIV in their blood are likely to contribute most to the spread of the virus. Shortlisted papers were selected by *The Lancet*’s International Advisory Board for making the greatest potential contribution to clinical research.



### Grant supports research on drug-resistant cancer cells

A £2.5 million grant from Cancer Research UK will support Imperial research aimed at developing therapies that stop cancer becoming resistant to drugs. Professor Charles Coombes (SORA) and Professor Anthony Barrett (Chemistry) are leading work on four different molecules believed to be involved in enabling cancerous cells to develop resistance to drugs.

### Annual Inquire award for quantitative finance expert

The Institute for Quantitative Investment Research (Inquire) will present its annual award for best research paper to Tanaka Business School’s Dr Markus Leippold in March. His paper, *Variance risk dynamics, variance risk premia and optimal variance swap investments*, described by the Institute as “truly outstanding”, was presented at an Inquire conference last October.

### Royal Society awards for researchers

Two Royal Society awards that encourage innovation in science and technology, and promote its commercial application, have been awarded to Imperial researchers. Professor Andrew Livingston (Chemical Engineering) and Professor Roy Taylor (Physics) will both receive £25,000 Brian Mercer Awards for Feasibility at the annual Labs to Riches event at the Royal Society on 28 February. The awards will enable both researchers to develop their ideas and to explore the commercial potential of their research.



### Harkness Fellowship for leading health policy researcher

Christopher Millett (Epidemiology, Public Health and Primary Care) is to spend up to 12 months in the United States working with leading health policy experts after winning a Commonwealth Fund Harkness Fellowship in Healthcare Policy and Practice. The fellowships are awarded to mid-career health services researchers and practitioners with the aim of driving excellence and innovation in health policy.

### Students win Japanese Speech Contest

Two Imperial students have won first and second place in the Japanese Speech Contest for University Students, in the Studying Japanese as an Optional Subject category. In total, three Imperial students made the finals after submitting an essay in Japanese and English. The finalists delivered a speech in Japanese, then answered questions from the judges. The winner, maths undergraduate Handoo Seo, gave a talk entitled *Life’s magic*. The second prize was won by Faizal Farokh, a fourth year chemical engineering student, who spoke on *Do video games have a bad influence on youths?*

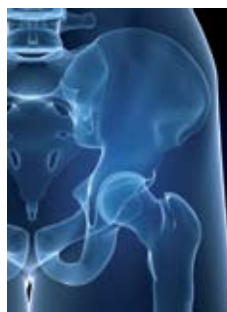


# Robot navigation could end painful hip operations

**A new surgical system is making medical undergraduates three times more accurate during practice hip operations, according to a pilot study discussed at a conference this month.**

Delegates at the British Society for Computer Aided Orthopaedic Surgery Conference in Glasgow heard that pilot study results showed students were 95 per cent more confident using a navigation technique, compared to conventional surgical methods, in training.

*“This could significantly improve a patient’s health and wellbeing”*



Professor Justin Cobb (SORA) conducted the trial on 32 undergraduate medical students at Imperial from December 2006 to December 2007. The pilot study tested

whether planning before an operation, combined with the latest navigation equipment, the state-of-the-art Acrobot navigation, could increase the success rates of students practising hip resurfacing arthroplasty procedures – correcting painful hip bone deformities by coating the femoral head with a cast of chrome alloy.

Professor Cobb believes his training method could be applied throughout the UK to improve patient outcomes. “Our research proves that we can take untrained surgeons and make them an expert in a new technique rapidly. More importantly, we’ve also demonstrated that no patient has to be on an inexperienced surgeon’s learning curve. This could significantly improve a patient’s health and wellbeing and ensure they do not have to undergo repeat operations.”

— COLIN SMITH, COMMUNICATIONS

# Brussels are good for you— unless you’re an aphid



**Brussels sprout-eating aphids are smaller than normal and live in undersized populations having a negative**

**knock-on effect up the food chain, according to new research published on 7 February in *Science*.**

The study shows that the nutritional quality of plant food sources for herbivores has a far-reaching impact on whole ecosystems, potentially impeding important functions, such as the natural predation and control of agricultural pests.

Dr Frank Van Veen (NERC Centre for Population Biology), one of the paper’s authors, explained: “The diversity and complexity of food webs have long been seen as good indicators of how well an ecosystem is functioning, and how stable it is, but until now we had very little idea of the processes that determine diversity and complexity. Our study has shown that changing just

one element, in this case plant quality, leads to a cascade of effects that impact on predators across the food web.”

Scientists compared aphids living on sprouts to aphids living on wild cabbages. They could see that sprouts were of lower nutritional value for aphids than cabbages, because the aphids feeding on them were smaller in size and fewer in number.

They then traced the effects up through the food chain to discover that the sprouts affected not only the herbivore aphids that eat them, but also the primary parasitoid wasp predators that mummify and eat the aphids, and the secondary parasitoid wasps that in turn eat the primary parasitoid wasps.

— DANIELLE REEVES, COMMUNICATIONS

# Aircraft noise raises blood pressure while sleeping

**Night-time noise from aircraft or traffic can increase a person’s blood pressure even when they are sleeping, according to a new study published on 13 February in the *European Heart Journal*.**

Scientists from Imperial and other European institutions monitored 140 sleeping volunteers in their homes near Heathrow and three other major European airports. Their blood pressure was measured remotely at 15-minute intervals and analysed to see how it related to noise recorded in their bedrooms.

The researchers found that volunteers’ blood pressure increased noticeably after they experienced a ‘noise event’ – a noise louder than 35 decibels - such as aircraft travelling overhead, traffic passing outside, or a partner snoring. This could be seen even if the volunteer remained asleep and was not consciously disturbed.

Dr Lars Jarup (Epidemiology and Public Health), one of the study’s authors, said: “We

**“night-time aircraft noise can affect your blood pressure instantly and increase the risk of hypertension”**

know that noise from air traffic can be a source of irritation, but our research shows that it can also be damaging for people’s health, which is particularly significant in light of plans to expand international airports. Our studies show that night-time aircraft noise

can affect your blood pressure instantly and increase the risk of hypertension. It is clear to me that measures need to be taken to

reduce noise levels from aircraft, in particular during

night-time, in order to protect the health of people living near airports.”

