

# welcome

## Creative zone

Central Library refurbishment caters for the digital generation  CENTRE PAGES



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## editorial

Editor Emily Ross  
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On Monday morning 4,900 new faces appeared across our campuses,

bubbling with excitement and anticipation at the start of their Imperial experience. And, as staff and students look forward to a new academic year, the College reflects on a triumphant 12 months since the creation of the UK's first Academic Health Science Centre, and the innovation and creativity that the unique partnership between Imperial and the NHS has already inspired. On pages 10 and 11 read about the journey of the AHSC's development through the eyes of Professor Stephen Smith, Principal of the Faculty of Medicine and CEO of the Imperial College Healthcare NHS Trust, and hear about the moment he realised the AHSC was going to become a reality.

► For more information about the AHSC please see the mini-guide for patients, staff and students, which is enclosed within this issue of Reporter.

## Imperial engineers help revitalise Exhibition Road



An artist's impression of the new-look Exhibition Road

Imperial fourth year civil and environmental engineering undergraduates are helping the Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea with the redesign of South Kensington's Exhibition Road. In a bid to tackle overcrowding by 2012, the street will see signs and traffic lights removed to make it a shared space for cars and pedestrians.

One of the projects will see undergraduates carrying out skid resistance research on the granite paving tiles to be used on the road to determine how slippery they will be in different weather conditions for pedestrians and vehicles. A 35 square metre granite paving area has been laid behind the gate house at the entrance to Imperial College Road, which leads into the College's South Kensington Campus. The area experiences high volumes of vehicle and pedestrian traffic, enabling researchers to test the durability and reliability of the granite.

—COLIN SMITH, COMMUNICATIONS

## NEWS update

# Showcase for bioengineering

**Microscopic devices to detect the early onset of infection and research into a highly developed part of the brain were some of the latest advances discussed at an international symposium last month (18–19 September).**

The Bioengineering 08 symposium brought together more than 190 scientists from around the world. Hosted by the College's Department of Bioengineering, the event focused on setting the agenda for the future of bioengineering research in the UK.

Professor Tony Cass (Institute of Biomedical Engineering) spoke about his research into the development of new microscopic sensors able to detect the protein lysozyme, made by the body in response to infections.

Dr Simon Schultz (Bioengineering) discussed his research into the cerebellum, a part of the brain that is responsible for the integration of sensory information, bodily coordination and movement. Delegates heard how Dr Schultz, using animal models, has discovered neural circuitry that enables cells within the cerebellum

to communicate with one another.

In addition, Peter Vincent, a joint PhD student from the Departments of Bioengineering and Aeronautics, discussed his work on how lipoproteins are transported into artery walls and what this could contribute ultimately to the onset of heart disease.



The Bioengineering 08 symposium

The symposium signalled the birth of the Bioengineering Society whose primary activities will include sponsoring an annual conference allowing researchers across the UK and from elsewhere to present their latest research advances.

Professor Ross Ethier, Head of the Department of Bioengineering and symposium chair, said that he hoped the conference would become an annual showcase for the best in bioengineering.

—COLIN SMITH, COMMUNICATIONS

## Academic promotions announced

**Over 90 academics have been recognised for their hard work in this year's academic promotions exercise and now hold a new title: senior lecturer, senior research fellow, reader or professor.**

The academic promotions process begins at the start of the academic year and members of staff can either be nominated for promotion by their department or division or they can nominate themselves. Candidates are then considered either at faculty level or by the Academic Promotions Committee.

This year 25 new professors, 47 academics have been promoted to reader, three to senior research fellow and 18 to senior lecturer.

Among the new professors is Molly Stevens, who has been appointed Professor of Biomedical Materials and Regenerative Medicine. She says: "I am delighted to have had our research recognised by the promotion and have a truly wonderful group of researchers working in my group to thank for this."

—NAOMI WESTON, COMMUNICATIONS

 [www3.imperial.ac.uk/news/academicpromotionso8](http://www3.imperial.ac.uk/news/academicpromotionso8)

# Faculty of Medicine staff changes

A number of staff changes in the Faculty of Medicine have been announced in the last month.

Professor Sir Anthony Newman Taylor CBE, FMedSci (below) became Deputy Principal of



the Faculty of Medicine in succession to Professor Christopher Kennard, on 1 October 2008. Sir Anthony, who

holds the Chair in Occupational and Environmental Medicine, has been Head of the NHLI and Campus Dean of the Royal Brompton Campus.

Professor Mervyn Maze FMedSci, Interim Head of the Division of Surgery, Oncology, Reproductive Biology and



Anaesthetics since July 2007 (pictured left), accepted appointment as Head of SORA on a permanent basis from

1 August 2008. Professor Maze will remain as Campus Dean for Chelsea and Westminster Campus.

Professor Amanda Fisher FMedSci, Acting Head of the Division of Clinical Sciences since January 2008 (pictured top right), was appointed Head of the

Division on a permanent basis from 1 August 2008. The Medical Research Council has also recently



appointed Professor Fisher as Head of the MRC Clinical Sciences Centre.

Philip Blissett (below) has been appointed Faculty Operating Officer. Formerly the Faculty Finance Officer for Medicine, Mr Blissett replaces Dr Rob Bennett who took up a post with Queen Mary, University of London earlier in the year.

Commenting on the appointments, Professor Stephen Smith, Principal of the Faculty



of Medicine, said: "We are immensely fortunate to have such a talented team leading the Faculty of

Medicine as we begin the second year of our Academic Health Science Centre. The AHSC's success relies on the strong partnership between College and Trust, and across the leadership of both there's the drive and enthusiasm to achieve our singular ambition. Anthony, Mervyn, Amanda and Phillip are outstanding individuals and I'm delighted to welcome them to their new appointments."

## Gaining medical insight

Over 270 school pupils attended a one-day conference at Imperial last month to gain insight into the diverse medical profession and to receive advice on the application process for Undergraduate Medicine.



The Vision 2008 conference, now in its second year, was organised by Imperial medical students for 15 and 16 year olds from less privileged backgrounds and local schools.

The interactive programme involved lectures, demonstrations, exhibition stands and mock interviews for all pupils to help them prepare for applying to medical school.

The school pupils benefited from meeting over 90 current Imperial medics. The students ran stands offering the chance to practise common medical procedures, such as taking a patient's blood pressure and passing a nasogastric tube through the nose to the stomach. A lapmentor simulator from the Department of Biosurgery and Surgical Technology enabled the school pupils to have a go at keyhole surgery.

"It was wonderful to see so many students wanting to learn more about what a career in medicine would involve" said Sukhpreet Singh Dubb, Vision Outreach Founding President, who organised the conference. He added, "One of the most important messages I hope we have given to delegates is that, regardless of their background, all students have an equal opportunity in their pursuit of their passion for medicine."

— NAOMI WESTON, COMMUNICATIONS



To view a video of the event, visit:

[www3.imperial.ac.uk/news/vision2008](http://www3.imperial.ac.uk/news/vision2008)

## in brief

### ► Imperial sixth in the world

Imperial continues to rank amongst the world's best universities, winning sixth place in the latest Times Higher Education-QS World University Rankings, compared to fifth in the 2007 table. The top spot is claimed by Harvard University for the fifth year in a row, followed by Yale, Cambridge and Oxford. The full rankings, which were published on 9 October, can be found at [www.timeshighereducation.co.uk](http://www.timeshighereducation.co.uk).

### ► Bright light

Fourteen European countries have agreed on a convention for the operation and construction of the European X-Ray Laser Project (XFEL) to harness a high energy laser light, one billion times more brilliant than modern X-rays. Professor John Wood, the College's International Relations Advisor and Chair of the XFEL international steering committee, explained that XFEL will be used by scientists to provide insights into molecules and atoms.

