Opening of the PACCAR Therapeutics Centre
After the relative quiet of the summer months, we have a busy period ahead. We welcome Akira Orimo who joined us as a new Group Leader a few weeks ago – as you will see from his article in this newsletter, he is now busy setting up his research group. Tim Somervaille and Nullin Divecha will also be moving here and setting up their new laboratories over the next few weeks. We will be recruiting additional Group Leaders over the next few months and as always, it is imperative that we attract leaders of the highest international standard. The success of the Institute crucially depends on the quality and success of our Group Leaders – it is they who drive the research that we do. It is also important that we monitor the success of research groups to guide the provision of research support and funding and thereby maximise the benefits that result from this support. The research of one of our junior group leaders, Crispin Miller, was recently reviewed by an independent panel of experts and as a result he was promoted to a senior position in the Institute (see Crispin’s article in this issue). Crispin runs an internationally competitive bioinformatics research group that is not only developing new, innovative and cutting-edge bioinformatics tools, but also providing an invaluable bioinformatics service to the rest of the Institute. It is a difficult balancing act to accomplish both, but Crispin has done so with huge success and I am delighted that this was so positively recognised by the review group, and I look forward to working with Crispin for many years to come.

Once again we are very grateful to the PACCAR Foundation for their continued financial support for our pharmacology activities. Their support over the last two years to help us develop new laboratory space has been terrific and in recognition of this support we recently named the laboratory ‘The PACCAR Therapeutics Centre’.

Many of us have just returned from our Annual Research Retreat held in the Lake District. As always it was a huge success and it was immensely encouraging and satisfying for all to hear about the really excellent research ongoing within the Institute and to see the interaction between laboratory members of different research groups. It is important to the Institute that collaborations between our scientists are fostered and this annual event is a perfect forum for this to happen. For many of us, it proves to be a really rewarding few days.

Nic Jones
Director
The continuing generosity of one of Cancer Research UK’s major supporters in the North West was recognised in an event at the Institute on 7 September.

The PACCAR Foundation has donated a further £250,000, taking its contribution to £600,000 over the past two years. The first block of funding helped to pay for the development of the “Good Clinical Laboratory Practice” facilities in our Clinical and Experimental Pharmacology area.

Now the additional funding is being used towards the further development of the Institute’s translational research and clinical trials work with Christie Hospital.

An event to officially open the “PACCAR Therapeutics Centre” featured a plaque unveiling by Stuart Heys, Managing Director of Leyland Trucks, which is part of the PACCAR group’s world-wide operations.

Stuart said that he was impressed with the use of technology within the research facilities, and that the company’s charitable Foundation was pleased to be able to provide additional funding. He hoped that the relationship would continue in the future.

“We are delighted to continue to support the work of Cancer Research UK in Manchester and it is extremely rewarding to see the money is already being put to good use. As a world-class company with a strong legacy in the north west of England, PACCAR supports initiatives that will make a real positive difference to people in the region and throughout the UK.” he said.

Guests at the event included CR UK’s Chairman David Newbigging, who said: “We are extremely grateful to the PACCAR Foundation for their continued support and the new money they have generously provided.

Taking findings from ‘bench to bedside’ is vital to Cancer Research UK’s vision to beat cancer and a number of projects are already well underway at the Institute. This significant investment is boosting state-of-the-art technology to enable further research advances.”

If anyone would like to submit an article for the newsletter, or has information for the staff news, we’d love to hear from you. Any feedback on the new layout is also appreciated. Please contact Elaine Mercer - emercer@picr.man.ac.uk.

Credits: Photographs in this issue were supplied by: Steve Royle, David Wiggins and Paul Cliff.
In November we will be welcoming a new head of the Flow Cytometry service. Morgan Blaylock (left) will be joining us from the Institute of Medical Sciences at Aberdeen where he has been running a Flow Cytometry unit since 2001.

