



Type cast

Imperial bloggers express themselves online ... **CENTRE PAGES**



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editorial

Editor Emily Ross
reporter@imperial.ac.uk

“We’re in uncharted territory” the Rector remarked on the inescapable topic of the credit crunch at his Q&A session on 11 March. 250 members of staff filed into the Great Hall on the South Kensington Campus and 90 tuned in to a live stream to hear about the Rector’s vision for the College. Sir Roy answered questions on topics including the College’s green credentials, support for blue skies research, the 2012 Olympics and innovation to help the developing world—all important issues commanding the College’s attention. And as for the economy, we heard that the College’s five per cent budget cuts are the sort of pre-emptive response that many of us are instinctively making at home in these unpredictable times—tightening our purse strings now to avoid being caught short in the future.

► To watch the video of the event and for details of future Q&A sessions on other campuses, visit: www.imperial.ac.uk/rector

Imperial criticises funding decision



Leading research intensive universities including Imperial have expressed disappointment at cuts to their share of funding for 2009-10 announced by the Higher Education Funding Council for England this month.

The funding allocation follows on from the 2008 Research Assessment Exercise, in which the rating scale for quality assessment reduced from seven levels in the 2001 RAE to just four, increasing the amount of research judged to be at the top end of the scale. As a result, the available funding has been spread more widely and thinly, with institutions containing small pockets of good research winning more funding than previously.

“At a time when the UK is looking to its science, technology and medicine powerhouses for ideas and innovations to help lead the economic recovery, it can’t have been intended that we could be reducing the share of, and in many cases actual, research funds to institutions which have demonstrated sustained excellence across successive research assessments,” commented Rector Sir Roy Anderson.

The College’s total HEFCE grant for 2009-10 is £156.9 million, representing an increase of 0.1 per cent compared with 2008-09.

—ABIGAIL SMITH, COMMUNICATIONS

► Imperial’s full RAE2008 results are available at: www.imperial.ac.uk/rae

NEWS update

Improving safety in the aviation industry



Improving safety in the aviation industry was the focus of a two-day workshop held at Imperial at the end of February.

Researchers from the College presented aviation industry experts with a new method that they say could provide a clearer picture about the long-term safety issues affecting the world’s airspaces.

A team from Imperial has been working with the US Federal Aviation Authority (FAA) to develop a method called the aerospace performance factor (APF) which enables experts to determine the incidents, such as a near collision or bird strike, that

are likely to have the greatest impact on aviation safety.

Imperial researcher Dr Arnab Majumdar (Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering) says the industry currently doesn’t have a method for understanding safety in such detail.

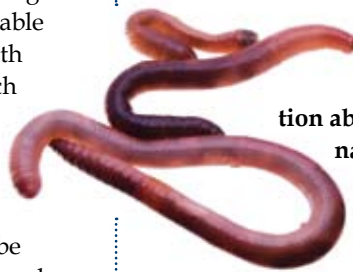
He adds: “For the last six months we’ve worked with EasyJet to implement the APF with their flight operations team with great success. Now there is a real clamour among European countries to see how they improve their understanding about safety in their airspaces.”

The workshop attracted representatives in air traffic management from Germany, the UK, Ireland, France, Norway, Finland, Poland, Russia and South Africa.

—COLIN SMITH, COMMUNICATIONS

“For the last six months we’ve worked with EasyJet to implement the APF with their flight operations team with great success”

Get your hands dirty with soil and earthworm survey



Researchers from the College’s Centre for Environmental Policy (CEP) are encouraging the public to record information about soil and earthworms in their local community, in a new national survey launched on 23 March.

Anyone can take part in the Open Air Laboratories (OPAL) soil and earthworm survey, run by the OPAL Soil Centre based in the CEP, by visiting www.opalexplornature.org.

Dr Nick Voulvoulis (CEP), Director of the OPAL Soil Centre, said: “This project gives people the chance to get their hands dirty and find out more about the world beneath their feet, whilst contributing to a nationwide survey to monitor changes that may occur as a result of climate change or pollution.”

Dr Voulvoulis and his colleagues are holding an exhibition about the survey, to explain how Imperial staff and students can get involved, in the Mechanical Engineering concourse from 15.00-17.00 on 27 March.

—DANIELLE REEVES, COMMUNICATIONS

► To watch a video about the survey visit: www3.imperial.ac.uk/news/worms

MAGIC facilities for Earth Science and Engineering

Tackling climate change, combating pollution and developing a deeper understanding of Parkinson's disease are just some of the areas of research that will benefit from the new laboratories which opened this month at Imperial.

The Department of Earth Science and Engineering's new £2 million laboratory space boasts a newly refurbished geochemistry laboratory, the latest analytical equipment, and a large clean room facility, which is supplied with highly purified air to ensure samples are not contaminated by dust and other impurities during handling and preparation for analysis.

The Mass Spectrometry and Isotope Geochemistry

(MAGIC) facilities will help the Department achieve its aims of becoming a world leader in isotope geochemistry. This field of research investigates the chemical content of materials.

In the new mass spectrometry laboratory, which houses a Multiple

Collector Inductively Coupled Plasma Mass Spectrometer (MC-ICPMS) and a new Thermal Ionisation Mass Spectrometer (TIMS), researchers will be able to take extremely precise chemical analyses of materials such as water, meteorites, atmospheric dust, corals, rocks and sediments.

Dr Tina van de Flierdt, a lecturer in isotope geochemistry and the driving force behind the acquisition of the TIMS, describes how she will use the new laboratory in her research, which involves analysing materials to learn about the Earth's past climate system. She says: "I am analysing sediments and corals to understand the past chemistry of the world's oceans. This chemistry changed over time and tells us about ocean movements. Such ocean circulation patterns are linked to atmospheric carbon dioxide compositions. Understanding them in the past is important for predicting future effects of climate change."

—COLIN SMITH, COMMUNICATIONS

▶ To watch a video explaining how the MAGIC facilities will enhance the Department's research, visit:

www3.imperial.ac.uk/news/magic



"This chemistry changed over time and tells us about ocean movements"

Imperial named Academic Health Science Centre

Imperial College London and Imperial College Healthcare NHS Trust have welcomed the Department of Health's formal designation of their partnership as an Academic Health Science Centre (AHSC).

AHSC status has been awarded to just five partnerships in the UK, and designation signals international excellence in biomedical research, education and patient care. The



prestigious AHSC status was awarded after a rigorous six-month review process led by an all-international scrutiny panel of medical experts.

Imperial College Healthcare NHS Trust

and Imperial College London have been working together as an AHSC since October 2007 following the merger of Hammersmith and St Mary's NHS Trusts and the new Trust's integration with Imperial College London.

Professor Stephen Smith, who holds the joint appointment of Chief Executive of Imperial College Healthcare NHS Trust and Principal of the Faculty of Medicine at Imperial College London, said: "During our first 18 months as an AHSC, we have achieved the lowest standardised mortality rates in the country of any multispecialty NHS Trust, developed and introduced a new test that can diagnose TB more accurately than ever before, and pioneered the use of robotic technology to treat complex aneurysms."

—LAURA GALLAGHER, COMMUNICATIONS

in brief

▶ Green week 2009

Green Week kicked off on 11 March with a number of student initiatives, including the sale of homemade eco-friendly bags by the Islamic Society and an information stall on the meat industry manned by VegSoc. Facilities Management also supported Green Week by making a £500 donation to the Week's student green initiative competition—students were asked to submit an idea for a new initiative to make the College greener. The top prize is £1,000. For more information see: www3.imperial.ac.uk/news/greenweek2009

▶ Infectious diseases conference

From 11–12 March, 120 antimicrobial pharmacists from around the UK and Ireland attended a two-day Infectious Diseases Update course, hosted by the Department of Infectious Diseases and Immunity in collaboration with Imperial College Healthcare NHS Trust's Department of Pharmacy. The course covered a range of topics including *C. difficile* and MRSA, focussing on the central role of the pharmacist in treating and preventing infections and in addressing the threat of antibiotic resistance.