### ► Leadership programme

Applications are invited to Imperial's 2008–09 Leadership and Development programme for black and minority ethnic (BME) managers. The scheme, which will run from November 2008 to May 2009, aims to facilitate increased representation of BME professionals at senior management level. Participants will benefit from a range of professional development opportunities. The deadline for applications is 17 October 2008. Visit: [www.imperial.ac.uk/hr/equality/eventequality](http://www.imperial.ac.uk/hr/equality/eventequality)

### ► New role for Reid

Stephen Reid, formerly Director of Operations for Imperial College Business School, became the College's Project Programme Director last month. His main task will be to act as Programme Director for the development of the South East Quadrant (SEQ) of the South Kensington Campus. He said: "My role is to lead the team responsible for designing an iconic new building and creating inspiring, user-friendly working spaces."

## awards and honours

### Innovators of the Year announced

The winners of the first Innovators of the Year competition, held by Imperial Innovations to recognise and reward aspiring inventors, have been announced as a team made up of Dr Arun Arora (Institute of Biomedical Engineering), Ivan Stoianov and Professor Nigel Graham (Civil and Environmental Engineering) and Dr Danny O'Hare (Bioengineering, pictured) for their self-cleaning multi-parameter water sensor. Civil and Environmental Engineering postgraduate Abdelhamid Beshara won the Young Innovator category for his novel use of food oils to neutralise toxic waste.



### Gelenbe presents World Computer Conference keynote

Professor Erol Gelenbe (Electrical and Electronic Engineering) was one of only two plenary keynote lecturers at the World Computer Conference of the International Federation of Information Processing Societies (IFIP), held in Milan in September. The conference attracted over 1,000 registered participants, including 300 from industry and 750 academics from all over the world. Professor Gelenbe's lecture on Auctions in Cognitive Networks presented the mathematical and technological links between the electronic economy and the 'next generation internet'.



For further information see: [www.wcc2008.org/site/keynotes/keynotes.htm](http://www.wcc2008.org/site/keynotes/keynotes.htm)

### Graduate Schools recognised

Imperial's Graduate Schools have been shortlisted out of 500 entries for a *Times Higher* Award 2008 in the category of Outstanding Support for Early Careers Researchers. The nomination is for the course the Graduate Schools developed for third year PhD students called *Your PhD: Finish Up and Move On* (FUMO). This course aims to support those who are nearing the completion of their PhD by training them in subjects such as thesis writing, self-awareness, career options and entrepreneurship. The awards ceremony will take place on Thursday 23 October at the Grosvenor House Hotel, London. The judges include the Chief Executive of the Engineering and Physical Sciences Research Council, David Delpy.



For the full shortlist visit: [www.timeshighereducation.co.uk/hybrid.asp?typeCode=228&pubCode=1](http://www.timeshighereducation.co.uk/hybrid.asp?typeCode=228&pubCode=1)

## Are your students sitting on a future business idea?

The annual Entrepreneur's Challenge – a competition for students with innovative business ideas – has had a makeover.

Unlike the last eight years, when students could work alone or in teams to develop their idea, this year individual students will work with a team of postgraduate students from the Imperial MBA programme.



The programme is based around the life cycle of new venture creation; protecting intellectual property, assessing routes to commercialisation, raising finance and launching companies. It also features a series of master classes for existing spin out companies on strategy, operations and decision making in high growth ventures.

In order to apply, students should submit their business ideas to the Entrepreneurship Hub, a group in the Business School. The Hub draws on research, teaching and

practice to help people innovate, be entrepreneurial and harness the power of design.

The most promising ideas will be selected as projects for the new Innovation, Entrepreneurship and Design programme (IED). Once the project is completed, the idea may be shortlisted to enter a business plan competition, with a prize fund worth £25,000.

*"We're focusing on the quality of the entrepreneurial journey, not just how many business plans are submitted."*

Professor Bart Clarysse, director of the Entrepreneurship Hub, explains: "We are bringing engineers, scientists, designers and business expertise together to develop an idea into a feasible business. We're focusing on the quality of the entrepreneurial journey, not just how many business plans are submitted."

Any College student who submits an idea that gets selected will be able to collaborate as the inventor alongside an MBA team, attending four workshops in six months.

— ELLIOTT WHITE, BUSINESS SCHOOL

For more information and submission deadlines go to: [www.imperial.ac.uk/entrepreneurship](http://www.imperial.ac.uk/entrepreneurship)

## SAUL members to profit from PensionSMART

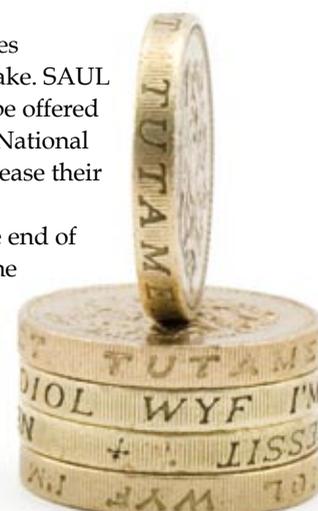
Members of the SAUL (Superannuation Arrangements for the University of London) pension scheme are due to benefit from a change in the way they make pension contributions from December this year.

PensionSMART was introduced for staff in the USS (Universities Superannuation Scheme) in December 2007 with a 98 per cent uptake. SAUL has since agreed to change its terms enabling the same scheme to be offered to its members. The new arrangements will reduce the amount of National Insurance contributions which SAUL members pay and could increase their take-home pay by up to £225 per year.

SAUL members will receive full details through the post by the end of October and will be invited to attend face-to-face sessions across the campuses where the PensionSMART project team will be happy to answer any questions.

— CAROLINE DAVIS, COMMUNICATIONS

If you have a query about PensionSMART, please contact the Pensions Office: email: [pensions@imperial.ac.uk](mailto:pensions@imperial.ac.uk) or telephone extension 45538.



# media mentions

—DANIELLE REEVES, COMMUNICATIONS



THE DAILY TELEGRAPH ▶ 18 SEPTEMBER

## Traders sell British banks short

In the midst of a worldwide financial crisis in September some MPs and analysts urged the government to step in and stop traders placing huge bets on the value of bank shares falling—a practice known as ‘short-selling’ which was blamed for the downfall of leading bank HBOS. Short-selling is legal but some critics have pointed to the risk of

unscrupulous traders intentionally spreading rumours that a company is in trouble in order to profit by shorting its shares. However, Dr Lara Cathcart (Business School) warned against a “knee-jerk” move to restrict short-selling. She told *The Daily Telegraph*: “Short-selling has an important role to play in exposing the true positions of companies. It helps expose companies for what they really are.”

THE DAILY TELEGRAPH ▶ 18 SEPTEMBER

## Asthma risk from paracetamol



Taking paracetamol weekly increases the risk of asthma three-fold, reported *The Daily Telegraph* in September. The same effect was not seen for other painkillers, and experts have called for more research into the link as it may suggest a simple way to reduce the numbers of people suffering with asthma. Dr Seif Shaheen (NHLL), the researcher behind the new findings, told the *Telegraph*: “Considering asthma is a common disease and paracetamol use is frequent, it is now important to find out whether this association is really a causal one. A clinical trial may be the only way to answer this question conclusively.”

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## AHSC’s flagship research facility underway

A £100 million project to construct a flagship research facility on the Hammersmith Campus is underway, with the building set to be operational by 2011. The six-storey facility will house around 500 staff and will stand on the site of the current L block. A cardiovascular sciences centre, a translational medicine imaging unit, the Wellcome Trust Clinical Research Facility and a Medical Research Council (MRC) genomics centre are due to be located there.



volunteers participating in studies lasting between one day and a week.

The demolition phase is due to begin this month and the pre-fabricated laboratory which sits next

to L block will be the first to go. This phase will allow investigations into the ground water cooling system for the new facility to begin. The demolition of L and J blocks will start in April 2009.

Dr Martin Knight, Chief Operating Officer, said: “As work on the demolition of L and J blocks gets underway it is visible evidence that the College and the Trust are working together to make the AHSC a reality.”

► Reporter will be keep you updated on progress with L and J blocks. Watch out for a special feature in the new year.