Morgan was responsible for setting up the facility in Aberdeen more or less from scratch, and has developed the service so that there are four cytometers and more than 60 users. Mike and Jeff carry out sterling work on running and maintaining the FACs service, but with the increasing workload and the requirement for developments of new techniques and approaches, an external review of the service earlier this year recommended recruitment of a third member of staff who could drive the evaluation and implementation of cutting-edge techniques.

With the new developments in the FACs service, both increasing staff numbers and the likely purchase of a new FACs analyser, we need to carry out some refurbishment of the FACs unit. This brings us seamlessly and skilfully to a quick résumé of the alterations that are ongoing and planned for the ground floor. So here goes…….

• **Mike and Jeff** will move to the existing BRU office.

• **Morgan** will occupy the office which Gail Bruder is currently using

• **The FACs lab** will be completely overhauled including removal of the office, a general refurbishment, but most importantly we need to upgrade the ventilation system and the chilled water supply for the Vantage.

• **The Finance office** will be altered to incorporate a separate office for Denise (procurement manager). Finance will decant for the duration of the work (location to be decided depending on timing)

• The office previously occupied by Admin (Shirley and Julie) will be converted into a new conference room with interactive screen

• Once the new conference room is completed the existing one will be divided into two offices, one for the MCRC staff and the other for a new group leader

• **The existing mass spec lab** will be expanded and completely refurbished to make more space for new equipment, but also to completely replace the outdated ventilation system

• **Peter Stern’s Immunology group** have temporarily decanted into the ground floor lab while their new labs are being built on the second floor. Once they move back there is likely to be refurbishment of the ground floor lab to accommodate new developments in Drug Discovery

On the second floor work has started on TRF2. The scheme is currently planned to last for 38 weeks and so should be completed by mid-2008. As this scheme does not involve any “live” areas, we are anticipating that there will be minimal disruption.
My name is Akira Orimo and I recently joined the Paterson Institute as Group Leader of the Stromal-Tumour Interaction group.

My family and I moved here from Boston, USA this summer. I have two children, an 11 year old daughter and an 8 year old son, and we live in Sale.

I have studied the role of the tumour microenvironment in human mammary carcinomas in the laboratory of Dr. Robert A. Weinberg at the Whitehead Institute, MIT. I plan to continue to work on the importance of non-carcinoma cells in the stroma of human carcinomas, especially focusing on myofibroblasts (activated fibroblasts) which are frequently present within invasive mammary carcinomas.

My work and the work of others have shown that the tumour stroma actively provides support for carcinoma cells to grow. I am now investigating whether during tumour progression these myofibroblasts have coevolved with the carcinoma cells and have been converted into tumour-promoting fibroblasts that may acquire epi/genetic alterations on their own.

Myofibroblasts might facilitate the selection of particular subpopulations of carcinoma cells that are highly invasive and aggressive. The carcinoma cell heterogeneity might protect against environmental perturbations and cancer therapies. Hence, once a population of carcinoma cells is eliminated, different resistant cell populations could grow instead. Stromal myofibroblasts may therefore be a potential therapeutic target.

I was a postdoc in Bob’s lab for 6 years and I treasure all the things that I have learned in his lab.

Now, I am happy to settle down at the Paterson by setting up my new lab, starting to do new experiments, recruiting new colleagues to work with, and interacting with scientists and colleagues in the institute. These are all NEW things for me: Who is working in the institute? What is your name? What do you do? These questions are exciting for me to ask so I can become familiar with the Paterson and everyone in it. I am eager to talk to all of you. You can come by sometime so we can have a chat!

Take care,
Akira Orimo
Paterson Staff in action
It’s been a busy few months for Cancer Research UK’s fundraising teams and they have received excellent support from many representatives of the Paterson Institute. Staff have attended Relays for Life at Rossendale, Salford, Swinton, Bury, Stockport and Ashton. At these events they encouraged the teams prior to the start and spoke at the survivor receptions. These Relays were a resounding success and will raise over £100,000 for Cancer Research UK.

Paterson representatives have also met with local volunteers, supported shop re-opening ceremonies, 10k runs, legacy events, committee meetings and Tatton Park RHS Flower Show.