▶ Science Challenge success

Master's student Matt Silver (Molecular Biosciences) has won £5,000 and a trip to CERN in Switzerland, as part of the top prize in the Science Challenge 2009. His 800-word essay answered the question: "What can be done to ensure an informed and balanced public and political debate of science and technology?" The annual essay-writing competition is open to Imperial students and school pupils in years 11–13. For more information visit: www3.imperial.ac.uk/news/challenge2009

▶ New sabs named

The results of the Imperial College Union elections for the 2009–10 sabbatical officers were announced on 18 March. Final year PhD student Ashley Brown was declared President, and the Deputy Presidents were named as Jenny Wilson (Clubs and Societies), Jonathan Silver (Education), Daniel Hill (Finance and Societies) and John James (Welfare). Dan Wan was elected as the new editor of *Felix*.

awards and honours

Joint award for Professor Chadwick and Dr Torrente-Murciano



Professor David Chadwick and Dr Laura Torrente-Murciano (pictured), both Chemical Engineering and Chemical Technology, received the Rushlight Carbon Capture and Storage Award this month. The researchers, along with their partners at Air Products plc and Doosan Babcock Energy Ltd, received the honour for their work on new carbon capture and storage technology.

Imperial scientists share top prize for cancer drug research



Professor Mike Reed and Dr Atul Purohit from the Division of Medicine (pictured left to right) have been awarded the prestigious Malcolm Campbell Memorial Prize and Medal for 2009 for developing a potentially new type of drug that treats cancer. The award was won jointly by the Imperial scientists and the University of Bath. It is awarded bi-annually by the Medicinal and Biological Chemistry Sector of the Royal Society of Chemistry to the individual or team based in UK academia or industry who has made "the most significant contribution to biological chemistry". The 2009 prize will be formally presented to the winning team during the Royal Society of Chemistry Medicinal Chemistry Symposium at Cambridge in September.

Dr Marina Kuimova SET for success



Dr Marina Kuimova (Chemistry) won two prestigious awards at the 'SET for Britain' early career researchers poster competition at the Houses of Parliament on 9 March. Dr Kuimova's poster outlined her novel research techniques for analysing 'stickiness' or viscosity inside cells and how it links to disease. She won both the Roscoe Medal for the best chemistry poster and the Westminster Medal for the best poster overall, beating competition from 180 other scientists and engineers.

Researchers pilot virtual clinic



In the first week of March, groups of third year medical students diagnosed virtual patients at a respiratory clinic in *Second Life* – a virtual world accessible through the internet – as part of a research project on game-based learning. The virtual clinic, which is on Imperial's *Second Life* island, is being piloted to see if it can help students to become good doctors.

The Imperial students worked in groups and were given five virtual patients to talk to, examine and diagnose. They were given money for tests like chest X-rays and had to decide which tests to carry out on the patients to reach the right diagnosis.

The students were then asked their opinions about learning in *Second Life* to help evaluate the resource.

—LUCY GOODCHILD, COMMUNICATIONS



▶ Watch a video of Senior Learning Technologist Maria Toro-Troconis (pictured left), Professor Martyn Partridge, Chair in Respiratory Medicine, and Ashish Hemani, eLearning Project Manager, talking about the research, as well as third year medical students Jiexiu Zheng and Unmesh Bandyopadhyay discussing what they thought of their virtual experience. www3.imperial.ac.uk/news/virtualclinic

Students help developing world schools

A group of medical students has launched a new international programme to help schools in the developing world by providing them with teaching support and classroom resources.

The International Education Fund (IEF) was officially launched on 4 March at the House of Lords. A key part of the programme is to bring education to children with disabilities who may find it harder to enter higher education.

Its first project will be in Kashmir working with a school for blind children. A group of eight medical students will travel to the area this summer and teach there for three weeks. They will be teaching science, maths and English and will help with courses on independent living skills, orientation and mobility. In addition, money raised by the IEF will be used to buy teaching resources such as books, stationery and computers with Braille keys.

Adeel Iqbal, Chairman of the

IEF and fourth year medic, said: "Following the earthquake in 2005, the government of Pakistan pledged to build over 1,800 new schools and we feel this is a ripe time to get involved and send volunteers out there. We hope this first project will inspire the children we work with and improve their knowledge of information technology."

Rector Sir Roy Anderson spoke at the launch event and congratulated the students and staff involved. He said: "I am proud that

Imperial staff, students and alumni have led the foundation of the International Education Fund. It is easy to feel paralysed at the scale of the problems faced in countries and communities less fortunate than our own. But you are proof that individuals with drive and initiative can find ways to help."

—NAOMI WESTON AND LUCY GOODCHILD, COMMUNICATIONS

▶ For more information please visit the IEF website: www.iefund.org.uk



Sir Roy Anderson and student volunteers celebrate the IEF launch

media mentions

—NAOMI WESTON, COMMUNICATIONS

PHYSICS WORLD ▶ 5 MARCH

CERN switch on—round two

Postgraduate students working at CERN on the Large Hadron Collider have faced delays in writing their theses, reports *Physics World*. Students waiting on data for their projects have faced setbacks since September last year when the LHC stalled. However, CERN has now announced that protons will re-enter the 27 kilometre ring in late September. Professor Jordan Nash (Physics) believes that PhD students wishing to remain in physics should not be too downcast. “I don’t belittle the predicament of graduate students,” he said, “but the LHC will run for 10–15 years and soon those students will have the opportunity to do some excellent physics.”



DAILY EXPRESS ▶ 9 MARCH

Discovery of enzyme aids cancer research

Scientists have discovered a way to stop cancer cells spreading which could be a step towards finding a future cure, reports the *Daily Express*. The team from the Institute of Cancer Research have identified an enzyme called LOX as being crucial in promoting the spread of the disease throughout a patient’s body, a process called metastasis. The team hope the findings will be used to develop drugs which can block this particular enzyme. Dr Justin Stebbing (SORA) said: “This research is an important step on the road to finding a cure.”



NEW CIVIL ENGINEER ▶ 12 MARCH

Key to collapsed building discovered

Following the collapse of Cologne’s archive building, which houses documents pertaining to the city’s history, the *New Civil Engineer* reports that engineers believe weak ground and a high water table could have contributed to the accident. Emeritus Professor and Senior Research Investigator John Burland (Civil and Environmental Engineering) said: “In those kinds of ground conditions with that kind of water, nothing is standard.”



THE DAILY TELEGRAPH ▶ 12 MARCH

Heart disease patients receiving less advice on healthy living

Doctors are too readily giving out prescription drugs to heart disease patients instead of providing advice on leading a healthier lifestyle, *The Daily Telegraph* warns. In a new study published in *The Lancet*, researchers claim patients are receiving too little advice about cutting down on smoking or reducing their weight as doctors increasingly prescribe pills to treat them. The study looked at the treatment of heart disease across 22 European countries and found that one in five people diagnosed with the condition continued to smoke and that doctors were giving out greater numbers of drugs. “The results of the study should be a cause for concern for all health policymakers, physicians and other healthcare professionals,” say the study’s authors, led by Professor David Wood (NHLI).



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Imperial College Healthcare **NHS**
NHS Trust

NEWS

£8 million intensive care unit

A new £8 million state-of-the-art intensive care unit (ICU) opened on 16 March at St Mary’s Hospital. The unit is equipped with a video communications and patient information system which enables staff to communicate with visitors, colleagues and managers without ever leaving the bedside. Managers, consultants and educators can also view the patient from a remote location allowing them to support staff on the ground.

The new technology automatically monitors patients’ vital signs which are then verified by staff. The systems also store all patient data, eliminating paper records.

Sue Burgis, lead nurse and service manager for intensive care at St Mary’s, said: “The new unit is fantastic and will enable nursing staff to spend more time looking after patients at the bedside. The communication system is amazing and allows us to improve our teaching and training without ever interrupting patient care. The new unit is a dramatic improvement—it has more room, better equipment, more side rooms and better facilities for staff and patients. Without doubt, our new home not only improves care and the patient and visitor experience but will also boost staff morale.”

Enhanced infection prevention and control is a key feature of the unit with antimicrobial surfaces, non-touch taps and automated entry. Other features include intelligent lighting that guides visitors to the bedside and 32-inch flat screen televisions with panoramic views of London thanks to web cameras on the roof of the Queen Elizabeth and Queen Mother (QEQM) building.

The new ICU replaces a 13-bed unit on the fourth floor which will be developed into new theatre and ward space.

—CYMBELINE MOORE, IMPERIAL COLLEGE HEALTHCARE NHS TRUST PRESS OFFICE



Mosquitoes could help fight malaria

New Imperial research has revealed for the first time how deadly malaria parasites are detected and killed by the mosquitoes that carry them. The discovery, outlined in *Science Express* (5 March), could help prevent transmission of the disease to humans.