THE GUARDIAN ▶ 20 SEPTEMBER

## Space robots to rock out

The European Space Agency has unveiled an ambitious plan to land a robot on an asteroid near Earth and collect up to 300 grammes of dust and rock. Understanding the composition of asteroids is of great interest to planetary scientists because they represent the debris that was left behind when the solar system formed 4.6 billion years ago. Dr Matthew Genge (Earth Science and Engineering) told *The Guardian*: “We’ve got over 30,000 meteorites in collections around the world, but we don’t know where the majority of them



come from; exactly which asteroids.

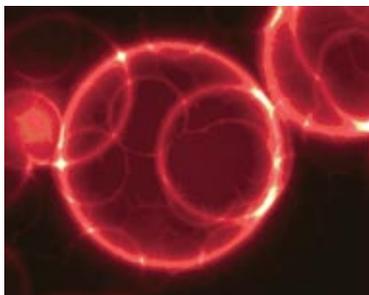
The value of going into space is that we know exactly which asteroid it comes from and that tells us how far from the sun it probably formed and that gives us that little extra information about the formation of our solar system.”

DAILY MAIL ▶ 1 OCTOBER

## New national system to make use of animal models more transparent

Scientists may for the first time be legally required to describe the level of suffering endured by animals in their laboratories under new proposals unveiled on 1 October. The new system would require scientists to grade animal suffering as mild, moderate or substantial after the experiment is over, reported the *Daily Mail*. Professor Dominic Wells (Neuroscience and Mental Health) spoke at a media briefing about the announcement. He told journalists: “Now we will make available to the public a clear record of what happens to every single animal that undergoes a procedure. That will enable the public to have a better understanding of animal suffering and enable us to be really transparent.”





## Bacterial crisis command centre revealed

**A bacteria cell's 'crisis command centre' has been observed for the first time swinging into action to protect the cell from external stress and danger, according to new research published in *Science* on 3 October.**

The research was carried out by a group at Imperial led by Professor Marin van Heel (Molecular Biosciences) in collaboration with a research group from Newcastle University led by Professor Rick Lewis.

The researchers say that finding out exactly how

*"some genes already active inside the cell are 'turned up' so that levels of particular proteins in the cell increase"*

bacteria respond and adapt to stresses and dangers is important because it will further our understanding of the basic survival mechanisms of some of the most resilient, hardy organisms on Earth.

The crisis command centre in certain bacteria cells is a large molecule, dubbed a 'stressosome' by the researchers. Each bacteria cell has around 20 stressosomes floating around inside them, and until now the complexities of this process had not been fully understood.

Professor van Heel explains: "The cascade of events inside bacteria cells that occurs as a result of stressosomes receiving warning signals leads to particular genes inside the cell being transcribed more. This means that some genes already active inside the cell are 'turned up' so that levels of particular proteins in the cell increase. These changes to the protein make-up of the cell enable it to survive in a hostile or challenging environment."

— DANIELLE REEVES, COMMUNICATIONS

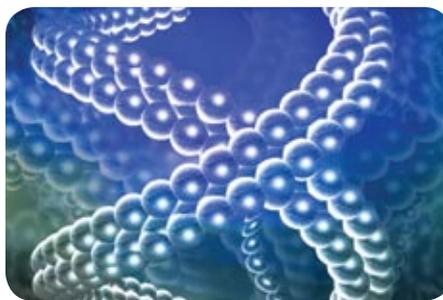
## Mapping out proteins

**A new technology which identifies proteins by mapping the flow of energy inside them has been revealed in *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences (PNAS)*, published on 23 September.**

Scientists behind the new technology hope to develop a tool to analyse human cells and find out which proteins are present and in what quantities. Being able to sensitively analyse the protein make-up of cells is important because proteins are involved in every process in human cells, from facilitating immune responses to cell-to-cell communication.

Professor David Klug (Chemistry), from the Single Cell Proteomics project at Imperial and one of the authors of the new paper, comments: "This is the first time in over 20 years that a new method for identifying proteins has been discovered, and we're very excited about the possibilities that it will bring to our field."

The new research outlines how an imaging technique known as coherent two-dimensional infrared spectroscopy, 2DIR, has been used to successfully identify proteins in laboratory tests. The technique uses an ultra-short pulse of infra-red laser light to cause a vibration in one part of the protein molecule. Energy from this vibration is tracked as it moves through the protein, building up an energy flow map of the protein and enabling researchers to identify what kind of protein it is.



The Single Cell Proteomics (SCP) group at Imperial was established in 2006 with £5 million funding from the EPSRC and BBSRC, and will run for five and a half years. The project, managed under the auspices of Imperial's Chemical Biology Centre, aims to develop a raft of new measurement tools to analyse proteins in new ways, with greater clarity and at faster speeds than ever before.

— DANIELLE REEVES, COMMUNICATIONS

► For further information, visit: [www.singlecellproteomics.ac.uk](http://www.singlecellproteomics.ac.uk)

## Field of the future

**A new experiment to find out how British plant ecosystems may be affected by future changes to climate and biodiversity is underway at Imperial.**

The experiment will simulate predicted future rainfall patterns in a semi-natural grassland at Imperial's Silwood Park Campus and scientists will assess how differing levels of plant diversity affect the ecosystem's response to climate stress.

The study will reflect the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change's (IPCC) prediction that southern

England will experience up to a 30 per cent decrease in summer rainfall and a 15 per cent increase in winter rainfall by the year 2100.

Led by Dr Sally Power and Dr Pete Manning, the study has been set up with funding principally from Imperial's Grantham Institute for Climate Change and the NERC Centre for Population Biology. The research being carried out by Grantham Institute PhD student Ellen Fry and a team of researchers, will focus on how important functions performed by ecosystems, such as water processing, nutrient cycling and carbon storage, are

affected when there are significant changes to the patterns of rainfall they receive.

This study will also examine the extent to which climate-driven effects on these key functions are modified by changes in levels of plant biodiversity in the ecosystem. The research team have chosen to include this element in their study because global biodiversity decline, associated with climate change, pollution, changing land use patterns and other human impacts on the environment, is predicted to increase during this century.

— DANIELLE REEVES, COMMUNICATIONS





## Cannabis-like drugs could block pain without affecting brain

A new type of drug could alleviate pain in a similar way to cannabis without affecting the brain, according to a new study published in the journal *Pain* on Monday 15 September, which features on the journal's cover.

The study, led by Imperial researchers, demonstrates for the first time that cannabinoid receptors called CB2, which can be activated by cannabis use, are present in human sensory nerves in the peripheral nervous system, but are not present in a normal human brain.

The research has revealed that drugs which activate the CB2 receptors can block pain by stopping pain signals being transmitted in human sensory nerves.

*"Although cannabis is probably best known as an illegal recreational drug, people have used it for medicinal purposes for centuries."*

Previous studies have focused on the other receptor activated by cannabis use, known as CB1, which was believed to be the primary receptor involved in pain relief. However, as CB1 receptors are found in the brain, taking drugs which activate these receptors can lead to side-effects, such as drowsiness, dependence and psychosis.

The new research indicates that drugs targeting CB2 receptors offer a new way of treating pain in clinical conditions where there are currently few effective or safe treatments, such as chronic pain caused by osteoarthritis. It could also provide an alternative treatment for acute pain, such as that experienced following surgical operations.

Praveen Anand (Neurosciences and Mental Health), Professor of Clinical Neurology and principal investigator of the study, said: "Although cannabis is probably best known as an illegal recreational drug, people have used it for medicinal purposes for centuries. Queen Victoria used it in tea to help with her period pains, and people with a variety of conditions say that it helps alleviate their symptoms."

—LAURA GALLAGHER, COMMUNICATIONS

## Captive breeding introduced infectious disease to Mallorcan amphibians

A potentially deadly fungus that can kill frogs and toads was inadvertently introduced into Mallorca by a captive breeding programme that was reintroducing a rare species of toad into the wild, according to a new study published in the journal *Current Biology* (23 September).