The researchers are continuing their analyses to see whether combined exposure to noise and air pollution increases the risk of heart disease.

— LAURA GALLAGHER, COMMUNICATIONS





## Manic depression — chemical signature is unveiled

The brains of people with manic depression have a distinct chemical signature, according to a new study published on 5 February in the journal *Molecular Psychiatry*.

Manic depression, also known as bipolar disorder, is a psychiatric condition characterised by alternating mania and depression, affecting about one in every hundred people worldwide. It can be treated relatively effectively using the mood-stabilising drugs lithium and valproic acid but why this works is poorly understood.

Dr Tsz Tsang (Biomolecular Medicine), one of the study's authors, said: "By identifying a distinct biochemical profile in patients with bipolar disorder, our new research provides a valuable insight into the origins and causes of the disease. Moreover, the changes we see in people's metabolic signatures may give a target for drug therapy, allowing us to see how effective a drug is at correcting these changes."

The researchers compared postmortem brain tissue samples of people with manic depression with those of age and gender-matched controls. They analysed these samples using nuclear magnetic resonance spectroscopy and found that people with manic depression had different concentrations of chemicals in the brain.

The researchers also used rat models to see the effects of lithium and valproic acid on the metabolite make-up of non-bipolar brain tissue. Their findings led them to believe that an upset in the balance of different neurotransmitters may be central to the disorder.

—LAURA GALLAGHER, COMMUNICATIONS



## Understanding bugs in our bodies

**Scientists have made a major step towards understanding which bugs in the gut are involved in which processes in the body, by mapping the different species of bugs living in seven members of the same Chinese family.**

Trillions of gut microbes (or bugs) live symbiotically inside the human body and different people can have very different populations of gut microbes living inside them. The make-up of each person's gut microflora influences their health, and abnormalities in gut microbes have been linked to diseases such as diabetes and obesity.

Professor Jeremy Nicholson (Biomolecular Medicine), lead author of the study published in the journal *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences* on 4 February, explained: "It's now widely recognised that gut bugs play an important part in people's health but we don't know which of the hundreds of different species of gut microbes have the biggest influence on us, or exactly

how they are involved in the thousands of processes inside the body. Our new study has enabled us to see and map to a greater extent than ever before how the bugs interact with the body."

Researchers believe that once they have a complete map of the interactions between the bugs and the metabolism, they will be able to use metabolic information to determine the make-up and function of a person's gut microflora, and then find new ways to treat different diseases by targeting specific gut bugs and engineering their interactions with the host.

—LAURA GALLAGHER, COMMUNICATIONS

## Colds in mice hold key to new asthma treatments

Scientists have recreated the infection behind most common colds in a small animal for the first time.

For 50 years, it had been thought that rhinoviruses could only infect humans and chimpanzees. But now a team of scientists led by Professor Sebastian Johnston at Imperial's MRC/Asthma UK Centre in Allergic Mechanisms of Asthma, has been able to infect mice with rhinoviruses.

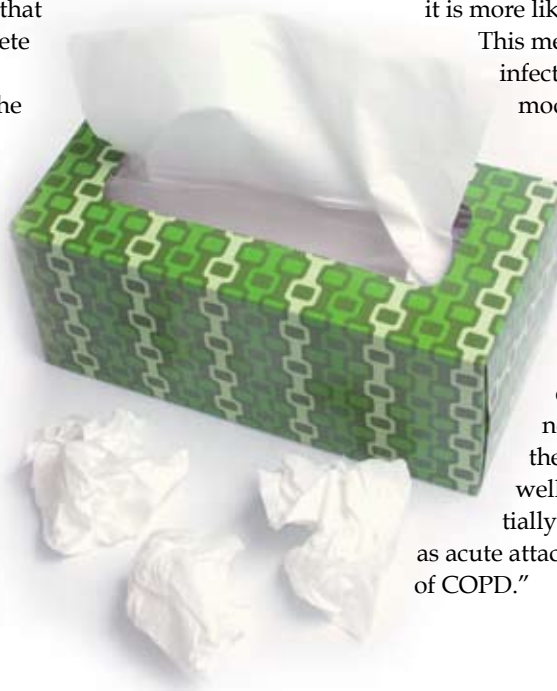
Rhinoviruses are an inconvenience for most people, causing around three quarters of common colds. However, they can be fatal for some, as they also trigger most asthma attacks and acute episodes of COPD (chronic bronchitis and emphysema).

Mice and other small animals were thought to be resistant to rhinoviruses. Of the 100 known strains, 90 per cent use a binding molecule called ICAM-1, found on the surface of human cells, as their receptor. But the viruses were unable to bind to the mouse version of this receptor.

Professor Johnston explained: "We previously found that once inside the mouse cell a rhinovirus reproduces itself as well as it does in human cells. But the virus couldn't infect the mouse cell because the receptor (acting like a door key) couldn't get into the cell. Now we've modified the mouse receptor so it is more like a human one.

This means the virus can infect the cells of these modified mice."

Highlighting how the new mouse models could be used, Professor Johnston added, "They should provide a major boost to research efforts to develop new treatments for the common cold, as well as for more potentially fatal illnesses such as acute attacks of asthma and of COPD."



# Explore the new RSM and Bessemer

A £74.5 million investment in world class facilities for Imperial engineers

The Royal School of Mines (RSM) and Bessemer buildings hold an important place in Imperial's history. RSM was built on land granted by the 1851 Commission, the organisation established by Queen Victoria to mastermind the Great Exhibition. In 1907 the building was used by the newly-formed Imperial College as a base from which to develop as an institution, an expansion that led to the integration of the Bessemer Laboratory for Metallurgy when it opened in 1912.

During the 1950s and 1960s, RSM and Bessemer were adapted through the Jubilee Expansion Scheme, established by Rector Sir Roderic Hill to meet the scientific and technological challenges of the time. Fifty years later the Higher Education Funding Council for England had a similar aim when, in 2001, it launched the first round of the Science Research Investment Fund (SRIF) to improve and

“the refurbishment really does the buildings justice”

invest in science infrastructure. RSM and Bessemer have benefited substantially from the fund and during the three rounds to date have received awards totalling nearly £38.5 million.

## Labs fit for purpose

All the RSM and Bessemer departments – Materials, Bioengineering and Earth Science and

Engineering – now have renovated accommodation with laboratories that are fit for purpose.