Mosquitoes become infected with malaria when they feed on the blood of an infected person. These malaria parasites grow inside the mosquito and new human infections occur when the parasites are 'injected' with the mosquito's saliva during its next blood meal.

However, 80-90 per cent of the malaria parasites are killed as soon as they enter the mosquito's bloodstream. Researchers discovered that the parasites are detected by a pair of proteins, LRIM1 and APLIC, belonging to the mosquito's infection surveillance system. These two 'intruder detection' proteins then activate a third protein in the mosquito's blood, TEPI, which seeks out and destroys the parasitic invader by punching holes in its cell membrane.

With this knowledge, scientists could develop new genetic or chemical techniques to improve the mosquito's natural detection success rate and kill all the parasites. This could prevent transmission of malaria to humans, saving up to three million lives a year.

Dr George Christophides (Life Sciences) comments: "Mosquitoes are known as the 'bad guys' that spread malaria, but these insects are unwilling carriers of the disease, whose immune systems try to fight it, just like ours do... If we can figure out how some parasites manage to sneak through undetected, hopefully we can find a way to bolster the mosquitoes' defences to catch them all."

—DANIELLE REEVES, COMMUNICATIONS

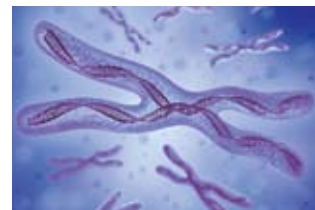
Genes involved in brain signalling linked to schizophrenia

Schizophrenia could be caused by faulty signalling in the brain, according to new research published in *Molecular Psychiatry* on 3 March.

In the biggest study of its kind, scientists from Imperial and GlaxoSmithKline have identified 49 genes that work differently in the brains of schizophrenia patients. Many of these genes are involved in controlling cell-to-cell signalling in the brain. The new study supports the theory that abnormalities in the way cells 'talk' to each other are involved in the disease. The findings could also lead to new ways of diagnosing schizophrenia.

Schizophrenia is thought to affect around one in 100 people. Symptoms vary, but can include hallucinations, lack of motivation and impaired social functioning. The disorder has little physical effect on the brain and its causes are largely unknown.

Some scientists believe that schizophrenia could be caused by the brain producing too much dopamine, partly because drugs that block dopamine action provide an effective treatment for the condition. Another theory is that the coat surrounding nerve cells, which is made of myelin, is damaged in people with schizophrenia. However, the new study found that the genes for dopamine and for myelin were not acting any differently in schizophrenia patients compared with controls.



Professor Jackie de Belleruche (NMH), corresponding author of the paper, said: "The first step towards better treatments for schizophrenia is to really understand what is going on, to find out what genes are involved and what they are doing. Our new study has narrowed the search for potential targets for treatment."

—LUCY GOODCHILD, COMMUNICATIONS

Double success for plastic fantastic researchers

Two research papers authored by Imperial's plastic electronics research team have emerged as the most highly cited papers published in *Nature Materials* in 2006.

The first paper, reporting research led by Professors Donal Bradley and Jenny Nelson (both Physics) and Professor James Durrant (Chemistry), outlines ways of improving the performance of solar power cells made from organic materials, such as plastics. Since publication, the paper has been cited in 253 subsequent scientific studies, according to Thomson Sciencewatch's Essential Science Indicators, making it the most highly cited paper in *Nature Materials* during 2006.

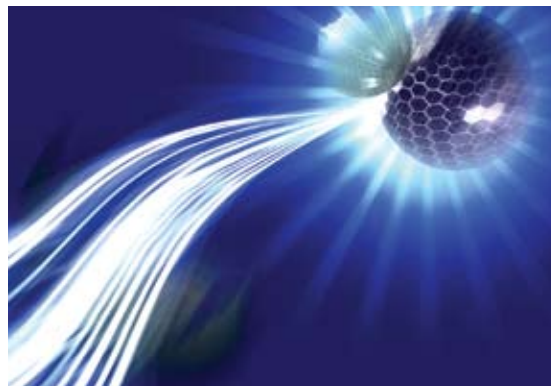
With 201 citations, the second most highly cited paper was led by Imperial chemist Professor Iain McCulloch, in collaboration with Dr Martin

Heeney from Queen Mary, University of London, who is set to join Imperial's Department of Chemistry this year. Their paper described a new plastic semiconductor that allows an electrical charge to pass through it at speeds never before seen, a discovery which could dramatically reduce the cost of flat panel screens.

"Plastic electronics is predicted to become a multibillion dollar global industry and has the potential to contribute strongly to a more sustainable future"

Professor Bradley, Lee-Lucas Professor of Experimental Physics and Director of Imperial's new Plastics Electronics Centre, commented: "Plastic electronics is predicted to become a multibillion dollar global industry and has the potential to contribute strongly to a more sustainable future via energy-efficient displays and lighting and low cost solar energy conversion... The impact of these two papers reflects the strength of the programme we have established and bodes well for future success."

—DANIELLE REEVES, COMMUNICATIONS



UV light cuts TB spread



Ultraviolet lights could reduce the spread of tuberculosis in hospital wards and waiting rooms by 70 per cent, according to a new study published in *PLoS Medicine* (17 March).

The study, which explored the transmission of tuberculosis (TB) from infected

patients to guinea pigs, suggests that installing simple ultraviolet C (UVC) lights in hospitals could help reduce the transmission of TB, including drug-resistant strains.

Every year, over nine million people are infected with tuberculosis and nearly two million people die from the disease, according to the World Health Organisation. Infection rates are particularly high in places where vulnerable people are crowded together such as hospitals.

When a tuberculosis patient coughs, bacteria are sprayed into the air in tiny droplets, infecting other patients, visitors and healthcare staff. These bacteria can be killed by hanging a shielded UVC light from the ceiling with a fan to mix the air, say researchers from Imperial and other institutions.

UVC light kills tuberculosis bacteria, including drug-resistant strains, by damaging their DNA. It is already used at high intensity to disinfect empty ambulances and operating theatres.

Dr Rod Escombe, the study's principal investigator from the Wellcome Trust Centre for Clinical Tropical Medicine at Imperial, said: "Preventing infection is much easier and cheaper than treating a patient with tuberculosis."

Plans are already underway to install upper room UV lights in a chest clinic at Imperial College Healthcare NHS Trust, which will be the first trust to have them in the UK.

—LUCY GOODCHILD, COMMUNICATIONS

Imperial scientist commended for reducing animal tests

Charalambos Tymvios, a PhD student from the National Heart and Lung Institute, has been highly commended in this year's annual awards from the National Centre for the Replacement, Refinement and Reduction of Animals in Research (NC3Rs), which were announced last month. This is the third time in four years that an NC3Rs prize has been awarded to an Imperial scientist.

Mr Tymvios and his team developed a new way of investigating how blood clots form that means they need 85 per cent fewer mice than traditional research in this area.

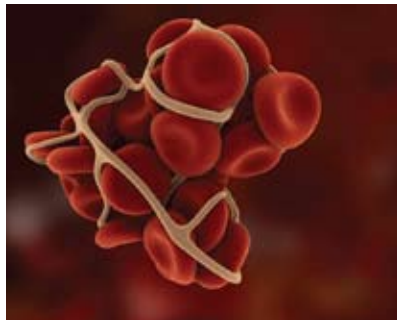
The researchers hope their model will help identify new drug targets to treat and prevent a condition called pulmonary embolism, which is caused by blood clots.

Every year, there are around 65,000 cases of pulmonary embolism in the UK. When blood clots form in the body, they are often carried to the lungs, where they become trapped by tiny blood vessels. When the heart then tries to pump blood to the lungs, pressure builds up in the heart because the vessels are blocked, and this can lead to heart failure.

The Imperial team is looking at what happens during the course of pulmonary embolism and they also hope to use their new technique to find out how different drugs affect the way the condition progresses. The researchers need to use mice because they are the best models for the human disease.

—LUCY GOODCHILD, COMMUNICATIONS

► See page 10 for an interview with Dr Michael Emerson, the corresponding author of the study



A sticky death for cancer cells

The viscosity, or 'gloopiness', of different parts of cancer cells increases dramatically when they are blasted with light-activated cancer drugs, according to new images published in *Nature Chemistry* on 15 March.