The study, by researchers from Imperial and international colleagues, reveals that captive Mallorcan midwife



toads released into the wild in 1991 were infected with the chytrid fungus *Batrachochytrium dendrobatidis* (Bd). Measures to screen the health of the toads did not pick up the fungus, because at the time it was not known to science.

Globally, the disease has been found in over 87 countries and has driven rapid amphibian declines in areas including Australia and Central America, pushing some species to extinction. Bd is currently rare in the UK, having only been detected in three locations.

The new study suggests that an endangered species of frog from South Africa, *Xenopus gilli*, which was housed in the same room

as the Mallorcan midwife toads, was responsible for spreading the infection to them.

Mat Fisher (Epidemiology, Public Health and Primary Care), one of the authors of the study, said: "Our study has shown that species reintroduction programs can have unpredicted and unintended effects. However in this case we believe that the toads are going to survive the infection. The global conservation community is united in its goal of saving species from the effects of Bd and we now have international legislation which should prevent this disease being accidentally introduced into the wild."

—LAURA GALLAGHER, COMMUNICATIONS

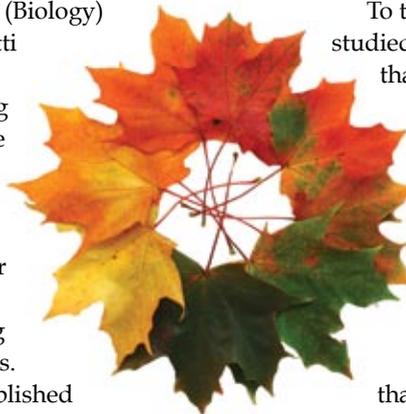
## Autumn colours may be a safety mechanism for trees

Dr Thomas Döring, a visiting post-doctoral researcher in the Division of Biology, has come up with a new possible explanation for why some leaves turn red in the Autumn.

Along with his colleagues, Professor Jim Hardie (Biology) and Dr Marco Archetti from Oxford University, Dr Döring has theorised that the production of red pigments in leaves could be concealing the yellow leaf colour that is highly attractive to tree-damaging insects such as aphids. The research was published in the journal *Proceedings of the Royal Society B: Biological Sciences*.

Yellow pigments are present in leaves in the spring and summer but only become visible in autumn when the tree

breaks down and recovers green chlorophyll from leaves before they fall off. The red colour, on the other hand, is caused by pigments called anthocyanins which are produced in the autumn, just before the leaves fall.



To test their theory, the scientists studied the colour preference of aphids that migrate to trees in the autumn to mate and lay their eggs. They set up a colour choice experiment with 140 water traps. They painted dishes in 70 different colours and filled them with water to see how many aphids landed on the differently coloured traps.

After two weeks, they found that traps appearing green to humans caught on average more than three times as many aphids as the red traps, but yellow traps attracted around four times as many as the green ones.

—NAOMI WESTON, COMMUNICATIONS

# Studying in style

Chatting on their mobiles, typing away on their laptops and sipping their lattes: this is a snapshot of modern students at work.

**As Imperial celebrates the opening of the modernised ground floor of its Central Library, Reporter discovers how it supports the way student work patterns are evolving and what it means for the wider College community.**

Two years ago, the Central Library embarked on a major refurbishment programme to revolutionise its building. The aim was to create a large, relaxed work space for students to use, whether they were working in groups or individually.

Following intense work during holidays to minimise disruption to students, and College investment of £11 million, the Library is now open and buzzing with activity.

Before the work began, Library staff conducted a survey asking students how they like to work, to find out more about their study patterns. "This was vital in our planning for the refurbishment programme," explains Angus Brown, Team Leader in the Public Services team and member of the Library Design Team. "We received about 600 responses, which was great, and we found out that students wanted a comfortable area which was relaxed and suitable for both group and quiet study."

In response to the survey results the Library refurbishment has created a flexible learning space, extended IT access with the installation of 90 new computers, and incorporated a social interaction space.

With wireless internet access

**Photography** → Anticlockwise from the top: help desk on the renovated ground floor of the Central Library; new signage; think-tank areas; a glass stairway leads up to the entrance of the Library; the Learning Café; power blocks have now been installed on many of the desks as students increasingly use laptops; students studying in the new think-tank areas; artworks by artist Bob Brighton are on display throughout the Library; group study areas.

throughout, power blocks have also been installed on many of the desks to accommodate the increasing number of students who bring laptops into the Library.

"Even on the first afternoon when the new facilities were open, students were studying in there as if they had been there forever—it was great to see. I think it speaks highly of the design and the inspiring space created," says Deborah Shorley, Director of Library Services.

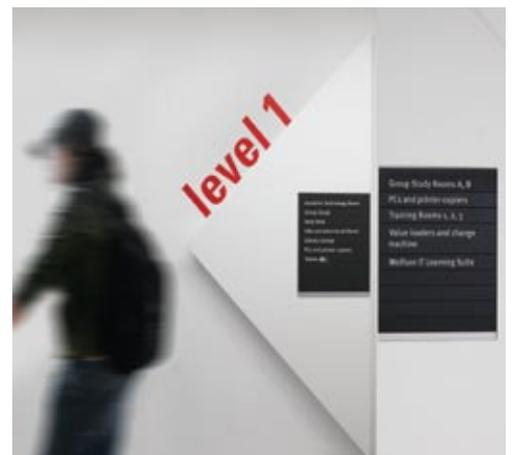
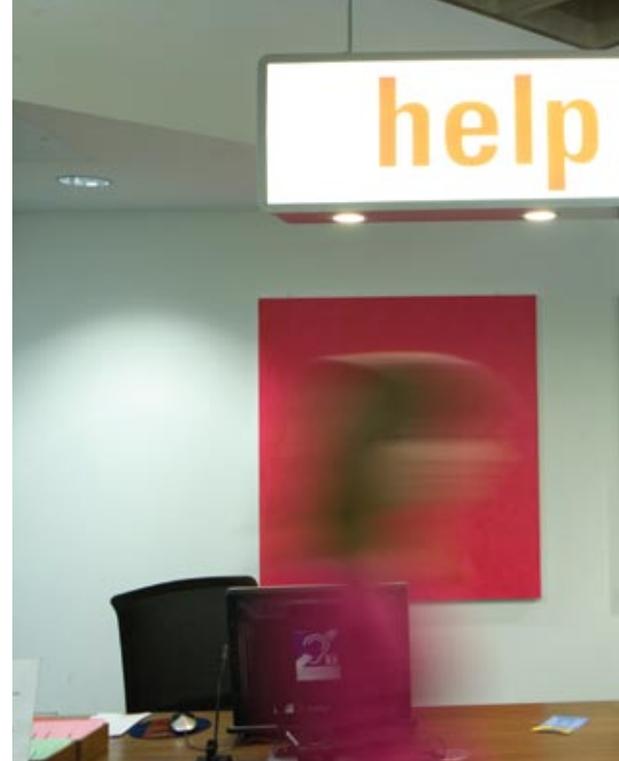
## The facilities

Among the new facilities offered within the new-look ground floor are the Wolfson IT Learning Suite, which was funded by the Wolfson Foundation, a charitable organisation that awards grants to support excellence in the fields of science, medicine, health, education, the arts and humanities.

Supporting the Library's delivery of information skills teaching, there is also a 30 seat training room and groups are welcome to use 'think tank' areas, equipped with a shared PC and large-screen monitor.

Trudy Breuss led the project over the two year period. She says: "This was a fantastic project to be involved in. The greatest challenge was probably maintaining normal library services in a quiet study environment whilst being surrounded by a building site! It says a great deal about both the quality of the project

**"I think the end result speaks for itself. It is a vibrant, popular study space that everyone involved in the project is very proud of."**





team and the patience of our students that we managed to achieve this. I think the end result speaks for itself. It is a vibrant, popular study space that everyone involved in the project is very proud of."

