In a time honoured tradition of throwing the new PhD students of the year into the deep end, our motley crew of first year PhD students were volunteered into organising one of the most loved events of the year, the Flowers Christmas Party!

As you can imagine, this was a very daunting task and it carried the hopeful expectations of many hard-working researchers/students. With the help of last year’s organisers, the admin team in Flowers and the generous support of the graduate school, Merck and the departments – we managed to organise an amazing party for over 50 of the very deserving staff and students.

It offered a unique opportunity for the sometimes-disparate floors to unite and socialise and blow off steam before the pre-Christmas rush.

We would like to thank the graduate school especially, with your generous sponsorship we were able to provide meat, vegetarian and vegan pizza for everyone!

It was a huge amount of work but it was worth every second of it. Events like this are integral to forming a cohesive and friendly working environment. Research can often be stressful for staff as well as students! Thanks to this party, the Flowers family managed to come together at Christmas time and celebrate the holiday season together!
There were games and more than a few lights, lasers and decorations – plug sockets permitting!

There was Pizza (thank you graduate school!) and jumpers.

There was dancing till the early hours and a playlist that expertly(?) blended Christmas, country, salsa, R&B, pop and of course Backstreet boys. Whoever said crowd sourcing was a bad idea?! (Un)fortunately it seems all the pictures off that segment of the evening miraculously seemed to disintegrate the morning after!

From feedback, we received, everyone had a wonderful time and was very well looked after. It was especially beneficial for all the new intake of students (PhD or Masters) as they managed to get acquainted with most of the building. Everyone is looking forward eagerly to the next one, but for that we will pass the reins to many of those new students at this year’s party!