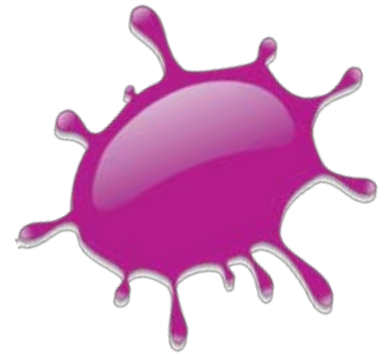
The images reveal the physical changes inside cancer cells while they are dying as a result of photodynamic therapy (PDT). This cancer treatment uses light to activate a drug that creates a short-lived toxic type of oxygen, called singlet oxygen, which kills cancerous cells.

The research team behind the study says that revealing what happens to viscosity within a dying cancer cell is important because it helps give a better understanding of how cells function and which factors are important for controlling reactions inside cells. Ultimately, this could help scientists design more efficient drugs for photodynamic therapy and other treatments.

The research is also of wider significance because these are the first ever real-time maps showing viscosity changing over a period of time inside a cell during a biologically important process like cell death.

Lead author Dr Marina Kuimova

"We're still not quite sure exactly what the relationship is between increased stickiness inside cells and disease, but we expect that the two are related"



(Chemistry) explains: "We're still not quite sure exactly what the relationship is between increased stickiness inside cells and disease, but we expect that the two are related. Knowing more about these

changes, and being able to map them when they occur in all kinds of different scenarios, from dying cancer cells to diseased

blood cells, could help us to better understand how some diseases and their treatments affect cell and organ function."

—DANIELLE REEVES, COMMUNICATIONS

Opening up to the virtual world



Andrew Jaffe's favourite science blogs:

» **The e-Astronomer**

by Andy Lawrence, a University of Edinburgh astronomer
<http://andyxl.wordpress.com>

» **In the Dark**

by cosmologist Peter Coles from Cardiff University
<http://telescopers.wordpress.com>

» **Cosmic Variance**

A group cosmology blog
<http://blogs.discovermagazine.com/cosmicvariance>

Since blogging hit the headlines in the late 1990s, the art of posting personal thoughts online has become a worldwide craze – according to blog tracking site Technorati a new blog is born every half second. Reporter finds out how Imperial staff and students are using blogs to express themselves and their work.

There is no right way to blog – writers post on any topic under the sun. Some use blogs to promote what they do or to communicate important issues, some blog instead of writing a diary, and others write as a creative outlet, capturing the intricacies of everyday life.

A number of Imperial staff are diligent bloggers, blogging on their area of expertise as well as their hobbies and interests. Andrew Jaffe, for example, a Professor of Astrophysics and Cosmology from the Department of Physics, has been writing a blog entitled *Leaves on the Line* since 2004. He explains how he got started: "I used to write for music magazines when I was younger but I don't have time for that today. Blogging is different as you can do it in your own time and you are completely self-reliant."

Andrew blogs on a wide range of topics, from the opera he saw last night to his musings on US politics. But his favourite topic is cosmology, in particular a big research

project he is involved in, the Planck Satellite, which is set to launch in early April. Planck will provide a major source of information relevant to several cosmological and astrophysical issues, such as testing theories of the early universe and the origin of cosmic structure. Andrew uses his blog to note the developments in the project although he can't give too much away for reasons of confidentiality. He says: "It's hard as the one thing I'd love to write about I can't as we have a period during which the data and related information is proprietary."

Andrew is an avid reader of other science blogs and is keen for his blog to be a useful resource. He says: "I try to include lots of links for more information, as I have a link to my blog from my Imperial professional web page and know a number of my postgrads read it."

While Andrew enjoys blogging he admits there is one drawback: "The worst thing about blogging is not blogging. When you don't post anything for a while you get 'blogger's guilt' and it weighs on your mind until you go back to the computer. In a way that's what makes it work."

Blogs offer readers an insider's view, and providing an insight into life at the College was among the aims of a project pioneered by the Communications Division last year to get students to become Imperial's own student bloggers on the College website. A competition was launched at Freshers' Fair and 10 sparky students were selected to blog about life at Imperial.

Annabel Slater, a Science Communication MSc student, and Jaimie Henry, a second year undergraduate medic, were two of the bloggers selected.



blog • (blɒg) • *noun* • A website intended for public viewing that contains an online personal journal including reflections, comments, images, and often hyperlinks provided by the writer.

Jaimie comments on the chance to interact with prospective Imperial students: "When I was looking for a university I got so many glossy prospectuses through the post with pictures of cringeworthy students smiling but I didn't really believe them. I think these blogs are useful, as we are real live students and we are telling people what it is really like to be here."

Annabel explains that she got involved with the student blog project to get some journalism practice but has gained much more from the experience: "It has forced me to be a bit more adventurous as there is a little voice in my head saying I should grab every opportunity I can get — to give me more experiences to write about!"

Blogs often draw out people's personalities, which is what makes every blog unique. Jaimie says: "My blogs are quite self-deprecating, full of procrastination, and I try to be entertaining. I have these weird moments when I feel like I need to share my life with people and I get obsessed with

the smallest things — it can get quite random! The hardest thing is finding the balance between being readable and being honest, but you can't take yourself too seriously."

Annabel describes her style: "My blog, like my essay writing, is full of overly long sentences and weird words, my tone is quite whimsical and I like using a slangy style. I try not to rant too much and complain about work, but the temptation is there!"

Seen by many as a creative outlet, blogging gives Imperial staff and students the opportunity to locate their creative voice and cut across the traditional art and science divide. But Jaimie insists there is no competition between the two worlds: "My blogging habit co-exists happily alongside my medical degree," he says.

— EMILY ROSS, COMMUNICATIONS

► *To read the student blogs visit:*
www.imperial.ac.uk/campus_life/studentblogs



“The problem with being a medical student (or one of them, at least) is that we suffer from a very real condition known as ‘medical student’s syndrome’.

Students may suffer an irrational fear of contracting the disease that they are currently studying, with many believing that they are indeed suffering from the disease ... In the last three hours I have forced myself to exclude the differentials of a brain tumour... sub-dural haemorrhage, meningitis, and septicaemia from that cut to my forearm.”

— Extract from Jaimie's blog

Blog spotting

Some examples of Imperial in the blogosphere

►► A Chemist's Blog

Professor Henry Rzepa in the Department of Chemistry: www.ch.ic.ac.uk/rzepa/blog

►► Experimental Particle Physicists at Imperial College London

— the High Energy Physics group blog: <http://imperialhep.blogspot.com>

►► Leaves on the Line

Andrew Jaffe's blog: www.andrewjaffe.net/blog

►► Lessons in Life Science

Moira Sarsfield: <http://msars.edublogs.org>

►► Library blogs

The librarians have set up subject blogs to let people know about new online resources that might be useful to people's studies, teaching or research: www.imperial.ac.uk/library/aboutthelibrary/news/blogs

►► Medical Humanities

A conversation about the intersection between medicine and the arts: www.medhum.blogspot.com

►► News from the World of Medicine

— Professor F. Azeem Majeed: www.medical-centre.blogspot.com

►► Reciprocal Space

Professor Stephen Curry: <http://network.nature.com/people/scurry/blog>

►► Second Health

A *Second Life* blog run by the School of Medicine: <http://secondhealth.wordpress.com>

Imperial's Communications Division are building an online listing of staff bloggers at www.imperial.ac.uk/staff/blogs. To have your blog included please contact: p.agar@imperial.ac.uk

Imperial student bloggers on...

London

David ►► Despite modernism's best efforts, London isn't an urban utopia. There's no point in denying it. The streets aren't paved with gold, and bits of it are more than a little rough around the edges. So, as with any city, there are parts that it's not a good idea to go to, especially at night. Fortunately, Imperial is about as far from any of them as it's possible to be. For the hapless student weaving back to halls, South Ken's about as good as it can get.

Artsfest

Annabel ►► Forget caffeine stimulants or sugar hits, the strongest wake-up call there is, has to be standing on a stage with the smoke machine going wild, sonorous Chinese music playing around you, watching another member perform their own rapid, perfect form in front of you and knowing that as soon as he stops—any moment now—you have to step forward and do your form.

Coursework

Aurora ►► I seem to have been living and breathing coursework this week. It's all I've thought about every living waking moment of the day. Well actually that's a lie. I've thought longingly about sleeping, shopping, and several TV series that need catching up on. I've even debated cleaning the bathroom (my flat responsibility).