Many thanks to: Georges Lacaud, Stella Pearson, Cristina Martin-Fernandez, Simon Dovedi, Jian Mei Hou, Geoff Margison, Stephen St George-Smith, Keren Dawson, Amna Butt, Angela Cleworth, Gail Bruder, Tom Southgate, John Gallagher, Nic Jones and Caroline Dive for all your support. The volunteers and supporters of Cancer Research UK really appreciate you taking the time to meet them.

Forthcoming Activities
Breast Cancer Awareness Month
There are many ways that you can help us to continue our life-saving work and raise breast cancer awareness.

Organise your own pink fundraising activity, buy our pink merchandise or join one of our sponsored walks today!

Cancer Research UK has spent more than £22 million on breast cancer research in the last year. Get involved and help us raise more money this year.

For a fundraising pack or more information about how you can get involved please see James Dunphy from Project Local or visit: www.cancerresearchuk.org/breastcancer/

Fundraising Highlight
A Mellor volunteer beat off stiff competition at the RHS Flower Show at Tatton Park by winning a silver award for her Cancer Research UK Back to Back Donations Garden.

Mary Hoult has worked tirelessly in partnership with Nicholas Boult of Clarke Lambert Landscapes to design and create the garden to raise awareness for Cancer Research UK.

She impressed judges with the gardens innovative theme of “Thyme and Money” drawing attention to the work of Cancer Research UK with an eye-catching summer display of vegetables and herbs.

Mary said “The Donations Garden seeks to inspire donations of time and money for Cancer Research UK. We are sure that visitors found our garden and its ethos both thought-provoking and entertaining”.

Lizzie Jones, Cancer Research UK Area Volunteer Manager for Stockport, said “Mary and her team of volunteers have worked incredibly hard to create an amazing garden for
CR-UK Fundraising & Activities

Cancer Research UK. They should be very proud of their achievement in raising awareness for the charity and winning the prestigious RHS award “

Geoff Margison visited Mary’s garden during the show (see picture opposite) “The garden looked great and the hard work that has clearly gone into it is inspirational. The contribution to the work of Cancer Research UK is invaluable.”

Mary Hoult has supported the Charity since 1989 and has raised over £4000 through the garden but the amount she has raised in advertising/press for Cancer Research UK far exceeds this as she even appeared on the RHS Flower Show programme on BBC 2.

Bioinformatics Tenure Review

by Crispin Miller

There are a number of things, like ski jumping, for which I suspect that the main appeal is having done them, rather than the process of actually doing them. I’m pretty sure that tenure is similar – wonderful now it’s over, and strangely exhilarating, although a bit of a blur at the time. Having just been through the process (tenure, that is), I was asked to put a few words together …

In March, 2002, there was no real coordinated bioinformatics effort within the Institute – and the aim was to set up a group that would make these skills available on site while at the same time establishing our own research programme in computational biology. This was an exciting prospect because it offered the chance of building a highly applied group in which the research questions we would address would be strongly anchored in our collaborations with other groups – there was a real prospect of breaking down the barriers that can often appear between ‘wet’ and ‘dry’ labs. Bioinformatics (using computers to help make sense of the complexities that arise from the 3 billion base-pairs of DNA in each of our cells) is itself inter-disciplinary, and requires a mixture of computer science, information technology, mathematics and, of course, biology. Perhaps the most exciting thing about the field is the opportunity it presents for working alongside, and learning from, scientists in so many other disciplines, and the group now consists of people with skills in both the numeric- and the biological-sciences.

When we started out, much of our work was focused on data arising from the Affymetrix system run by Stuart Pepper and his team for the Cancer Research UK Affymetrix service, and the same continues to be true now, although the arrays and technology have moved on significantly. As the technology has progressed and we have been able to gain an increasingly detailed view of gene expression, more and more subtly in the processes that regulate and control gene expression have also been revealed; much of our focus is on developing the software tools that can help explore these complexities (see for example, our database, X:Map, at http://xmap.picr.man.ac.uk, and our BioConductor package, exonmap). We have also become increasingly interested in the natural variability between biological samples and we have been developing novel statistical approaches that aim to use this variability as a source of additional information when analysing gene expression profiles.