As well as the new working spaces, the Library also features a 'Learning Café' on the ground floor. "We wanted the café to be similar in quality to the existing SCR and be a place for all members of the College community to gather. It looks out onto the Queen's Lawn and we wanted it to take full advantage of the campus views," explains Angus Brown.

### The style

Adding to the modern feel of the floor, paintings by the artist Bob Brighton are on display throughout. Over 50 canvases have been donated by the abstract artist giving the Library a contemporary atmosphere. "It gives the new space that extra edge," comments Angus.

Contributing to this look, the architects, A-EM, have created a number of bespoke features giving the Library a modern twist.

Design features to look out for include the glass stairway in the main entrance, the walnut joinery in the café and the semi-transparent think tanks.

Libraries are evolving and the Imperial team is keen to keep making changes and listening to students' needs. "Before the refurbishment we visited other libraries to see what was being changed in the sector. We looked at other facilities to see what worked and what didn't. We are still doing this and intend to carry on making changes," explained Angus.

Moreover, aspirations for the future include developing the other floors, installing cooling systems and introducing 24-hour opening throughout the academic year.

### The programme

The first phase of the refurbishment programme started in July 2006 and involved work on the ventilation systems of the upper levels of the Library, which is ongoing. Phase two consisted of housing new ventilation units for levels one and three. In phase three the glass-fronted extension to the existing

walkway looking out onto the Queen's Lawn was built and the whole of the ground floor was completely redeveloped.

Over the duration of the two years of renovation work many Library staff had to move offices and there was a temporary entrance to the building. "Staff definitely rose to the challenge – no-one complained, and the students also just got on with it. They were all very polite and respected that the changes were going on," says Angus.

The Library staff hope that the new look will attract a variety of people to use its facilities – students and academic staff, but also non-academic staff, who are welcome to take advantage of the space.

Deborah concludes: "The new facilities provide a central learning space for everyone. Imperial students deserve the best and this has set a benchmark for the College. It's great seeing it all come together and it's a very exciting time for us!"

— NAOMI WESTON, COMMUNICATIONS

 To see a video tour of the new library visit: [www3.imperial.ac.uk/news/libraryart](http://www3.imperial.ac.uk/news/libraryart)



# Beating Stress, Anxiety and Depression

One in six people live with depression and anxiety yet it is still a condition which few truly understand. In a bid to give hope to those affected Professor Jane Plant (Centre for Environment Policy and Earth Science and Engineering) has co-authored a book called *Beating Stress, Anxiety and Depression* with Janet Stephenson, a psychologist who works as a therapist in the NHS.

In the book both women share candid accounts of their experiences with depression and anxiety, explain the science behind anxiety and depression, outline the available treatments and show how lifestyle and changes to diet can have a profound impact on recovery.

Professor Plant explains why after eight years of using tranquilisers which she was prescribed when she had cancer she decided to try a new approach. She says: "Previously I worked on a Royal Commission report into pesticides and I heard lots of evidence given by people who believed they had been affected by the chemicals in the pesticides. This resonated with my own problems and I realised that the pills I was

taking had actually become the problem. I spent ages researching on the internet and found some supplements, widely available in health food shops, that act at the same receptor in the brain as the chemicals in the pills and I used these to get myself back to full health."

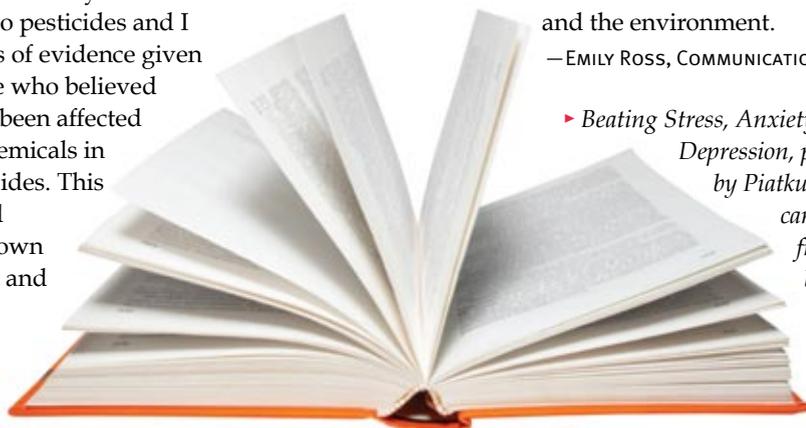
While diet was fundamental to Professor Plant's recovery she recommends a comprehensive approach to dealing with anxiety and depression, involving a patient's GP.

When the book was released it hit the best-sellers list and was featured in many of the broadsheets and breakfast TV. Professor Plant comments: "What's been great is that I've had emails from people saying how much the book has helped them—that is very important to me."

Professor Plant is now working with Dr Nick Voulvoulis (CEP) to prepare a book aimed at health professionals about the effects of chemicals on human health and the environment.

—EMILY ROSS, COMMUNICATIONS

► *Beating Stress, Anxiety and Depression*, published by Piatkus Books, can be bought from all good bookshops, priced £12.99



## science

from scratch



### Probiotic

"In 1953 Professor Werner Kollath, a German nutritionist, first introduced the term 'probiotic' which means 'for life'. He used the phrase to describe

supplements which helped to restore health to patients suffering from malnutrition caused by eating too much.

Probiotics are food supplements containing live and friendly bacteria, which maintain their natural balance in the body. Their functions differ from those of antibiotics, which are prescribed as a medicine to destroy harmful bacteria. After a course of antibiotics nutritionists recommend probiotics to restore the colonies of good bacteria in the gut known as gut flora. These perform a host of useful functions, such as training the body's immune system to fight against harmful bacteria, regulating gut development, and producing vitamin K, which is needed for a healthy gut.

The most common probiotic is lactic acid bacteria (LAB). This converts sugar into lactic acid, which provides the characteristic sour taste in yogurt and cheese."

—DR ARUN ARORA (BIOMEDICAL ENGINEERING)

✉ Is there a phrase you would like us to explain? Email: [reporter@imperial.ac.uk](mailto:reporter@imperial.ac.uk)

## inventors corner

### Mini breathing monitor

Dr Esther Rodriguez-Villegas is developing a breathing monitor which could prevent Sudden Unexpected Death in Epilepsy (SUDEP).

There are around 1,000 cases of SUDEP in the UK each year, a significant proportion of which are caused by cessation of breathing preceding a seizure. Five years ago leading epilepsy expert Professor John Duncan approached Dr Rodriguez-Villegas to create a device that could sense breathing cessation.



Prototype of the miniature breathing monitor

Although she didn't have any experience creating medical devices, she took on the challenge. She says: "It is a technically difficult project but I feel I have a responsibility to society to complete it."

Dr Rodriguez-Villegas explains that existing monitors are unreliable or invasive or both, often involving face mask or monitoring chest movements. With her group she is developing a monitor which is small, wearable and doesn't interfere with everyday activities. It detects the sound of breathing, processes it in a microchip, and transmits a wireless alarm when the breathing pattern changes significantly. "There is innovation in every element of the project," she says. "It combines medicine, physics, electronics and practical considerations."

In the last year the group produced a prototype, with some financial assistance from a commercial partner, and have tested it in different situations. Dr Rodriguez-

Villegas explains: "It has been an amazing year—our prototype works with 100 per cent reliability and the project has received great support from the medical community." She continues: "The next stage is to carry out a clinical trial in parallel with miniaturising the device to the size of a small coin."

Dr Rodriguez-Villegas describes the potential for the monitor: "I really hope to see the device helping epilepsy patients in the future. And it could also be used to monitor sleep apnoea [interruptions to breathing during sleep] to understand more about the condition."

—MICHELLE COTTERILL, IMPERIAL INNOVATIONS

► If you have an idea with commercial potential Imperial Innovations could help. For further information please visit [www.imperialinnovations.co.uk](http://www.imperialinnovations.co.uk)

# A bold move

Professor Stephen Smith, CEO of the Imperial College Healthcare NHS Trust and Principal of the Faculty of Medicine, has spent the last year passionately convincing members of the Government, the NHS and the College that better integration between the NHS and the university sector was the only way the UK could achieve clinical and research excellence.