Dr Mark Rehkamper's lab, constructed in 2005, is made entirely from non-metallic material and is a dust-free environment, thanks to its supply of highly filtered air. He explained that, for his research into isotope geochemistry in the Department of Earth Science and

Engineering, the clean environment is vital to achieve accurate results, as it is used to prepare samples for isotope analyses of trace metals, which must remain free from contamination. Mark's findings include calculating timescales in the formation of the solar system and showing the Earth's internal workings.



## Interaction space

The rejuvenation of this area of the College has also created modern space for newcomers to the buildings, including the Institute of Biomedical Engineering and the Incubator for spin-out companies managed by Imperial Innovations. Still to move in are the Porter Institute, the Ceramics Centre, the Thomas Young Centre and members of the London Centre for Nanotechnology.

## New home for Bioengineering

The project to refurbish the buildings for the Department of Bioengineering to move into began in February 2007 and is due to complete by May 2008.

The Department is already benefiting from purpose-built spaces in Bessemer. Researchers examining how the brain processes visual information are now making use of special facilities for breeding insects (see Dr Holger Krapp, right) and there is a room specifically for tissue and organ culture. When the Department moves into the other areas in RSM in April, they will have space for visualisation equipment used in surgical planning and rooms for students to undertake project construction.

As well as providing new facilities for



the Department, the refurbishment has enabled the consolidation of a department that was previously spread across the South Kensington Campus. Creating an environment to promote collaboration was a key principle behind the renovation and so the new working areas

incorporate communal space that may be used for impromptu meetings. The location of the Department adjacent to the Institute of Biomedical Engineering also allows interaction with scientists based there.

“It gives a tangible affirmation of the College's desire to advance bioengineering at Imperial, and offers our staff and students the purpose-built facilities that will help them do world-leading research,” said Professor Ross Ethier, Head of Department. “Most important, it gathers members of the Department from the eight sites we occupied across the campus, and will enable greater interaction among researchers – just what is needed for the interdisciplinary field that is modern bioengineering.”





Dr Neil Varey, Faculty Operating Officer for Engineering and director of the projects in RSM and Bessemer, said of the work, "It's been a massive operation but the refurbishment really does the buildings justice. Spaces that were typical of the 1960s have been brought up to date. For example, the RSM foyer from Prince Consort Road now truly reflects the grandeur of the external façade."

The third phase of projects are due to be completed by summer 2009 and will mark the full transformation of RSM and Bessemer into research and teaching facilities fit for modern-day engineers.

—CAROLINE DAVIS, COMMUNICATIONS

### Historical facts

- ▶ The names of the two wings in RSM commemorate the Goldsmiths' Company, which funded the building, and its architect, Sir Aston Webb.
- ▶ The two statues placed either side of the main entrance to RSM are of great benefactors of the building, making donations worth £50 million at today's values. Sir Alfred Beit and Sir Julius Wernher were both involved in the mining trades in South Africa and formed the company Beit, Wernher and Co in 1890.
- ▶ The Bessemer Building is named after Sir Henry Bessemer, who invented the first inexpensive industrial steel production process.

### New flexible area in RSM roof space

The completed refurbishment of the RSM will include new facilities in a large roof space on the third floor as a result of a project recently initiated by the Faculty of Engineering with additional funding provided by Goldsmiths' Company. The new area will consist of a café, a common room and two seminar rooms which can be used separately or together to seat up to 90 people by opening the sliding partitions between the four sections.

Paddy Jackman, Director of Commercial Services, will be responsible for the café and common area once completed.

He said: "This project has enabled the creation of an extremely flexible area. As well as its core function of providing seminar space and a cafe, the individual rooms can be combined to form a quality venue which will be available for departments within the Faculty of Engineering to use for high profile events and activities."



## Refurbishment timeline

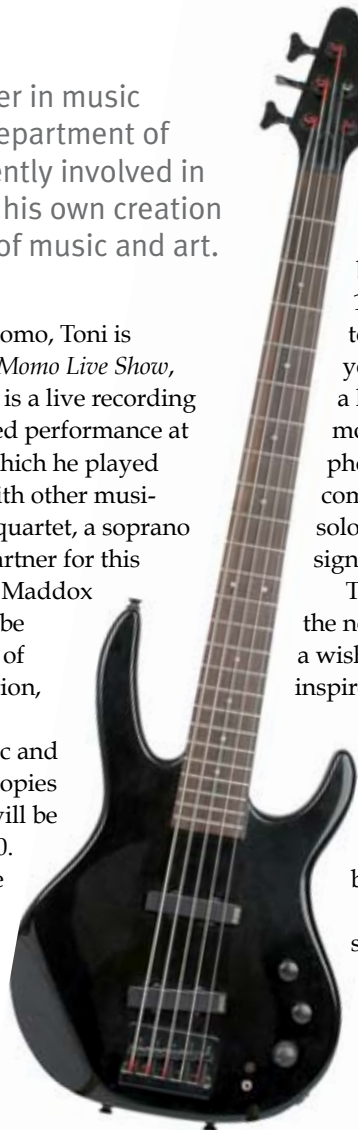
- 2000** Academic office areas for Earth Science and Engineering developed on fourth floor of RSM Aston Webb wing
- 2002** Ground floor of RSM Goldsmiths wing refurbished into modern research and teaching facilities for Materials
- 2004** Development of areas of RSM Aston Webb wing for Earth Science and Engineering
- 2005**
  - Development of the Institute of Biomedical Engineering in Bessemer.
  - Refurbishment of existing 1960s workshops to create Incubator for spin-out companies
- 2006**
  - Creation of the BioNano Centre
  - RSM space developed for the new nano-analytical transmission electron microscope—Titan
  - Refurbishment of Bessemer entrance and creation of a Faculty central support office
- 2007**
  - Level three of RSM Aston Webb wing refurbished into computer rooms and teaching space for Earth Science and Engineering, and Bioengineering
  - Refurbishment of spaces in RSM Goldsmiths wing and Bessemer for Bioengineering
  - Modernisation of staircases, lifts, toilets and corridors throughout RSM
  - Level three Bessemer developed for Thomas Young Centre and London Centre for Nanotechnology
- 2009** Conversion of a workshop for Materials, Earth Science and Engineering, and Bioengineering. Creation of the new Ceramics Centre

# Lecturer to launch album uniting music and art

Toni Castells, lecturer in music technology in the Department of Humanities, is currently involved in a unique venture of his own creation to unite the worlds of music and art.