Another area of interest for us is quantitative proteomics, and in developing techniques for bringing mRNA and protein data together. Looking forward, we are seeing increasing evidence of novel transcription and much of our work is directed at beginning to identify roles for these novel transcripts. Joint projects and collaborations both with clinical- and bench-scientists are helping us pursue the predictions we make with bioinformatics tools through to their biological consequences, and we are continuing to apply our software directly through collaborations with other groups. Often, this is achieved by having graduate students and postdocs come and spend time with us in order to analyse their own datasets, and lab meetings are often a pretty heady mix of biology, mathematics and computing.

Hopefully, I’ve made it clear how lucky I feel to be working with such a dedicated and smart group of people, and the next five years look like being a really exciting time to be doing science at the Institute – I can’t see myself wanting to go looking for a pair of skis any time soon…
In the Spotlight

In each issue of the newsletter we feature a member of staff who will take the ‘Spotlight’ and answer a list of questions that we have put together. The next lucky individual to be featured is Margaret Lowe, the Institute’s Finance Manager.

1. What is your favourite part of the UK?
The Departure Lounge at Manchester Airport.

2. What is the most important lesson that you have learnt from life?
To live life to the full everyday as tomorrow might never happen and also to value friendship.

3. What is your favourite book?
If I had to pick one it would be Rebecca by Daphne du Maurier, but if it’s got words I’ll read it. I like autobiographies and books that depict life in post war Britain – imagine living without an automatic washing machine, dishwasher or central heating.

4. What is your favourite film?
I have trouble staying awake long enough to watch a full film but I can watch Dr Zhivago or Ryan’s Daughter anytime they are screened and I like a good weepy.

5. If you had to change careers tomorrow, what would you do?
I was originally going to do Occupational Therapy but then decided I wasn’t really keen on sick or old people - maybe if I’d given it a try I would be more tolerant and patient. Ended up working for the NHS anyway.

6. What three things would you save from your burning house?
Assuming all living things were already out of the house – photograph album, passport and handbag. Might as well go on holiday whilst the insurance are sorting things out.

7. What is your greatest fear?
Old age – I look at elderly relatives and it frightens the hell out of me.

8. How would you like to be remembered?
By my first name would be nice.

9. If you could change one thing in your past, what would it be?
I would have perhaps done some things a little differently but I don’t know that I would change them as they ultimately led to me meeting my husband and since then life has been pretty good.

10. What would be your perfect meal?
I tend to eat most things but do enjoy a good steak.

11. What trait do you most deplore in others?
Cruelty – I don’t know how anyone could harm a child or animal.

12. If you had to spend £1,000,000 tomorrow, what would you do with the money?
Buy £500,000 Premium Bonds, share £250,000 with the family (& close friends), and give the rest to charity.

13. Which words or phrases do you most overuse?
“Oh dear never mind” – or words to that effect!!

14. What is your idea of perfect happiness?
A healthy retirement with my husband – preferably somewhere hot.

15. What keeps you awake at night?
Thinking of everything on my desk that needs doing.
One of the Paterson’s objectives for this year was to establish a careers club for our postdocs. As a result of the focus groups that were held for the CR-UK Pay & Grading project, it became very clear that our postdocs felt undervalued, underpaid and that they wanted some career guidance to be provided.

When the Pay & Grading project was introduced it included a structured incremental pay scale for postdocs and this resulted in a payrise for most of our postdocs.

The London Research Institute runs a very successful postdoc club so, not wanting to reinvent the wheel, we decided to establish our club along similar lines.

A small group of willing volunteers gathered to help establish the club - Dave Gilham, David Moore, Amna Butt, Chris Morrow and Katalin Boros (as the student rep). We agreed that the club would meet monthly to provide careers advice and career options for Paterson based postdocs and final year students, and, most importantly, that there would be tea, cakes, sandwiches, wine and beer available at each meeting.