**Today, with new organisational structures in place, building projects progressing in space shared by the College and the Trust, and the benefits of unifying patient care and research already evident, Professor Smith assesses the year the British health service began its transformation through the foundation of the UK's first Academic Health Science Centre (AHSC).**

"Three years ago most people had never heard of an AHSC and today it is the buzzword of every medical student and university, and a number of other universities are looking to create their own," Professor Smith reflects.

Describing the moment when he first realised the partnership was going to become a reality he says: "When I was appointed CEO of the Imperial College Healthcare NHS Trust and Principal of the Faculty of Medicine last September, I recognised something really substantial had happened, and not just to me personally. The agreement between the health service and the College to create that post was a concrete

demonstration that something was going to seriously change."

While Professor Smith admits that taking on the role of CEO of the AHSC has been daunting at times, he explains why he was well equipped to take on the challenge.

"Since I qualified from Westminster in 1974 I've been working in an Academic Health Science Centre environment every day of my life. I came to the role with a very detailed appreciation of the failure of the translational aspect of British medicine and a real desire to improve it."

Professor Smith cannot be accused of lacking drive. As the first in his family to go to university he says: "I started medical school wanting to be a Professor – I've always been pretty determined."

**"Three years ago most people had never heard of an AHSC and today it is the buzzword of every medical student and university"**

And it was this attitude which helped the Professor to bring people with diverse interests on board with his vision of the AHSC.

"Change is always very threatening to people and there was some resistance," he says. "But in my mind there was one over-

riding thought which underpinned the massive changes: with an AHSC, people will live who would otherwise die – and there is no greater motivation than that."

While Professor Smith spearheaded the project, he has had massive support from all parties. He says: "What has amazed me is that everybody across the organisations has warmed to the task and really

worked incredibly hard to make this project a success. And by all criteria, as it stands it is a very substantial success."

continued overleaf →

# A bold move

continued from page 11



Professor Smith identifies the one thing which continues to delight him about the project: "I can't help be excited by the tremendous surge of energy that has been created by the new entity. There is a surge of 'can-do-ness' and the infectious nature of that change of culture is very exciting and very satisfying. To be honest, even I didn't realise the creation of an AHSC could

release such creativity and engagement in all areas."

He pinpoints one piece of translational research which exemplifies the AHSC: "One of our researchers, Professor Ajit Lalvani, discovered a new test for Tuberculosis, and just weeks later, once it had passed through all the regulations, I rang him up to ask how he was doing and he was already using the test in his own clinic. As an example of translational research it doesn't get any better than that."

Professor Smith describes how the effect of the AHSC can already be seen across the hospitals and the College. Today two thirds of the senior clinicians who run the hospitals are clinical academics and since the hospitals and Faculty of Medicine have aligned their activity (through the Clinical Programme Group structure) with a core focus on research, there have already been signs that this has stimulated more basic research – one of the key aims of the AHSC.

In addition to this Professor Smith says: "The College's research spend has gone up by about 20 per cent in the last year and the hospitals have hit all their NHS targets, something which they were at risk of failing

with the old structure."

Other successes include the AHSC being awarded Biomedical Research Centre status by the Government and the Medical Research Council's change in emphasis to begin advocating the importance of translational research – both of which have benefited the partnership.

And the work won't stop here, as Professor Smith outlines in his plans for the next year: "The first thing is to sort out the governance and to try and ensure sustainability is maintained and that the statutory or regulatory requirements give the organisation the flexibility and freedom to succeed."

He is also keen to continue to spread the benefits of the AHSC throughout the College.

He says: "The AHSC has and will continue to allow us to substantially strengthen partnerships and opportunities across the College in a range of specialities. In the Business School, for example, one of the major specialisms now is healthcare."

Describing his hopes for the impact the AHSC will make, Professor Smith adds: "I really think staff and students should feel proud that the College has not shirked its responsibility in the modern world to be engaged with society in tackling one of the biggest problems we face which affects us all – the healthcare system."

— EMILY ROSS, COMMUNICATIONS

**"There is a surge of can-do-ness and the infectious nature of that change of culture is very exciting and very satisfying."**

## VOX POP



### Describe your experience of returning to Imperial for the Alumni Reunion 2008

"I was very excited when I got a letter from the Alumni Office reminding me that I had been here 40 years ago. Coming back to campus after all of that time, there are many new buildings which I do not recognise, and I have been amazed at the development within the College that has occurred since then!"

— PROFESSOR ASADULLAH KAZI (IMPERIAL ALUMNUS, MSc GEOLOGY 1965, PhD 1968)

## Making time for others outside the classroom

Georgina Badine, who is studying for an Msc in Management at the Business School, has been working with the Imperial Volunteer Centre since 2007 when she noticed a project related to autism on the Centre's website. She explains that she was immediately drawn to the advert as her younger brother is autistic.

Autism is a lifelong developmental disorder that affects the way people perceive and relate to the world around them. Autistic people have difficulties in three key areas: social interaction, social communication, and imagination, which includes flexible thinking.

Georgina works as a family support volunteer for the charity

Resources for Autism, and helps to support a young boy with autism and his family. Georgina says: "Although this role has no real connection with my future employment at Barclays, it has proven to be an exceptionally rewarding experience."

She explains: "It has been great to get to see the progress made by the child, and knowing that I can help a family in need is of great importance to me as my family has been through a similar experience."

— MINNA RUOHONEN, OUTREACH



► If you are interested in volunteering for Resources for Autism contact [volunteering@imperial.ac.uk](mailto:volunteering@imperial.ac.uk)

# Celebrating Vernon McClure's 23 years of service



After 23 years working at Imperial, Vernon McClure retired from his position as Academic Registrar on 30 September. Vernon originally trained to be a teacher but decided to pursue a career working with young people in university administration and joined Imperial in 1985.

As Deputy Registrar and then Academic Registrar, he was responsible for the activities of the Registry, which cover all aspects of the student experience,

Imperial Outreach, and the Careers Service. Dealing with graduation ceremonies was also a major aspect of his working life and he has seen thousands of students graduate.

So what was his favourite part of the job? "Definitely working with young people," says Vernon. As Academic Registrar he held a weekly drop-in surgery for students to talk to him without booking an appointment. Issues ranged from personal and financial problems to supervisor relations. "I enjoyed holding the weekly surgery for students to drop in. I felt it was really important to be approachable rather than a distant figure in the Registry," he says.

Vernon's plans for his retirement include learning to play bowls, and, for the first time in years, travelling to America in October. "I have never been away in October as this is always our busiest time of year so I'm very excited," he comments. He will also continue his work as a governor at his local school in Letchworth and become a consultant for the College's solicitors.

—NAOMI WESTON, COMMUNICATIONS

## Course review

expert witness familiarisation



Attendee: Professor Susan Parry, Centre for Environmental Policy

### Why did you go on the course?

Although I have not acted as an expert witness so far in my career, I am involved in consultancy work which includes forensic analysis and I was recently approached to be an expert by a law firm.

### Can you describe your experience?

The first part of the day was spent becoming familiar with the dynamics of a courtroom, from taking the oath to identifying the questioning techniques used in cross-examination and learning how to handle them. Participants were required to prepare a brief summary of a case which could be used in role-play in the courtroom. During the afternoon everyone had the opportunity to be cross-questioned as well as taking part as judge and jury.

### How useful was it for you?

The course was a complete revelation with respect to how a courtroom works and I cannot imagine how one could approach acting as a witness without this form of familiarisation.