As the inspiring artist Momo, Toni is releasing an album, *The Momo Live Show*, on 13 March. The album is a live recording of Toni's highly acclaimed performance at Bush Hall, London, in which he played guitar and electronics with other musicians including a string quartet, a soprano and three singers. His partner for this project is Mayfair-based Maddox Arts and the album will be launched at the opening of the gallery's next exhibition, *Viva Lolita*.

In a first for the music and art industries, only 100 copies of *The Momo Live Show* will be available at a price of £50. Included in the purchase price is a one per cent share of the painting, *Ceci n'est pas une fille* by Norwegian artist Edvarda Braanaas. Buyers will own the



share through a legal contract attached to the album.

With a passion for music from an early age, Toni trained in classical music in Barcelona before moving to London in 2000. He said: "I first went to music school when I was four and started a band when I was 12 which stayed together for ten years. The genre of the band changed a lot – we started with Catalan folk, moving into experimental jazz/symphonic rock and ending up with a more commercial pop." In 2005 he launched a solo career as Momo and he was recently signed to Respect Music.

Toni explained that he came up with the novel idea for the new album through a wish to add value to his music. "I was inspired by the bling water bottles where people pay for the Swarovsky crystals in the bottle, not the water itself," he explained, "and I decided to replicate the model in the music industry. When people buy my CD, they will be actually paying for art, not music."

Of his work at Imperial, he said: "I started at Imperial about four years ago after being involved in developing the Music Technology course when I worked at the Royal College of Music. I had never taught before, so

*"I was inspired by the bling water bottles where people pay for the Swarovsky crystals in the bottle, not the water itself, and I decided to replicate the model in the music industry."*



it was a real challenge but I love it. The students are really wonderful, with a thirst for knowledge, and that is what makes my job so interesting."

As a musician, Toni is keen to build on his latest initiative in the future. He explained: "I would like to keep exploring the relationship between music and art because I find it so intriguing. I will keep writing music for Momo but I would also quite like to do something more basic, raw and experimental towards sound and I think that both projects could easily co-exist."

— BECKY MANNING, COMMUNICATIONS

► The Momo Live Show is available from 13 March from Maddox Arts, the Institute of Contemporary Arts (ICA) shop and the Tate Modern shop. For more information visit [www.tonicastells.com](http://www.tonicastells.com) and [www.maddoxarts.com](http://www.maddoxarts.com)

## Music to your ears during ArtsFest 2008

The Imperial College Symphony Orchestra and the Imperial College Choir, conducted by Richard Dickins, Director of Music and the Blyth Centre, brought music by Bizet, Rachmaninov and Handel to the College's Main Entrance as part of ArtsFest 2008, held on 11–15 February. Speaking during the week of song, dance and performance events led by Imperial students, Chairman of ArtsFest 2008 Andrew Tan said: "This week is a great opportunity for Imperial to show off its artistic talents. It provides students with the perfect chance to go to concerts which they might not normally attend and to get involved in different clubs and societies."



# Students Go Green to highlight environmental issues

Students at Imperial College London participated in Students Go Green Week 2008 held 18–22 February. It was the first unified London green week held in conjunction with the Greater London Authority, the charity People and Planet and universities from across the capital.

The week's events aimed to unite London students and highlight issues such as climate change. It also encouraged students to find out more about environmental issues and do their bit to make Imperial a greener place.



Throughout the week students were encouraged to sign pledges to reduce their impact on the environment.

Events taking place at Imperial College, as part of the student union's annual green campaign, included lectures on environmental issues, such as the work of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change and the controversy surrounding biofuels. There was a Green Fair with stalls promoting Fairtrade

products, a city car share plan and Friends of the Earth.

Laurence Fahrni, a Physics third year undergraduate, is Chair of the Environmental Society and helped organise Green Week. He said: "I'm really pleased I have been involved this year – it's been great having backing from the Greater London Authority as it means a lot more people are involved and it has been opened up to a wider audience."

—NAOMI WESTON, COMMUNICATIONS

## Responsible recycling

New colour-coded bins across the South Kensington Campus have made it simpler than ever to recycle with the aim of reducing the amount of Imperial's waste that ends up in landfill sites. The system is the same in every building and in all the halls of residence: red bins for glass; green bins for cans, tins and plastic bottles; and blue bins for paper and card.

Under previous systems adopted by the College, non-recyclable items were often added to bags of recyclable

waste, meaning that they had to be sent to landfill sites. With the new arrangements, it should be easier for people to identify what each bin is for, reducing the risk of contamination.

Nic Dent and Graham Watson (Facilities Management), who have been championing the project, observed that most people in the College take recycling very seriously. Nic said: "We know of one staff member who used to take plastic bottles away from Imperial to her recycling point at home. She's pleased that the new recycling arrangements no longer make this necessary, but it's important that all play their part. If a bin becomes contaminated – for example, as happened when fish and chips ended up in one – it spoils the recycling efforts of everyone else."

Complementing the new recycling initiative is the launch of the online waste directory. This resource gives full details of how to dispose of particular items, such as electrical goods or laboratory glass.

Speaking of the College's £100 thousand investment in recycling, Nick Roalfe, Director of Facilities Management, said: "We're becoming more green, but we're not there yet. There needs to be a culture change so that all support the aim to recycle wherever possible."

Plans will commence in April to investigate how the scheme might be adapted to fit in with local authority

arrangements at hospital sites and at the Wye and Silwood Park Campuses.

—CAROLINE DAVIS, COMMUNICATIONS

► The team are keen to hear your feedback on the new bins and ideas for where they could be located. Contact Nic Dent ([n.dent@imperial.ac.uk](mailto:n.dent@imperial.ac.uk) or 020 7594 8933).