The organising committee will take it in turns to host the seminars, look after the speakers, introduce them, and chair the question and answer session.

We have tried to invite a varied selection of speakers and are delighted that they have kindly agreed to come and talk to us about what they do, how they got where they are today and the career paths available in their organisation, including a small section on careers options for people with a PhD but no postdoc experience.

The following seminars have been organised so far:

**Dr Richard Pleass**  
Lecturer, Nottingham University  
Monday 8 October 2007 at 4.30pm

**Dr Tanya Moore**  
Cancer Research Technology (CRT)  
Monday 12 November 2007 at 4.30pm

**Professor Graham Boulois**  
Partner, SV Life Sciences LLP  
Thursday 6 December 2007 at 4.30pm

**Dr Katie Binley**  
Director of Biology, Oxford Biomedica  
Date in January to be confirmed

**Dr James Beauchamp**  
i3 Pharma Resourcing  
Monday 11 February 2008 at 4.30pm

**Professor Karen Voulsen**  
Director, Beatson Institute for Cancer Research  
Monday 3 March 2008 at 4.30pm

**Dr Elspeth Stuart**  
Adelphi Communications  
Thursday 3 April 2008 at 4.30pm

**How to write a successful grant application**  
**Dr Simon Vincent**  
Head of Personal Awards & Training, Cancer Research UK  
Monday 12 May 2008 at 4.30pm

**Dr Lillian Clark**  
Executive Director, Science Operations & Funding, Cancer Research UK  
Monday 2 June 2008 at 4.30pm

In future, we also hope to include a CV/covering letter workshop, an introduction to management and a seminar from a group leader from a local Pharmaceutical company.

Many thanks to the organising team for doing such a good job and please do come along and support this.
Congratulations to:

**Pippa McNichol** (PICR & MCRC Director of Operations) and **Dominic James** (Cell Regulation) on their recent wedding at St Peter’s Church, Myddle, Shropshire on 22nd June. The ceremony was followed by a reception at the idyllic Albright Hussey Manor Hotel where friends and family were able to celebrate with the happy couple. Afterwards Pippa and Dom took off for a romantic two week honeymoon in Mauritius before coming back down to earth with a bump and having to return to work!!

**Cassandra Hodgkinson** (CEP) who, after living in the UK for 5 years and passing the ‘Life in the UK’ test was able to apply for naturalisation. On 21st August Cassandra became a fully-fledged British citizen – Australia’s loss is our gain! We all hope you spend many happy years here!

**Stephen St George-Smith** (CEP) and his wife Carol who completed the 10K ‘fun run’ on Sunday, 9th September, raising £100 in the process. They had a lovely day and rewarded themselves with a bottle of wine afterwards! Stephen also opened the ‘relay for life’ event at the beginning of July in Rossendale Park and will be opening the breast cancer walk on October 14th in Heaton Park.

**Nimesh Joseph** (Cell Division) and Deepthy Francis on their recent engagement (4th August) and wedding (18th August) at St. Thomas Forane Church, Kerala, India. Nimesh and Deepthy had a marvellous day, entertaining more than 800 guests. Looks like they forgot about the honeymoon in the midst of visiting family and friends!!

**Pat Kumar** who was recently promoted to Professorship at the University of Manchester. Pat was originally a PhD student from the PICR under Brian Fox’s supervision.

**Andy Lloyd** (Central Services) and his partner Claire on the birth of their beautiful baby boy, Taylor James (right) on 24th July, 2007. Taylor weighed in at a very respectable 8lbs 2ozs and will no doubt keep ‘mum and dad’ on their toes!