—EMILY ROSS, COMMUNICATIONS

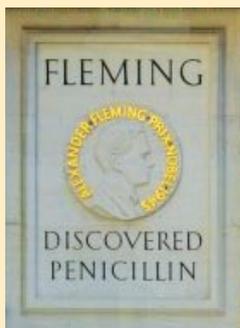
► For more information visit:

[www.imperial-consultants.co.uk/subject.php?id=77](http://www.imperial-consultants.co.uk/subject.php?id=77)

## HIDDEN CORNERS

### Did you know that Imperial has its own museum based at St Mary's?

The Alexander Fleming Laboratory Museum on the St Mary's campus was built on the original site where Alexander Fleming discovered penicillin. The museum displays all of Fleming's achievements, its main feature being the Fleming lab which is reconstructed to look exactly how it would have in 1928. Kevin Brown, the museum's curator, has worked in the museum since it opened 15 years ago. He



describes people's reaction to the museum: "'Wow' is the word we usually hear from visitors to Fleming's old-fashioned, low-tech laboratory. Even eminent scientists find it breathtaking and urge us not to change a thing about it.

"You have a feeling of going back 80 years in time when you go in and see the wooden bench, the clutter of glass culture plates, test tubes, medical flats, the copper water bath, the Bunsen burners, the steel filters, the handmade pipettes, and even a modern replica of the culture plate of staphylococci contaminated by the penicillin mould just waiting to be discovered. The charm of it is that that is how it was."

This year marks the 15th anniversary of the museum and the 80th anniversary of penicillin. Mr Brown believes the museum is a vital part of



Imperial. He says: "Penicillin literally changed people's lives and we can be proud of the penicillin discovery and the projection it has given to medicine and to Imperial."

—WOOMI LEMONIOUS, COMMUNICATIONS

*"'Wow' is the word we usually hear from visitors to Fleming's old-fashioned, low-tech laboratory"*

 The Museum is open Monday to Thursday 10.00–13.00. Admission is free for Imperial staff and students. [www.imperial.nhs.uk/aboutus/museumsandarchives](http://www.imperial.nhs.uk/aboutus/museumsandarchives)

# celebrating long service



## 20 years



### **Professor Ciaran Driver, Professor of Economics (Business School)**

Professor Ciaran Driver joined Imperial as a lecturer in the Management School in 1988. Originally an electrical engineer, he received a PhD in economics in 1984 before working for the National Economic Development Office. He was promoted to Reader in 1993 and Professor in 2000 and is now part of the Innovation and Entrepreneurship Group in the Business School. Professor Driver explains why his specialism—capital and innovation investment—continues to intrigue him: “Capital investment is a very exciting issue because it goes to the heart of decision-making by firms and organisations, and it is terribly important for policymakers to understand the processes and procedures of committing resources to tangible and intangible assets in uncertain environments.” Asked what keeps him at Imperial Professor Driver says: “In my view, autonomy and academic freedom are the most important ingredients of any learning environment.”

**Mrs Elaine Amys** • Clerical Officer (Agricultural Sciences)

**Mr Mark Bennett** • Service Coordinator (Life Sciences)

**Professor David Brooks** • Hartnett Professor of Neurology (Neurosciences and Mental Health)

**Mr Harish Dawda** • Technician (Physics)

**Dr Steve Dilworth** • Reader in Tumour Cell Biology (Investigative Science)

**Dr Denis Doorly** • Reader (Aeronautics)

**Mr Andrew Gregory** • Technician (Physics)

**Miss Tracy Halsey** • EYEC Supervisor (Early Years Education Centre)

**Miss Dudonna Matticks** • Clerical Assistant (Registry)

**Professor Peter Openshaw** • Head of Section; Professor of Experimental Medicine (NHLI)

## 30 years



### **Dr Simon Archer, Senior Lecturer (Biology)**

Dr Simon Archer started working at the College as a lecturer in 1978. He specialises in plant diseases and pathology and splits his time between South Kensington and Silwood Park, where he completed his Master's and where the majority of his research students are based. Dr Archer was promoted to senior lecturer in 1990 and continues to enjoy “helping students through their problems and helping them graduate.” Throughout his career Dr Archer has conducted a lot of fieldwork, both in the UK and overseas, in countries including Malaysia, Zambia and Ethiopia. He says: “I've been lucky to work with a lot of postgraduates from overseas. One of the nicest ways to get to know a country is to be introduced to it by local people.”

He explains that the best aspect of his research is being able to use his knowledge to make a practical difference. He says: “For example I worked in Ethiopia doing research on tropical crops and working out how to control plant diseases which were previously uncontrollable. It was fantastic to be able to make a difference to the livelihood of farmers.”

**Professor Margaret Hodson** • Professor of Respiratory Medicine (NHLI)

**Mrs Maria Khaleeq** • Technician (Physics)

*Staff featured celebrate anniversaries during the period of 1 September–1 October. Data is supplied by HR and is correct at the time of going to press.*

## Obituaries



### **Professor Milija Nicula Pavlovic**

• Professor Pavlovic was a polymath and a scholar, possessing PhDs in both medieval Spanish jurisprudence and structural mechanics. He joined the Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering at Imperial in 1978,

having completed his first PhD at Cambridge on numerical methods for the analysis of elastic thin shells.

Paying tribute to his colleague, Professor David Nethercot, Head of Civil and Environmental Engineering, said: “Milija was a first class theoretician and researcher, but perhaps more than that, he was a first class educator. He was an excellent teacher, always interested in finding ways to help students understand fundamentals and always looking for innovative ways to do this.

“Milija won many accolades throughout his career but one honour he was particularly proud of was when he was elected to be a Member of the Academia Nacional de Ingeniería, Argentina, in 2005 as he had spent much of his upbringing in that country.

“Milija had been ill for a very short time, so his death has come as a severe shock to his colleagues at Imperial College. He will be very sadly missed.”



### **Professor Carl Pearson**

• Ronald Carl Pearson, former senior lecturer at St Mary's Hospital Medical School, died on 8 July.

Professor Pearson began his career at St Thomas's Hospital and then went to Trinity College, Oxford in 1971 to read Physiological Sciences. Early on in his medical studies, he developed a passionate interest not only in Dixieland Jazz (he was a skilled cornet player) but also in the function of the brain, and went on to become a senior lecturer in Neuroscience at St Mary's in the 1980s where he made a significant contribution to the study of Alzheimer's disease. His wife, Enid, describes his career:

“During his time at St Mary's Carl was the first in the UK to use molecular techniques for the study of gene expression in the human brain, and to apply them productively to the study of Alzheimer's disease.

“Moving on from St Mary's he became Professor of Neuroscience at Sheffield University where he worked from 1989 to 2001. But by 1999, he decided he needed a change and took a year out to share his expertise in teaching undergraduate medical students at the Kilimanjaro Christian Medical College in Tanzania.

“He returned to the UK to resume a career in clinical medicine and became a General Practitioner in Sunderland, where he spent the last 18 months of his working life, a time he regarded as one of the happiest and most fulfilling periods of his entire career.”

Carl leaves a wife and a daughter, Grace.

## Letters to the editor

Dear Editor,

Reporter is looking good, offering space for a range of academic and other articles and with innovations such as Cross Culture which is great for expanding horizons. But what about focusing a bit more on the women who work at Imperial?

It would be great to introduce them to the Women's Club – a networking society which welcomes women staff and partners of staff from all campuses to join in our activities and contribute to College by, for example, fundraising for the Student Opportunities Fund. A branch at each campus would be a great boost to networking for new, continuing and retired staff.

For those who query the worth of such a club these days, for information, we do have male honorary members who contribute to our events in various ways and we regularly have male speakers at the termly Women of Imperial lunches.

As Vice Chairman of the Club it would be great to find out how the women of Imperial would like to develop the club, particularly the younger members of staff. I'd be interested to hear any ideas your readers have on this topic.

Regards,

Anne Barrett,

College Archivist and Corporate Records Manager



► If your letter is featured in Reporter you will win a cup of coffee and a sizeable piece of cake, courtesy of Catering Services: [www.imperial.ac.uk/eatinganddrinking](http://www.imperial.ac.uk/eatinganddrinking)

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



## World's biggest coffee morning

Last month, staff in the Faculty Building on the South Kensington Campus took part in the World's Biggest Coffee Morning, in aid of Macmillan Cancer Support. Coffee and cakes were enjoyed by all and a total of £273.60 was raised. June Phillips, Executive Assistant to the Rector, who organised the event said: "Thanks to Jane Neary in Catering who galvanised Café Direct into donating the coffee, tea, flapjacks, chocolate brownies and chocolate; and to the Faculty Building staff who baked and donated cakes for the morning."