For further details on recycling, visit: [www.imperial.ac.uk/facilitiesmanagement/energy/recycling](http://www.imperial.ac.uk/facilitiesmanagement/energy/recycling)

The new waste directory is available at: [www.imperial.ac.uk/facilitiesmanagement/softservices/wastedirectory](http://www.imperial.ac.uk/facilitiesmanagement/softservices/wastedirectory)

### Where does your recycling go?

|                       |   |
|-----------------------|---|
| <b>Glass</b>          | Used to make a product called 'glas-phate', an aggregate in road surfacing projects   |
| <b>Paper</b>          | Used for daily newspapers, office paper and publications  |
| <b>Cardboard</b>      | Mulched and remade into cardboard packaging   |
| <b>Plastic</b>        | Recycled to make storage boxes, bins, fencing, drainpipes and eco-fleece clothing   |
| <b>Aluminium cans</b> | Sorted and compressed for reprocessing. After being crushed, shredded, heated and melted, pure aluminium is sent to can manufacturers who produce new drinks cans for shops |
| <b>Steel tins</b>     | Separated out from aluminium cans using magnets and melted down to make new steel products, including anything from domestic appliances to steel girders                    |





Dr Chris Cheeseman joined Imperial in 1990 as a postdoctoral researcher in the Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering, leading the Waste Solidification Research Group. He currently lectures on chemistry, waste manage-

ment and materials, and is the course director for the MSc in Environmental Engineering. Dr Cheeseman previously worked in the manufacturing industry, which he believes has helped him focus on finding practical applications for his research.

When Dr Cheeseman came to the College waste management was a fairly underdeveloped research area, focusing mainly on waste disposal. "Now," he said, "it is a high profile issue, with research increasingly looking at how waste materials can be reused or manufactured into new products."

Finding new applications for materials is at the core of Dr Cheeseman's work and he has worked on a number of commercialisation projects with this aim. Recently he formed a spin-out company, NovaCem Ltd, with former PhD student Nikolaos Vlasopoulos to develop a new type of cement with a negative carbon footprint.

Dr Cheeseman explained that the production of the most widely used cement, Portland cement, is carried out on an enormous scale worldwide and is estimated to contribute around five per cent of global CO<sub>2</sub> (carbon dioxide) emissions. In comparison, the NovaCem cement binder uses industrial by-products and a manufacturing process which emits much lower levels of CO<sub>2</sub>. The NovaCem binder also sets and hardens by rapidly absorbing CO<sub>2</sub> from the atmosphere.

Although still at a relatively early stage, Dr Cheeseman hopes this highly sustainable project will be commercially successful, as it offers great environmental benefits. He said, "There is significant interest in this technology from the construction sector which is under increasing pressure to improve its sustainability".

Dr Cheeseman believes that it will become increasingly important in the UK for industries to re-use materials from other sectors and that environmental engineers and materials scientists have a key role in making these links happen.

"What we really need is to break down the 'innovation averse' culture that exists in some sectors," he said, "to make a step-change in the way we use waste materials and realise the tremendous commercial opportunities that exist."

—MICHELLE COTTERILL, IMPERIAL INNOVATIONS

► For further information about Imperial Innovations please visit [www.imperialinnovations.co.uk](http://www.imperialinnovations.co.uk) or contact the technology transfer team on 020 7581 4949.

# Protecting your data

## Taking the risk out of online banking



**Internet banking fraud increases each year, costing banks £33.5 million in 2006. By taking a few simple steps you can still enjoy the convenience of online banking and protect yourself from online fraud.**

### Get your computer security basics in order

The simplest way to have your banking details stolen is through viruses/spyware infecting your computer. Make sure you have security basics in place, including secure passwords and anti-virus software, before you start banking online.



### Protecting your data offline

As well as protecting yourself online, especially when banking, it is important to protect your data offline. This applies

especially to data about other people, which must be handled in line with the College's Data Protection Policy and Codes of Practice. Data that are valuable or personal should never be kept on memory sticks, CD-Rs, laptops or other portable devices unless they have been encrypted and password protected.

### Don't write down your PIN/ password

You should never write down details of your PIN/password or keep paper copies of login details. Use a 'password safe' programme if you cannot remember all your credentials.

### Don't respond to 'phishing' emails

A common type of online banking fraud is 'phishing'. You'll be sent a fake security notice email from your bank, asking you to verify your details on their website. The link in the email leads to a clever copy of the legitimate site set up by criminals who hope to trick you into divulging your bank details. Your bank is aware of 'phishing' and so will never ask you to provide your banking details in an email.

### Choose a bank which uses PINSafe devices

PINSafe devices, which look like a calculator into which you insert your bank card, are used by UK banks to add extra security to online transactions. You'll be asked to put your bank card into the PINSafe and enter your PIN when completing money transfers

online. Without a PINSafe device, your bank card and PIN, a criminal who obtains your bank details won't be able to transfer money out of your account.

### Be careful where you enter your credit card details

When buying online, always make sure that credit card details are collected securely (the web link will start https://). You can also look for the VeriSign Secured Seal on the site.

Always ensure that your data are regularly backed up. Wherever possible, use your home directory (H: drive) to store important College work as this is backed up centrally to safeguard your data. Home data can be backed up onto CDs, removable disks or USB sticks—just remember never to have only one copy of anything you value.

—CHRIS ROBERTS, ICT

► For more detailed information, go to:

[www.getsafeonline.org](http://www.getsafeonline.org)

[www3.imperial.ac.uk/ict/services/securitynetworkdatacentreandtelephonservices/security](http://www3.imperial.ac.uk/ict/services/securitynetworkdatacentreandtelephonservices/security)

[www.imperial.ac.uk/secretariat/policiesandpublications/dataprotection](http://www.imperial.ac.uk/secretariat/policiesandpublications/dataprotection)

[www.imperial.ac.uk/secretariat/policiesandpublications/informationssystemsecurity](http://www.imperial.ac.uk/secretariat/policiesandpublications/informationssystemsecurity)

# New role to provide professional and personal support for female academics

Three new Female Faculty Ambassadors have been appointed to provide support for female staff members at Imperial. The Academic Opportunities Committee (AOC), which aims to provide a level playing field for female academics, established the ambassadors scheme in October 2007. The Female Faculty Ambassadors will be in post for three years and are selected by their faculties. Dot Griffiths, Deputy Principal of the Tanaka Business School and Chair of the AOC, said: "We wanted to make

an impact among female academics and address the needs of each faculty. The AOC is effective at a senior level, but we wanted to make it more successful across the rest of the staff. It is a great example of Imperial taking pioneering action to support its female academics." The new ambassadors will support fellow female academics in their professional development and recommend tutoring or mentoring facilities if they are needed.