University life

Jonny ►► Things I have learnt since going to university:

- I am willing to walk a long way to get a buy one get one free pizza
- There is more music in the world than I can ever listen to
- I am never going to feel clever
- I can live with half the amount of sleep I thought I needed
- Living in a new place is incredible. But it also took me about two terms to remember that where I used to live is also amazing.

mini profile



Professor Mike Emerson

Dr Mike Emerson, Platelet Biology Group (NHLI), tells us how his research is shedding new light on diseases caused by blood clots.

What is a platelet?

A platelet is a small blood cell that is involved in blood clotting. When platelets are stimulated they undergo shape changes and stick to each other, eventually forming a clot. When this process goes wrong, the platelets can form a thrombus, which can lead to a heart attack or stroke. In our group we look at diseases such as thrombosis with a view to eventually identifying new targets for the treatment of those conditions.

How do you look at those diseases?

We use mice as models to track the movement of platelets in the whole body. This involves us labelling platelets with a radioactive compound called indomoxine. We can then use a probe to watch where the platelets go when we induce a blood clot in the lung, a condition which is called pulmonary embolism.

Are the ethics around animal research still an obstacle?

This is changing. A few years ago the issue was whether or not to do animal research. Now, while of course some people think it should not be done at all, the debate is more open and we are talking about how it should be done and how to do it better both in terms of the science and in improving animal welfare.

How did you come up with the mouse model?

The idea for the model came from looking for a more ethically sound way of using a technique that has been around for a long time. Until recently, modelling pulmonary embolism in mice involved measuring how many of the animals die. We wanted to measure the development and progression of the disease so we needed to come up

with a new labelling and imaging approach.

Has it improved your results?

When you are looking at a disease, the primary concern is stopping the progression. If you have an animal model in which you induce mortality, you are looking at the most extreme form of the disease, which is death. By looking at the disease much earlier in the pathway, we can find out useful information that might help us to identify treatments.

What motivates you in your work?

My group does something new every day and over time this information builds up to an increased understanding of how the human body works.

—LUCY GOODCHILD,
COMMUNICATIONS

For the full interview visit:
www3.imperial.ac.uk/news/embolisms

science from scratch

Pandemic/epidemic



Is it a pandemic or an epidemic of flu that hits the headlines from time to time, with journalists

speculating that it could wipe out the human race? Well, the words mean much the same thing—an outbreak of disease. They have the same ending (-demic, which is derived from the Greek demos meaning people). However, a pandemic affects people all over the world (pan- meaning all), whereas epidemics (epi- meaning upon or among) are usually thought of as affecting a smaller group of people (all pupils at a school, all people in a particular area or even the population of a whole country).

These words are used by epidemiologists—who study factors affecting the health and illness of populations—to describe how a disease such as flu (or, in the olden days, bubonic plague) is spreading around the world. The words imply the scale, rather than severity, of the problem.

—ELIZABETH HAUKE,
MSC SCIENCE COMMUNICATION

inventors corner

The next step in A.I.

Dr Anil Bharath and Dr Jeffrey Ng from the Department of Bioengineering have developed software that mimics the way the brain processes visual information to produce a PC-based system that recognises and tracks moving visual images. The

technology is being commercialised by Cortexica, an Imperial spin-out company.



← Cortexica mimics the biological neurons in the primary visual cortex (pictured)

Frustrated by standard methods for using computers to visualise objects or environments, Dr Bharath became interested in understanding how the human visual system works so robustly and across such a wide range of illumination conditions. He looked into ways of describing in software how the neurons in the primary visual cortex work, and realised that there were parallels with the processing in standard graphics cards.

The 'eureka!' moment happened when the inventors were using algorithms to detect faces in photographic examples. Dr Bharath recalls: "We were demonstrating this to Ross Manning from Imperial Innovations' tech transfer team when we realised there were further implications. Basically, if you train systems based on these biological principles to recognise a real face, you could get them to detect a drawn face. We sketched a face on a nearby whiteboard and the detector fired. Ross realised the potential of such a flexible system and shot off to the office to begin the patent preparations."

The practical applications for such technology are widespread. Currently there are many computer vision systems available but they only work providing that

nothing surprising is happening in the observed environment. The Bioengineering team has created a system that works quickly and without restrictions. Because the system interprets the visual world as we do, it's a natural evolution of artificial intelligence. The Cortexica system can be applied to video to analyse each scene for objects of interest, to security initiatives, and can be used for advertising analysis and copyright infringement detection. The biological basis of the system provides reduced false alarms and missed detections in object recognition systems.

The next step for Cortexica is to concentrate on market engagement so that this seedling company can grow and undertake further development into the recognition process.

—ANOUSHKA WARDEN, IMPERIAL INNOVATIONS

► Imperial Innovations has an established process for translating research into marketable products. If you have an idea with commercial potential visit: www.imperialinnovations.co.uk



The workplace nursery

Just across the road from the South Kensington Campus, but a world away from its offices and labs, children of Imperial staff and students spend their days painting, baking and building pirate ships. *Reporter* finds out more about the Early Years Education Centre.

The Early Years Education Centre (EYEC) – which is part subsidised by the College – is based in 8 Prince’s Gardens and offers Imperial staff with young children (aged six months to five years) childcare facilities close to their place of work. Children of a number of student parents are also cared for at the Centre.

Tracy Halsey has been working as the nursery supervisor at the Centre for 20 years and has seen the nursery develop rapidly over the last 18 months. She says: “The nursery used to only have places for 66 children and the waiting list was always full so when a few floors of the building became vacant we decided to branch out and increase our intake to 110.”

Tracy explains why the nursery is so popular with staff members: “Because of its location, it supports parents who work or study at the College and means children don’t have to have such a long day as they can travel home with their parents – it gives them

some extra time to spend together. It’s also reassuring for parents to know they are close by in case their child gets ill.”

Many of the children start at the nursery as babies and stay until they start school. Tracy describes the culture: “They form a really tight knit group – they are almost like siblings. The fact that all their parents work or study at the same place also helps to secure that bond.”

The nursery is divided into nine different rooms for different age groups and the team responsible for each room plans how to best address the children’s needs. Tracy says: “For babies it’s about sensory activities, discovery and new experiences, while for the older children it’s about looking out for the children’s interests and using them as a basis to develop projects. We’ve done some brilliant projects such as turning the playground into a pirate ship with a sail on top and at Christmas creating our own winter wonderland and converting the shed into a grotto.

Rather than forcing topics onto children, we find a way to channel their interests – this helps to develop their learning and makes activities more appealing.”

From the age of three, the children are introduced to science as part of the Early Years Foundation Stage curriculum, but Tracy says that even before that the children bring their own experiences into the nursery. “I remember a two-year-old coming in one day and talking all about molecules – they obviously learn a thing or two from their parents.”

While the nursery has grown substantially, Tracy is determined it won’t lose the personal touch. She says: “Each child has a key worker and we hold regular meetings with parents to discuss their child’s development. We also try and tap into our parents’ skills and invite them in for sharing sessions where they teach words in a foreign language, run a cooking class or play.”

– EMILY ROSS, COMMUNICATIONS



Chris Roberts (ICT) has a daughter, Tiasha, who is three and

a half. He shares his experiences as a parent using the Early Years Education Centre.

What type of environment does the Early Years Education Centre offer your child?

EYEC is a great environment for Tia. She gets to interact with other children and the structured activities have taught her a lot. Having the garden and all the facilities at the nursery gives her new experiences, some of which we’d find hard to offer at home.

Why did you choose to send your child there?

There are a number of reasons why we chose EYEC. It had a great reputation and Ofsted report so we were happy to leave Tia in the care of the staff there. It’s very close to the College which makes dropping her off and picking her up easier. She also commutes in with me every day, so the days aren’t so long for her.

Have you been involved in any activities at the nursery?

The nursery does try to get parents involved. I’ve been to the sports day and an international party (where parents cooked food, dressed up and danced their national dances). I enjoyed the Fathers’ Day breakfast the most – it was great to see how the children spend their days.

How does your child describe the nursery?

She talks a lot about the other children in her room, and what games they’ve been playing. She obviously enjoys her time there.



Guinness world record for the Boat Club



Steve Trapmore MBE, Head of Rowing, describes the day the Imperial College Boat Club rowers made history.

“On 11 March I took a team of Imperial College Boat Club rowers to Dorney Rowing Lake, venue for the 2012 Olympic Regatta. Helped by coach Stu Whitelaw, we set out to attempt a world record for the fastest time a rowing eight can tow a water-skier over 100 metres.