— EMILY ROSS, COMMUNICATIONS

## Welcome new starters

Dr Maryam Alfa-Wali, SORA  
Miss Laura Anderson, Investigative Science  
Mrs Nagore Astola, Kennedy Institute  
Miss Coreen Beckford, Faculty of Medicine  
Dr Guillaume Besnard, Biology  
Mr Kristopher Blucher, Kennedy Institute  
Mr Phil Carter, Business School  
Miss Muslima Chowdhury, Kennedy Institute  
Mr Oliver Coen, Library Services  
Miss Katherine Collum, Medicine  
Mrs Catherine Curran, Finance  
Dr Carine Davoisne, Materials  
Miss Silvana Del Vecchio Duarte, Biology  
Dr Paola Falugi, EEE  
Ms Kelly Gleason, SORA  
Mrs Heather Hanna, Medicine  
Mr David Henckert, NHLI  
Mr Thomas Hope, SORA  
Dr Ajay Jasra, Mathematics  
Mr Mark Jay, Investigative Science  
Ms Suzan Jeffries, Medicine  
Dr Tzu-Chang Lee, Civil and Environmental Engineering  
Mr Simon Logsdail, Materials  
Dr Rosa Lopez-Cobollo, Biology

Mr Christopher McLeod, Investigative Science  
Mr Daniel Miklosko, Student Residences  
Dr Marisa Miraldo, Business School  
Dr Subhanjoy Mohanty, Physics  
Mr Raghavachary Nallani, Chakravathula, ICT  
Dr Richard Newton, SORA  
Miss Evanthia Nikolopoulou, SORA  
Mrs Beverley Poole, Faculty of Medicine  
Mr Antony Ryan, Mechanical Engineering  
Miss Rebecca Smith, Physics  
Ms Natsuko Suwaki, Cell and Molecular Biology  
Dr Anne-Claire Vergnaud, EPHPC  
Ms Helen Wong, SORA

## Farewell moving on

Ms Nadira Ali, NHLI  
Mr Winston Banya, Medicine (6 years)  
Dr David Birch, Aeronautics  
Miss Emily Bloomfield, NHLI  
Dr Philip Bream, Bioengineering  
Ms Celeste Chan, Business School  
Dr Ashish Chaurasia, Chemical Engineering  
Miss Fu Chen, Catering Services  
Miss Nikki D'Arcy, NHLI

Mr Ceri Davies, Security Services  
Ms Pei Ding, EEE  
Dr Konsta Duesing, Medicine  
Mr Mehmet Fidanboyu, NMH  
Mr Alan Freeman, NHLI  
Mrs Jhansi Ghattamaneni, Human Resources  
Miss Jaswinder Gill, EPHPC  
Dr Debra Gorman, Investigative Science  
Miss Aleksandra Gwozdz, Catering Services  
Dr Georges Gyory, EEE  
Ms Lorian Hartgroves, Investigative Science  
Dr Laurence Huc, Investigative Science  
Miss Laura Iliffe, Human Resources  
Mr Matt Johnson, Computing (5 years)  
Mrs Sharon Johnson, ICT  
Miss Priya Jugnauth, EYEC  
Ms Juliet Kemp, Physics  
Mr Dhruv Kumar, Civil and Environmental Engineering  
Mr Andrew Macbeth, Catering Services  
Dr Helena Marconell, SORA  
Dr Tim Meldrum, Business School (6 years)  
Mr Andrew Mitchell, Sport and Leisure Services  
Miss Alexia Nikas, Student Residences  
Mr Toshio Ogawa, Business School  
Mr Stuart Orr, Catering Services

Miss Samantha Phillips, Faculty of Medicine  
Mr Ben Richens, Sport and Leisure Services  
Mrs Lee Robinson, Catering Services  
Miss Rachel Sinkins, International Office  
Dr Nicola Toomey, Biology  
Miss Fiona Turner, Development and Corporate Affairs  
Mr Neil Weager, Faculty of Medicine Centre  
Mrs Joelle Yavin, Development and Corporate Affairs  
Dr Davy Yeung, NMH

This data is supplied by HR and covers the period 7–27 September. 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

09 OCTOBER 17.30–18.30

### Inflammatory cell networks in the lung—resolution versus remodelling in asthma

Professor Clare Lloyd, Professor of Respiratory Immunology

Inaugural Lecture

Lecture Theatre G16, Sir Alexander Fleming Building

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

14 OCTOBER 12.30–13.30

### Detection and imaging (part 2); and Security and the environment



Professor Sir John Pendry and Professor John Mumford

The Institute of Security, Science and Technology seminar

Gratham Institute for Climate Change

☒ First come, first served

15 OCTOBER 17.30–18.30

### Power and energy: how to get the most out of muscle

Professor Nancy Curtin, Professor of Muscle Physiology

Inaugural lecture

Lecture Theatre G16, Sir Alexander Fleming Building

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

15 OCTOBER 19.30–22.00

### Is human evolution over?

Professor Steve Jones, Professor of Genetics, University College London

Friends of Imperial lecture

Lecture Theatre 342, 3rd Floor, Mechanical Engineering Department

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

21 OCTOBER 12.30–13.30

### Security of networks and infrastructure

Professor Morris Sloman, Professor of Distributed Systems Management, and colleagues

The Institute of Security, Science and Technology seminar

Gratham Institute for Climate Change

☒ First come, first served



27 OCTOBER 16.00–17.00

### The immune response to HBV: control versus pathogenicity

Dr Mala Maini, Senior Lecturer, Department of Immunology and Molecular Pathology, University College London

Wright-Fleming Institute Infection and Immunity Seminar

Rothschild Lecture Theatre, 2nd Floor, St Mary's Campus

☒ First come, first served

29 OCTOBER 17.30–18.30

### To teach is to learn

Professor Edwina Brown, Honorary Professor of Renal Medicine

Inaugural lecture

Lecture Theatre G16, Sir Alexander Fleming Building

☒ Registration in advance: l.bajada@imperial.ac.uk



30 OCTOBER 13.00–14.00

### Notes from a sculptor's studio

Royal sculptor Philip Jackman

Cockburn Lecture Theatre, 2nd Floor, Queen Elizabeth the Queen Mother Wing, St Mary's Hospital

☒ First come first served

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

## take note

### Women for Women

This November Lord Winston will participate in a sponsored cycle round Cuba to raise funds for his charity, Women for Women. In 2009 this event, which more than a thousand women have taken part in, will take place in Jordan, with a 300 kilometre ride through the Dead Sea Valley and a visit to the red rock city of Petra. The funds raised are used to train women scientists and clinicians.



► If you would like to take part, please visit: [www.women-for-women.org](http://www.women-for-women.org)

## classifieds

### Unfurnished flat to rent in Clapham/Stockwell

Sunny, spacious unfurnished flat with one double bedroom to rent for £225 per week. The flat is in a period building, has all mod cons, a large sitting room, bath/shower, neutral decor, massive shared garden and is five minutes walk to Stockwell tube. For more information call Dominic: 07973 941399

**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

### Autism Reach Out Assistant

Project: Autism  
Project ID: 1939  
Organisation: Resources for Autism  
Location: Golders Green and Finchley Road



Volunteers needed for a Reach Out Project which arranges visits to families within the community to help them cope better with the demands of autism. Your role could include providing respite, playing with children, mentoring them, behaviour management or simply listening. You will provide an extra pair of hands for the family through structured activities. Full training and ongoing support will be given to all volunteers. To volunteer for this challenging yet rewarding position, you need to be interested in autism and passionate about helping families. Read an Imperial volunteer's experience of working with Resources for Autism on page 12.

### **i** 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).

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