Reporter met the new ambassadors to find out more:



## Faculty of Medicine

**Professor Maria Belvisi, National Heart and Lung Institute**

### Q: What does your role involve?

A: "This role involves acting as a point of contact for faculty female academic staff to gain information on all matters associated with their College life. It includes supporting female academics in their professional development by offering advice and information on issues such as career progression, promotions, formal applications and recommending tutoring or mentoring facilities for staff to enhance their personal and professional development."

### Q: What do you aim to achieve in your new role?

A: "I would like a greater emphasis on supporting female staff, retaining female academics across the Faculty and ensuring they are represented at every level. I also hope to highlight and improve understanding of the barriers female academics face in their day-to-day working lives. I would like to make it common practice throughout the Faculty for senior academic and administrative staff and anyone on interview panels to have diversity training. I would also like to initiate mentoring schemes at every level with the aim of guiding women through the promotion system."

### Q: What advice would you give to fellow female academics from your experience?

A: "I think the most valuable piece of advice is to learn as much as you can from a positive role model. Also, stay focused on your career objectives even during the bad times."



## Faculty of Engineering

**Professor Maria Petrou, Department of Electrical and Electronic Engineering**

### Q: What does your role involve?

A: "I see myself as a focal point for women academics in the Faculty, offering advice on issues like promotion, career development and enhancing the role of women in our disciplines."

*"If I manage to help even a single woman academic through a difficult patch in her career, I will consider that I have succeeded in my role."*

### Q: What do you aim to achieve in your new role?

A: "If I manage to help even a single woman academic through a difficult patch in her career, I will consider that I have succeeded in my role. I think the support one woman may offer to another is not always quantifiable. Sometimes, simply the option of having somebody to discuss your problem or grievance with can be invaluable. I will also try to raise the profile of women academics by trying, for example, to encourage nominations for various fellowships or prizes."

### Q: What advice would you give to fellow female academics from your experience?

A: "Do not give up! Persevere! Never put yourself down even as a joke! Never undersell yourself!"



## Faculty of Natural Sciences

**Professor Lesley Cohen, Department of Physics**

### Q: What does your role involve?

A: "I have set up a Faculty of Natural Sciences Academic Women Committee with representation from each department and also from the Staff Development and Equality Units in HR. The HR roles are very important as they are providing us with statistics on employment, recruitment, promotion and retention of staff in our faculty. They are also helping us to ensure our mentoring schemes and other development opportunities are more widely taken up."

### Q: What do you aim to achieve in your new role?

A: "I think there is very strong commitment from all the people involved to try to identify what the issues are and address them in a way that will make change, not only for the short term but also in a more self sustaining way. We recognise that each department has its own specific culture and top down decision making may not be that useful. However, it takes time to gather information and properly understand what is going on. I think that there are many positive things that already go on in College that are not properly recognised. Communication at all levels is key."

### Q: What advice would you give to fellow female academics from your experience?

A: "Participate in this process. It is a wonderful opportunity to help to make positive change. Your voice and your experience really matter. I would be delighted to hear your views."

—NAOMI WESTON, COMMUNICATIONS

# Imperial takes science to Samar

Mathematics student Steven Chambers opened a competition before Christmas to give five Imperial students the chance to travel to the Philippines and teach science in summer schools on the beautiful island of Samar.



The competition winners are: Adam Aziz (Civil and Environmental Engineering), Ambarish Dash (Mathematics), Cheryl Lim (Chemical Engineering and Chemical Technology), Kristina Ostman and Emma Thompson (both Physics).

Steven explained: "Although I was not involved in the judging process itself, I know that it was a really tough decision and the winning students are truly exceptional people."

Over the coming months the prizewinners and Steven will be working very closely with students from De La Salle University in Manila to develop the educational programme for the summer schools. In September they will travel to the island of Samar, where they will stay for about 10 days, teaching pupils in new buildings built in previous years of the project.

Speaking of the work Imperial students have done so far in Samar, Steven said: "We have already made an enormous difference; we have given the community new buildings, new books and other resources. As a result of this, the school's enrolment has doubled. We know that we can't give the children an education in 10 days but the key aim of the project is to inspire them to want to learn in the future."

For the Imperial students who have won the opportunity to contribute to the next stage of the project, Steven said: "It will definitely be a tremendous prize. Samar is a wonderful island with caves, corals and tropical jungle; I hope we will have the chance to explore them all."

Steven plans to run similar projects in the future. He is currently working with the Office of Alumni and Development to establish a fund which will enable students to travel abroad to improve educational standards. A stream of income will come from a business launched by Steven and other Imperial students to sell a model of chair they have helped to design, with 20 per cent of the profits going to the fund. Discussions with College are in progress and the 'Lchair' may be featuring on campus over the course of the year.

—BECKY MANNING, COMMUNICATIONS



► To find out more about the 'Lchair' visit: [www.peac.co.uk](http://www.peac.co.uk)

## celebrating long service



### 20 years



**Dr Michael McGarvey, Reader in Molecular Biology, Division of Medicine**

Dr Michael McGarvey joined Imperial 20 years ago and is now a reader in Molecular Virology in the Division of Medicine. He said: "I am investigating the replication of hepatitis B and hepatitis C viruses and I am also the director of an MSc course in Virology, which has been running successfully since I set it up in 1996."

Dr McGarvey joined Imperial in 1988 at St Mary's and has seen much change since then. He said: "At this time the formation of the Imperial College School of Medicine was just beginning. I have witnessed the creation of the current Faculty of Medicine and the rise of Imperial to its prominent place as one of the top international universities."

Before joining the College, Dr McGarvey carried out postdoctoral research in Heidelberg and Geneva on both the hepatitis B virus and malaria. He explained: "I have always been fascinated by understanding biology at the most fundamental level and the possibilities to use this knowledge to combat disease."

When asked what keeps him in his post here, he said: "The dedication and talent of my colleagues and the high calibre of students they attract are highlights of working at Imperial."