The current record stood at 19.9 seconds, held by a French team. After a couple of failed attempts with celebrities, including ex *Blue Peter* presenter Connie Huck, waterski professional Stuart Marston took up the reins. Straight off, the Imperial rowers powered Stuart over a faultless 100 metres which we clocked at 19.3 seconds. Annoyingly the *Guinness World Records* adjudicator clocked the same attempt two seconds slower!

After pointing out that we were perhaps more experienced at timing rowing crews, I invited the adjudicator to follow the attempt in the Sport Imperial truck rather than from a safety boat on the water. This did the trick, and although we timed the run faster, the official verdict was 19.58 seconds, breaking the previous world record by almost 0.4 seconds.”

School pupils think green



Three prize-winning pupils from Penair School in Truro, Cornwall, got the chance to imagine themselves as eco-friendly racing drivers of the future, whilst visiting the College on 17 March. The girls, aged 13, won the Our World in 2050 competition about sustainability and adapting to climate change, which was organised by the Institution of Mechanical Engineers. Their prize was a trip to London including a visit to

the College’s Grantham Institute for Climate Change, where they were introduced to four researchers working on different climate and environment projects, and students involved in the *Racing Green* project to design and build a zero-emission electric hybrid fuel cell racing car.

— DANIELLE REEVES, COMMUNICATIONS

crossculture

Cross Culture is a scrapbook for staff and students to fill with their local recipes, cultural traditions and experiences of living in other parts of the world.



Dr Margot Zhang is originally from Beijing. She teaches Mandarin to beginners in the Department of Humanities.

“I really enjoy teaching Mandarin because the language is so different from English. The first difference is the most obvious: there are no Roman letters—instead we have over 6,000 different characters. So, unlike European languages where even if you don’t know what the word means, you can roughly pronounce it, in Mandarin there is no easy access! The second is we have no tenses. This makes English really hard for Chinese people to learn as in Mandarin, tense is implicit. The third is that we have four different tones—a bit like an accent in English, where we put emphasis on certain parts of a word. In Mandarin, the tones describe the emphasis you should put on the vowel and saying a word in the wrong tone can change a word completely. For example, the meaning of the word ‘ma’ can be altered radically—with a slight intonation of the voice you can change the word from mother to horse!”

Margot’s guide to Chinese language

I love explaining to my students how the Mandarin language can tell us a lot about Chinese traditions and our way of thinking. Here are some examples:



How words form

In Mandarin, we often put two ideas together to make a new idea – they fit together like a jigsaw puzzle. For example,

电 is the character for electric or electricity, 脑 is the word for brain.

电脑 We put these two characters together to make the word ‘computer’ which is literally ‘electric brain’.

Chinese culture

Other words tell us about traditional Chinese culture. For example:

A) The character for ‘home’ is a combination of the word ‘roof’ and the word ‘pig’: 家

Because of China’s agricultural roots, most families lived in the countryside and traditionally bred pigs to feed the family so home is literally ‘the place where we keep the pigs’.

B) The character for the word ‘man’ 男 is made up of two words, field and strength.

This looks back to the importance of agriculture in early China where most men worked in the field harvesting wheat and rice. Even today, there is an assumption that men should be strong.

Tradition

In China instead of saying ‘bless you’ when people sneeze we say 一百岁, which literally translates as ‘100 years old’. This is our way of saying ‘we hope you’ll live for long time’.

✉ To contribute to Cross Culture, please send your ideas to reporter@imperial.ac.uk

Ig Nobel's 2009 offerings

Drawn from the world's wackiest actual scientific research, the annual Ig Nobel Prizes, sponsored by the British Science Association and part of National Science and Engineering Week, demonstrate science that first makes you laugh and then makes you think.



Dr Rivka Isaacson, a post-doctoral researcher in the Centre for Structural Biology and the Drug Discovery Centre, reported on the event held at Imperial on 12 March: "Despite being my fourth consecutive Ig Nobel Prize roadshow, this event does not wear thin. Old favourites were wheeled out, but Ig Nobel success hadn't hampered their productivity and they had new and wonderful results to share. For example, Barclay who on a previous occasion presented the 'periodic table table' (an actual table shaped like the chart and containing samples of the elements) entertained us with tales of trying to purchase plutonium in a homeopathy shop. Dan Meyer, the scary sword-swallower, was also back with further frightening demonstrations, one of which involved a volunteer whipping a large sword from his throat. Other highlights for 2009 included proof that dog fleas jump higher than cat fleas and that our perception of crisp-crunchiness is influenced by sound-effects."

► To watch a video of the Ig Nobel 2009 event visit: www3.imperial.ac.uk/media/onlinelectures

Course review

Certificate of Advanced Study in Learning and Teaching (CASLAT)

Attendee: Dr Jerry Heng, Lecturer (Chemical Engineering)



What is CASLAT?

It's a postgraduate qualification in learning and teaching awarded by Imperial. All new lecturers have to take CASLAT—it is one of the requirements for the probationary period. I was in the 2008 cohort and passed the certificate in February.

Describe the structure of the course

The course takes about 24 months, incorporating a lot of practical work. The assessment is based on direct observation and a project portfolio, which is a collection of 'evidence' such as lecture notes, handouts and feedback.

Has it been helpful?

I found it helpful as a young academic. I think it's particularly useful if you've no experience in university teaching or you've joined the College from a non-UK based university. The best thing about the workshop sessions is the opportunity to share experience with other colleagues from across the College.

How did you feel about being observed?

Naturally I was nervous and worried. But we had a pre-observation, which helped calm my nerves a bit. I have to say my observers were very professional and comments were constructive.

How has it impacted on your teaching style?

It has made me think more about how I plan, structure and deliver lectures in a way which maximises the learning experience for the students.

► www3.imperial.ac.uk/edudev/cedprogrammes/caslat

Volunteering can be a learning experience

Dr Dai Lee (NHLI) has been volunteering at the Natural History Museum through the learning volunteer programme since last November, having heard about the opportunity via the Imperial Volunteer Centre.

He shares his experiences: "The best part of volunteering at the Museum has to be handling the specimens. Visitors to the Museum get to hold, touch, feel and explore anything from a 300 million year old trilobite fossil to a real lion skull! I also love to see the look on someone's face when we work out together why a crocodile has such a hard skin or the flash of inspiration when they can explain why the sabre-tooth cat was a meat eater!"



The main aim of the learning volunteer programme is to increase opportunities for visitors to enjoy and engage with the Museum's exhibitions and collections. All volunteers attend five intensive training sessions in which they learn about communication and questioning strategies, the nature of museum learning and much more. Dai says: "I get to handle a

"Every time I volunteer I've got a big smile on my face as I know I can help make a person's visit to the Museum much more memorable."

variety of eye-catching specimens and to interact with a variety of people. I've certainly found that my communication skills



and my self-confidence have increased since I started volunteering, which helps me in my day-to-day life. Every time I volunteer I've got a big smile on my face as I know I can help make a person's visit to the Museum much more memorable. If I can just inspire one individual to start a path to learning more about natural history, then the whole volunteering experience will have been a fantastic success!"

—PETRONELA SASUROVA, IMPERIAL VOLUNTEER CENTRE (OUTREACH)

► www.imperial.ac.uk/volunteering

celebrating long service



20 years

- Dr Lakjaya Buluwela** • Reader in Cancer Medicine (SORA)
- Professor Peter Collins** • Professor of Clinical Cardiology (NHLI)
- Professor Raymond Murray** • Professor of Solid State Physics (Physics)
- Dr David Raymond** • Principal Research Fellow (Physics)
- Elizabeth Smith** • Head of Subscriptions Management (Library Services)
- David Stevens** • Technician (Investigative Science)

30 years



John Kilner, BCH Steele Professor of Energy Materials

John Kilner joined the College in 1979 as a Research Fellow in the Wolfson Unit for Solid State Ionics. He became Lecturer in Materials Science and Engineering in 1987 and was promoted to Professor of Materials Science in 1995. In 2006, he was appointed BCH Steele Professor of Energy Materials, a chair created in memory of Professor Brian Steele who had run the Wolfson Unit and co-founded spin-out company Ceres Power Ltd, with John and other colleagues in the Faculty of Engineering. As Professor, John's role includes teaching ceramic materials to undergraduates—he was made a Teaching Fellow of Imperial in 2006—and researching alternative ways of generating electricity. “Imperial is one of the best places in the world for this type of research,” says John. In his spare time, John and his wife Carmen support the charity Basque Children of '37 Association UK highlighting the evacuation to Britain of 4,000 Basque children during the Spanish Civil War.