Speaking of the College's future, Dr McGarvey said: "I believe that academics should use their expertise to shape the future of the university as much as possible and I try to do what little I can. I am optimistic that current trends indicate that Imperial will continue to grow as an excellent environment for both teaching and research."

### Sian Phelps • Library Services

Staff featured will be celebrating anniversaries during the period of 28 February–6 March. Data is supplied by HR and is correct at the time of going to press.

## Imperial College London

### Feeling peckish?

Now's your chance to avoid the lunchtime queues. You can pre-order baguettes from the Deli Bar in the Junior Common Room by 10.00 and collect them from the Coffee Bar from 12.00 onwards.

**As a special introductory offer for March only, a free packet of Walkers crisps will be offered with all pre-orders.**

## welcome new starters

Dr Ali Abd, Clinical Sciences  
Dr Sophie Armstrong-Brown,  
Faculty of Natural Sciences  
Dr Adriano Boasso,  
Investigative Science



► **Yannick Sonnefraud** has joined Physics following completion of his PhD in Grenoble, France. His research uses a technique called scanning near field optical microscopy (SNOM) to produce nanoscale-resolved optical images of samples. As a post doc at Imperial he will be focussing on using the SNOM technique to generate and probe plasmons, which are collective oscillations of the electron gas.

Mr Pui Chan, SORA  
Ms Flora Christofi, NHLI  
Mr Bryan Cochrane, ICT  
Dr Christopher Coffey, Civil and  
Environmental Engineering  
Dr Alexander Cowan, Chemistry  
Mr Stephen Cramer, Computing  
Mr Willem De Lange, Civil and  
Environmental Engineering  
Mr Ajerico del Rosario, NHLI  
Dr Jorge Diaz-Cintas, Humanities  
Dr Daniel Doktor, Biology  
Mr Tom Durley, EPHPC  
Mrs Heather Dziva,  
Investigative Science  
Mr James Garcia, ICT  
Mrs Jhansi Ghattamaneni, Human  
Resources  
Miss Stamatia Giannarou,  
Institute of Biomedical  
Engineering  
Dr Janet Graham, SORA  
Ms Cindy Guo, SORA  
Dr Ailsa Hart, SORA  
Ms Karen Harvey, EPHPC  
Dr Peter Jamieson, Computing  
Mr Marius Jones, SORA  
Miss Priya Jugnauth, EYEC  
Dr Panagiotis Keivanidis, Physics  
Dr Thomas Lafitte, Chemical  
Engineering  
Mrs Jasodia Lala, EYEC  
Miss Carolyn Lam,  
Chemical Engineering  
Ms Yuan Lei, Bioengineering  
Mr Anton Lohmotov, Computing  
Dr Jonathan Macintyre, NHLI  
Ms Sara Marques Mano Ivo Peres,  
SORA  
Ms Natasha Martineau,  
Communications  
Dr Gary McLean, NHLI  
Mr Sohail Mushtaq, Physics

Mr Chaudhary Nawaz, ICT  
Dr Michele Petteni, EPHPC  
Miss Danielle Phillips,  
Human Resources  
Dr Anna Piccinini,  
Kennedy Institute  
Miss Anna Pinto, SORA  
Dr Akos Putics, Investigative  
Science  
Mr Kare Rai, Estates  
Mr Mattias Rantalainen,  
SORA  
Dr Paul Robb, Materials  
Miss Evelyn Rosivatz, Cell  
and Molecular Biology  
Mr Matthew Scutcher,  
Bioengineering  
Mr Christopher Shuttle,  
Chemistry  
Mrs Shahnaz Sohail,  
Investigative Science  
Dr Yannick Sonnefraud,  
Physics  
Mr Dominic Spill, Clinical  
Sciences  
Dr Patrick Stacey, Business  
School  
Dr Namrata Syngal, NHLI  
Dr Lee Tan, Cell and  
Molecular Biology

Dr Oleg Tolmachov, NHLI  
Miss Courtney Townsend, Faculty  
of Natural Sciences  
Mr Steve Trapmore, Sport and  
Leisure Services  
Dr Els Van de Velde,  
Business School  
Mrs Mary Wang, SORA  
Mr Nicholas Wood, SORA  
Dr Muhammad Yaqoob, Chemistry  
Mr Tso-Jung Yen, EPHPC  
Dr Vladimir Yufit, ESE  
Mr Jose Zambrano Navarro,  
Faculty of Medicine

## farewell moving on

Dr Sobia Akhtar, Cell and  
Molecular Biology  
(10 years)  
Dr Faisal Allaf, SORA  
Miss Laura Allan,  
Chemistry  
Dr Peter Anderson, NMH  
Dr Margaret Ashcroft,  
Medicine  
Dr Paul Bentley, NMH  
Dr Martin Brockington,  
Medicine (11 years)  
Dr Henk-Jan Bussink,  
Investigative Science (7years)  
Dr Robert Carley, Physics  
Dr Irina Chis-Ster, EPHPC  
Mr Matthew Clifford, Civil and  
Environmental Engineering  
Mrs Rowena Cole, Catering  
Services (7 years)  
Dr Julie Cornish, SORA  
Dr Benoit Darquie, Physics  
Miss Esme de Courcy, NHLI  
Dr Gerhard Diller, NHLI  
Dr Patrick Dineen, Physics

Dr Ingrid Dumitriu, Medicine  
Mr Matthew Fox, Clinical Sciences  
Dr Veronique Freund-Michel, NHLI  
Dr Emily Gelson, SORA  
Miss Izabela Glegola,  
Faculty of Medicine  
Dr Sasha Gold, NMH  
Ms Caroline Grange, EEE  
(6 years)  
Mr Ian Hackford,  
Medicine  
(6 years)  
Dr Andrew Healey,  
SORA  
Mr Toby Hunt,  
Biology  
Mr Simon Knee,  
Investigative  
Science  
Miss Aimee Laing-  
Mendonca, EYEC  
Mr James Lazarus,  
Physics  
Mr Hongqian  
Liang, Civil and  
Environmental  
Engineering  
Miss Carol Marsh,  
Communications  
Dr Anna Mayhew,  
Medicine  
Mrs Jane Miller, Medicine  
(20 years)  
Dr Gidon Moont, Physics  
Dr Simon Moore, Bioengineering  
Dr Jennifer Morgan, Medicine  
Dr Sara Morris, EPHPC  
(11 years)  
Dr Gabriela Munoz-Melendez,  
ESE (7 years)

► **Sophie Armstrong-Brown** has joined the research administrators team in Natural Sciences after obtaining a PhD in Physics from McGill University, Montreal. She joined Imperial because she wanted to remain in a multi-cultural, stimulating environment, while using her doctorate to help academics in their research. She says: "I am very impressed with the administrative support given to academics at Imperial. I believe a good partnership between academics and their support teams is the secret behind excellent quality research."



Dr James Murray, Molecular  
Biosciences  
Miss Karen Perryman, SORA  
(7 years)  
Ms Alex Platt, Communications  
Dr Lynne Purchase, Biology  
(16 years)  
Dr Ravi Rao, NHLI  
Mr Odiljon Raupov,  
Catering Services  
Mr Takis Romanos,  
Catering Services

Ms Michele Sahrle, Chemistry  
(15 years)  
Dr Brajendra Singh, EPHPC  
Dr Maiko Takahashi, Physics  
Ms Liyan Tang, Business School  
Dr Andrey Tokmachev, Chemistry  
Dr Dominika Trzaska, Cell and  
Molecular Biology

► **Jorge Díaz-Cintas** is Senior Lecturer in Translation within the Department of Humanities. Jorge joined the College earlier this month from Roehampton University where he was a Reader in Translation and Spanish. His role at Imperial will be to teach on the MSc in Translation course, as well as direct a number of PhD students and develop an audiovisual translation course. He says: "I am really enjoying the College's central London location and working within a busy, but relaxed environment."



Dr Mark Tyrer, Civil and  
Environmental Engineering  
Dr Gulden Uchyigit,  
Business School  
Ms Maria Uria Gonzalez,  
Investigative Science  
Mr Pankaj Vaishnavi, Mechanical  
Engineering  
Mr Eugene Valkov, Medicine  
Dr Helena Watts, NMH  
Ms Marie Wilcox, Conference  
Office (7 years)  
Miss Susan Wong, EYEC  
Dr Pensee Wu, SORA  
Miss Shi Wu, Business School  
Dr James Yeh, NHLI  
Miss Kirsty Young, Finance  
Mr Jianfeng Yu, Biology  
Dr Haiyan Zhou, Medicine

## retirements

Mrs Margarita Lewis,  
Investigative Science  
(8 years)  
Mr Steve Rawlinson, NMH  
(26 years)

This data is supplied by HR and covers the period 27 January–16 February. 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 at [reporter@imperial.ac.uk](mailto:reporter@imperial.ac.uk) who reserves the right to edit or amend these as necessary.

moving in. moving on.

### what's on

28 FEBRUARY 17.30–18.30

#### Leverhulme Lecture Series

*Discovering prions—  
some personal reflections*

**Part C:** The reality of prions  
The final part of this special three-part lecture  
by Professor Stanley B. Prusiner MD

Lecture Theatre G16,  
Sir Alexander Fleming Building

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

12 MARCH 17.30–18.30

#### Counting sheep: evolution and ecology on St Kilda

*Professor Tim Coulson,  
Professor of Population  
Biology*

Inaugural Lecture

Lecture Theatre G34,  
Sir Alexander Fleming Building

☒ Registration in advance:  
email louisa.lawrence@  
imperial.ac.uk



28 FEBRUARY 17.30–18.30

#### Science and innovation for development

*Professor Gordon Conway, Chief  
Scientific Advisor, Department for  
International Development*

Upper Ground Lecture  
Theatre, Tanaka  
Business School

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



12 MARCH 18.00–19.00

#### Towards curing amyloidosis

*Professor Mark Pepys FRS,  
Head of the Department of Medicine,  
Royal Free Campus, UCL*

2008 Ernst Chain Lecture

Clore Lecture Theatre, Huxley Building

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

10 MARCH 18.00–19.15

#### Normalising tumour vessels and microenvironment to treat cancer: from the bench to bedside and back

*Dr Rakesh K. Jain, Massachusetts General  
Hospital and Harvard Medical School*

2008 Hounsfield Memorial Lecture

Lecture Theatre G16,  
Sir Alexander Fleming Building

☒ Registration in advance: email  
b.manning@imperial.ac.uk

12 MARCH 18.00–19.00

#### Aetiology and pathogenesis of persistent asthma: new insights into adult disease from studies in children

*Professor Patrick G. Holt, Head of the  
Division of Cell Biology, Telethon  
Institute for Child Health Research,  
Western Australia*

2008 Margaret Turner-Warwick  
Respiratory Lecture

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

☒ Registration in advance: e.watson@  
imperial.ac.uk

12 MARCH 17.30–18.30

#### Beauty is in the eye of the detector

*Professor Paul Dauncey,  
Professor of Physics*

Inaugural Lecture

Blackett Lecture Theatre, Blackett Building

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



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



### Take note

Music lovers are invited to come  
along to the Sports Club Bar on  
the Charing Cross Campus every  
Thursday from 20.00 to listen  
to modern jazz and latin music.  
Admission is free and musicians  
are always welcome. To find out  
more visit: [www.ccsclub.co.uk](http://www.ccsclub.co.uk)



### volunteering

#### Collect donations for Marie Curie Cancer Care

Urgent project: Volunteer Street Collector  
Project ID: 2013  
Organisation: Marie Curie Cancer Care  
Time: 15 March 2008  
Any time from 09.00 to 18.00  
Location: SW3, SW7 and SW10

Volunteers are  
needed to help  
make 2008, the  
60th anniversary of  
Marie Curie Cancer  
Care, the best year



for fundraising yet. The charity is holding its Great Daffodil  
Appeal in March and needs enthusiastic volunteers to go  
out onto the streets of South Kensington and Chelsea on 15  
March to give out Marie Curie daffodil badges in exchange for  
donations. Marie Curie will provide buckets, hats and daffodil  
badges, as well as tips on collecting.

#### 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](mailto:m.ruohonen@imperial.ac.uk)

For full details of over 250 volunteering opportunities visit:  
[www.imperial.ac.uk/volunteering](http://www.imperial.ac.uk/volunteering)

Subscribe to the weekly newsletter by emailing:  
[volunteering@imperial.ac.uk](mailto:volunteering@imperial.ac.uk)

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