- Peter Hart** • Technician (Civil and Environmental Engineering)
- Christopher Howard** • Chief Technician (Chemistry)

Staff featured celebrate anniversaries during the period 26 March–3 April. Data is correct at the time of going to press.



Long servers party

Mary Symons (ICT) attended the long server celebrations on 23 February for staff who had been at the College for 25 or 30 years in 2008. She says: “In 1978, my husband gained a place to study at LSE so we packed up our four children and made the move from Melbourne to London. A month later I joined the College and 30 years on I'm still here! The event was very moving and it was great to meet up with old friends.”

Obituaries



Patrick Doherty, Car park officer (Security Services) • Patrick Doherty died on 24 December. Terry Branch, Head of Security, pays tribute: “Patrick Doherty or ‘Doc’ had worked in the main gatehouse on Imperial College Road for the past 16 years and was a very popular member of staff. He had been

fighting cancer for the past 18 months and had appeared to be winning that battle. However, he sadly died on 24 December. Before joining the College Doc served in the Parachute Regiment which included operational tours of Northern Ireland, and he also worked for Hammersmith and Fulham Council. He had recently bought a motor cruiser and was looking forward to his retirement so that he could explore the lengths of the River Thames. His funeral was well attended and former members of the Parachute Regiment were amongst those there. He leaves behind his father, three brothers and a sister.”



Tom Lipscombe, Security officer (Security Services) • Tom Lipscombe died on 23 December 2008. Terry Branch, Head of Security, pays tribute: “Tom was a popular member of the Security staff at St Mary's Campus and had worked for the department since April 1999. He sadly lost his mother in

November which had a huge effect on his health and on 23 December he suffered a fatal heart attack whilst at home. He was a keen Fulham fan as are the rest of his family and a lot of his time was spent following Fulham FC. Tom was a family man who leaves behind a brother and a sister.”



Philip Poole-Wilson, Professor of Cardiology, Former Head of Cardiac Medicine and Honorary Consultant Physician at the Royal Brompton and Harefield Hospitals • Philip Poole-Wilson died on

4 March 2009. Professor Michael Schneider (NHLI) pays tribute: “Philip dedicated his life to medicine and in particular cardiovascular research with his specialist interest areas being heart failure, coronary heart disease and the global prevention of heart disease and stroke.

Until his retirement last year, Philip was the British Heart Foundation Simon Marks Professor of Cardiology, Head of Cardiac Medicine and Honorary Consultant Physician at the Royal Brompton and Harefield Hospitals. Throughout his life, he held numerous posts, such as President of the European Society of Cardiology (1994–96) and President of the World Heart Federation (2003–05), and was the founding President of the British Society for Heart Failure (1998). He was also Head of the NHLI (1997–2000).

Amongst a large number of honours he received throughout his career, Philip was awarded Le Prix Europe et Médecine de l'Institut des Sciences de la Santé, Paris in 2001 and the Mackenzie Medal of the British Cardiovascular Society in 2007.

His Festschrift celebrations last October, following 32 years at the NHLI, was testament to his standing, with hundreds of friends and colleagues attending events to mark his retirement. Philip was a truly remarkable man and an outstanding clinical scientist. He will be sorely missed by everyone who knew him. His charm, generosity of spirit, sweet sense of humour, dedication to work and scientific excellence touched everyone he met. Our thoughts and deepest sympathy are with his family.”

Letters to the editor

Dear Editor



Firstly I must commend the Reporter team on an excellent two-page spread (on pages 8 and 9 of issue 202 on 6 March) about the SEQ development. However I must point out one glaring omission on the front page graphic.

The artist's impression of the SEQ from across Exhibition Road looks nice and fancy as most artist's impressions are, but it forgets that by 2011, Exhibition Road will have been part-pedestrianised, well before the SEQ completion date of 2016. So no dual carriageway, parking zones or central islands, just one big 'naked street'.

A bit of background research goes a long way.

Regards
Hassan Joudi
(Mechanical Engineering)

Editor: Well noticed! The artist's impressions were created before the Exhibition Road plans were finalised but despite the presence of cars, it is a great indication of what the new face of the South Kensington Campus will look like—too good not to share! In the next issue of Reporter—published on 30 April—we will be running a story on the development of the Exhibition Road project where you will be able to find out more.

~~~~~  
If your letter is featured in Reporter you will win a cup of coffee and a sizeable piece of cake, courtesy of Catering Services.



Please note the editor reserves the right to edit the content for clarity and space.

## Welcome new starters

Mr Wunmi Agunbiade, Library  
Mr Fabio Amaral, NHLI  
Ms Miranda Avery, SORA  
Dr Paula Barros Fernandez, Medicine  
Mr Tapan Bhattacharyya, Kennedy Institute

Dr Daniel Liber, SORA  
Mr Bing Liu, Molecular Biosciences  
Ms Eleni Maniati, Medicine  
Ms Louise Marino, Medicine  
Mr Spyridon Masouros, Bioengineering  
Miss Alexandra McAleenan, Clinical Sciences  
Mr Ross Morgan, Health and Safety

**Nicholas Florin** • Research Associate at the Grantham Institute for Climate Change, recently started at Imperial after completing his PhD at the University of Sydney. He'll be working on carbon capture. He says: "Trading the Sydney summer for the London winter was a bit of shock to the system at first but I knew what I was letting myself in for! I'm really liking how collaborative the research is here at Imperial, lots of different expertise being brought together."



Miss Gabriella Buscemi, Chemistry  
Miss Amanda Bye, Neurosciences and Mental Health  
Ms Ana Cehovin, Investigative Science  
Mr Chen Chen, Cell and Molecular Biology  
Dr Devin Conroy, Chemical Engineering and Chemical Technology  
Ms Gillian Cowan, Investigative Science  
Mr Terence Crombie, Chemical Engineering and Chemical Technology  
Dr Thomas Desplantez, NHLI  
Mr James Di Pasquale, Medicine  
Miss Anna Donaldson, SORA  
Dr Federica Dragoni, Mathematics  
Dr Florentina Dumitru, NHLI  
Dr Gloria Dura-Vila, Neurosciences and Mental Health  
Mr Daniel Finfer, Bioengineering  
Miss Taryn Fletcher, Investigative Science  
Dr Nicholas Florin, Grantham Institute  
Mrs Kornelia Fritsch, Investigative Science  
Dr Ana Garcia-Sagrado, ESE  
Miss Ling Ge, Chemistry  
Mr Valerijus Gerulis, Physics  
Mr Ganeshbabu Gnanagurusamy, ICT  
Miss Nikki Gould, Library  
Mr Mark Grant, Aeronautics  
Dr Bibbi Hagberg, Clinical Sciences  
Mrs Ania Henley, SORA  
Ms Nazia Hirjee, Finance  
Miss Yun Hou, EEE  
Dr Ansgar Hubner, Chemistry  
Dr Rui Jin, Chemistry  
Dr Andy Jones, Biology  
Mr Guy Kelly, Grantham Institute  
Dr Leonidas Kotoulas, EEE

Miss Teresa Mortera Blanco, Chemical Engineering and Chemical Technology  
Ms Susan Mossey, Business School  
Mr Georgios Nteliopoulos, Investigative Science  
Dr Ryan Pedrigi, Bioengineering  
Miss Hannah Pietruszewska, Faculty of Medicine  
Dr Christoph Poverlein, Chemistry  
Dr Sian Powell, EPHC  
Dr Karl Sandeman, Physics  
Dr Robert Shaw, Cell and Molecular Biology  
Dr Mark Sherlock, Physics  
Dr Yuri Shiogai, Bioengineering  
Dr Richard Silversides, EEE  
Mr James Spencer, Physics  
Miss Laura Stannard, Accommodation Services  
Miss Ileana Stigliani, Business School  
Dr Reiko Tanaka, Bioengineering  
Mr Edmund Tarleton, Mechanical Engineering  
Dr Christopher Tate, Chemistry  
Mr Georgios Tichogiorgos, EEE  
Mr Sean Tokunaga, Physics  
Mr Francois-Xavier Vialard, Mathematical Sciences  
Miss Phoebe Voong, Business School  
Dr Katherine Webber, NHLI  
Ms Mimi Weiss Johnson, ICT  
Mr Karl Wennberg, Business School  
Mr Cian Wilson, ESE  
Ms Liz Wilson, CEP  
Mr Lakis Zervoulis, Business School

## Farewell moving on

Miss Elena Andreicheva, EPHC  
Mr Orestis Argyros, NHLI

Dr Adam Brentnall, Mathematics  
Dr Maria Campanero-Rhodes, Medicine  
Dr Ennio Capria, Molecular Biosciences  
Dr Mario Cibelli, SORA  
Dr Joanna Clark, Kennedy Institute (8 years)  
Dr Christopher Coffey, Civil and Environmental Engineering  
Mr Michael Collins, NHLI (5 years)  
Dr James Connolly, Physics  
Mr Michael Dacey, ICT (7 years)  
Dr Tony Dhillon, SORA  
Dr Florian Dick, SORA  
Dr Vikash Dodia, Molecular Biosciences  
Dr Paul Donaldson, Chemistry  
Ms Tracy Dos Santos, Chemistry  
Dr Balazs Feil, Chemical Engineering and Chemical Technology  
Dr Louise Forster, Medicine  
Miss Chloe Gallagher, ESE

Ms Niamh Pentony, Human Resources  
Mrs Tina Rowe, Faculty of Engineering  
Dr Mortaza Sahibzada, Chemical Engineering and Chemical Technology  
Dr Yasunobu Sawaji, Kennedy Institute (7 years)  
Dr Volker Schmid, Biomedical Engineering  
Mr Keith Sephton, Computing (22 years)  
Dr Kamal Sharma, Investigative Science  
Mr Christopher Shuttle, Chemistry  
Miss Claire Simmonds, NHLI  
Dr Andrew Smith, SORA  
Mr Christopher Starling, Medicine  
Dr James Trotter, Cell and Molecular Biology  
Mr Geoffrey Tucker, Chemistry  
Dr Anne-Claire Vergnaud, EPHC

**Dr Tariq Ali** • After 21 years at Imperial, Dr Tariq Ali is leaving to become Vice-President for Research and Industrial Relations at the Masdar Institute for Science and Technology in Abu Dhabi. Dr Ali first started at the College in 1987 as a PhD student in the Astrophysics group and has been Director of the Energy and Environment Office for the last 10 years. "It has been a fascinating journey. My job has involved helping the College think about energy and the environment, as well as working with government and industry to help position Imperial as a leader in this field. The best thing about working at Imperial is the extremely able and creative staff and students." Dr Ali will remain a Senior Visiting Fellow at the College.



Miss Elizabeth Goff, NHLI  
Mr Nick Gore, Sport and Leisure (7 years)  
Dr Markus Hilty, NHLI  
Dr Dilan Jayaweera, EEE  
Miss Kathryn Johnson, SORA  
Dr Owen Jones, Biology (5 years)  
Mr Philip Judge, EEE (32 years)  
Mrs Tanya Keiller, College Headquarters (7 years)  
Ms Shallini Khillan, ICT  
Dr Katrin Kronenberger, Molecular Biosciences  
Mr Nico Lopez-Valle, Investigative Science  
Dr Lok Mak, Molecular Biosciences  
Mr Kemaljeet Mankoo, ICT  
Mr Christopher McLeod, Investigative Science  
Mr Michael Mouskos, EPHC  
Mr Troy Mouskos, EPHC  
Dr Silvia Onesti, Cell and Molecular Biology (13 years)  
Mr Kareem Osman, Physics  
Dr Francesca Palombo, Chemical Engineering and Chemical Technology

Miss Gudrun Von Scheven, Cell and Molecular Biology  
Mr Sebastien Youssoufa, Catering

This data is supplied by HR and covers the period 22 February–14 March. 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). The Editor reserves the right to edit or amend these as necessary.

moving in. moving on.

### what's on

26 MARCH 18.00–19.00



#### Strategy for leading meaningful change

Linda Sanford,  
Vice President, IBM  
International Women's Day  
Distinguished Guest Lecture

Lower Ground Square Lecture Theatre, Tanaka Building

Registration in advance:  
icbs.events@imperial.ac.uk

26 MARCH 13.00–13.45

#### Lunchtime concert

Lunchtime concert  
John McMunn (tenor), Gary Matthewman (piano)  
Read Lecture Theatre, Sherfield Building

First come, first served

26 MARCH 20.00



#### Jazz big band—Easter gig

Imperial College Big Band will be playing a wide range of jazz, latin, funk and soul music  
Imperial College Union

First come, first served

27 MARCH 15.00–17.00

#### OPAL soil and earthworm survey launch event

Mechanical Engineering concourse

Drop in

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

20 APRIL 10.00–16.00

#### Today's technologies for learning and teaching at Imperial

One-day event to showcase and demonstrate the use of educational technologies in the College's undergraduate and postgraduate degree programmes

Lower Ground Square Lecture Theatre, Tanaka Building

Drop in

29 APRIL 17.30–18.30

#### Flat-panel television—How the UK made it happen

Professor Cyril Hilsum

Peter Lindsay Memorial Lecture



Lecture Theatre 408,  
Electrical Engineering

Registration in advance:  
l.brown@imperial.ac.uk

30 APRIL 13.00–13.45

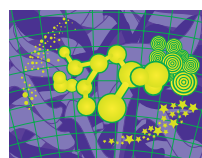
#### Lunchtime concert

The Chamber Players

Read Lecture Theatre, Sherfield Building

First come, first served

30 APRIL 17.30–18.30



To infinity... and beyond: a scientific (and occasionally chemical) journey full of twists, writhes and three dimensions!

Professor Henry Rzepta,  
Professor of Computational Chemistry

Inaugural lecture

Lecture Theatre C, First Floor, Chemistry RCS Building

Registration in advance:  
amanda.cerny@imperial.ac.uk

### take note

#### Join Club Imperial Gold—exclusive to Imperial staff

Join Club Imperial Gold to have unlimited classes (subject to availability) included in your membership of the *Ethos* sports centre on the South Kensington Campus, alongside use of the gym, pool, sauna and steam room. As with the standard Club Imperial membership, Gold members will also enjoy reduced fees on all other *Ethos* facilities, the chance to take part in a programme of exclusive Club Imperial sports and social events throughout the year, and access to the fitness gyms on the Charing Cross, Hammersmith and Silwood Park campuses. For more information visit: [www.imperial.ac.uk/sports/clubimperial](http://www.imperial.ac.uk/sports/clubimperial)

### classifieds

#### Tasmania home exchange

A professor from the University of Tasmania is coming to London for a six-month sabbatical and would like to exchange his home, through a sabbatical home exchange system. If you would be interested in finding out more about the exchange, please contact: [rp.berlinguer@imperial.ac.uk](mailto:rp.berlinguer@imperial.ac.uk)

To place a classified please submit no more than 50 words to the Editor, Emily Ross, by email at [reporter@imperial.ac.uk](mailto:reporter@imperial.ac.uk) for a chance for your advertisement to appear. The Editor reserves the right to amend advertisements as necessary.

### volunteering

#### The London Pride Walk volunteers

Project ID: 2199  
Organisation: Cancer Research UK  
Date: 19 July 2009



Cancer Research UK is looking for volunteers to help with the organisation of the London Pride Walk in west London. This is a unique chance to organise an event and raise vital funds for Cancer Research UK. The London Pride Walk is a popular community 10 kilometre (6.2 mile) walk or fun run by the Thames, which starts and finishes at Fullers' Griffin Brewery in Chiswick. The event, held in July, aims to raise money for Imperial's life-saving work at Hammersmith Hospital, which includes investigating the links between hormones and breast cancer. The hospital also runs clinical trials, tests new treatments for different types of the disease, including lung, prostate and breast cancer. The event is open to people of all ages.

#### For more information

To take part in a scheme or to hear more about volunteering in general, contact Petronela Sasurova  
• 020 7594 8141  
• [volunteering@imperial.ac.uk](mailto:volunteering@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)



First published in 1995, *Reporter* aims to share stories of Imperial's community and to highlight individual and College achievements.

*Reporter* is published every three weeks during term time in print and online at [www.imperial.ac.uk/reporter](http://www.imperial.ac.uk/reporter).

The copy deadline for issue 204 is Wednesday 8 April. Publication day is 30 April. 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.

#### Editor

Emily Ross  
[reporter@imperial.ac.uk](mailto:reporter@imperial.ac.uk)  
+44 (0)20 7594 6715

#### Layout

Caroline Prew

#### Principal photography

Imperial College London

#### Additional photography

Frank Dumbleton • Frank Augstein