**Wear It Pink Day:**

Just a reminder that it will be ‘Wear It Pink Day’ on Friday, October 26th, so please feel free to deck yourselves out in your best pink attire and donate £2 to the collection box which will be kept on Reception. It can be a pink wig, hat, shoes, tie, skirt, shirt, trousers ... or any combination of the aforementioned, the possibilities are endless and no
Staff News

HR Update
by Anna Pearson

JNC Update
The Joint Negotiation Committee has been very busy reviewing and ratifying policies over the last few months. The No Smoking Policy, IT Policy and Flexitime Policy for Operations Staff have all recently come into effect. There are several other policies to be launched in the next few months including the Respect at Work Policy which has been updated and will be an integral part of the Anti-Bullying and Harassment Courses which ACAS are running for all managers. A Record-Keeping Policy has been ratified and will be introduced in October to coincide with a Data Protection Seminar that I have arranged. The JNC will shortly have its own section on the intranet which will list the forthcoming agendas and policy review schedule. The schedule will detail the status of new policies and will state the expected date of review for existing policies.

Advertising Workshops
In the near future we will be running Media & Copywriting Workshops for all staff who are involved in writing recruitment adverts. The course will be facilitated by Fiona Horton, who represents our advertising agency Lee and Nightingale. The workshops will last for approximately an hour and a half and consist of the following:

- The purpose of an agency
- Setting your objectives
- Media values
- Production values
- Copywriting
- Creative
- Internet
- Questions and Answers

Nursery Update
By now, I am sure that most of you are aware of the fire on 1 September at the Christie Hospital Day Nursery which caused significant damage. The fire brigade and police are undertaking a full investigation into the cause of the fire. Due to the extensive damage, the whole Nursery will have to be re-built. In the meantime, the Hospital has set up a Nursery Project Group to look at all available options that could be utilised as a temporary nursery in the short term and to appraise all possibilities for the long-term re-build. I am the Paterson representative on the Project team and on a regular basis will update Paterson staff with children in the nursery. If you have any questions or suggestions regarding the nursery, please contact me on ahaylock@picr.man.ac.uk or ext. 3231.

Staff News

doubt there will be many photos taken on the day so do try and get into the ‘pink spirit’!!! The best photos will go in the next issue of the Newsletter. Stephen St George-Smith will collect the money at the end of the day and send it along to the Breast Cancer Campaign on our behalf.

Welcome to:
Yvette Bulsma, Senior Scientific Officer, Inositide Laboratory
Nullin Divecha, Senior Group Leader, Inositide Laboratory
Ashleigh Hanson, Placement Student, Stromal-Tumour Interactions
David Jones, Associate Scientist, Inositide Laboratory
Willem-Jan Keune, PhD Student, Inositide Laboratory
Akira Orimo, Junior Group Leader, Stromal-Tumour Interactions
Nicholas Peel, Placement Student, Carcinogenesis
Tim Somerville, Junior Group Leader, Leukaemia Biology Group

Iman van den Bout,
Postdoctoral Scientist, Inositide Laboratory

and the following new students:
Mariam Al-Muftah, Medical Oncology
Guilherme Costa, Stem Cell Haematopoesis
Asli Devrekani, Cell Division
Gireesh Kumar, CEP
Monique Melis, Targeted Therapy
Ciera O’Brien, Breast Biology
Erik Marcelo Orozco, Medical Oncology
Claire Thomas, GU Cancer Research
Olga Tsoulaki, Stem Cell Biology
Jacek Walczynski, Cell Regulation
Lu Zhang, Cell Regulation

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Olga Tsoulaki, Stem Cell Biology
Jacek Walczynski, Cell Regulation
Lu Zhang, Cell Regulation
The Genes and Cancer meeting will be held at the University of Warwick from 10th - 12th December 2007. The meeting brings together an international list of speakers working on diverse aspects of cell and cancer biology, and is now in its 24th year. CRUK is always the major sponsor of the meeting, which provides a great chance to hear about some of the most exciting work from around the charity, and meet people from the other institutes.

This year the Paterson Institute is the second largest sponsor of the meeting, and we're funding a session on Genome Stability. The other sessions are focussed on apoptosis and senescence, signalling invasion and metastasis, and the regulation of gene expression. There will be about 250 participants from laboratories around the world, and the meeting is usually considered to be one of the important cancer research conferences of the year.

In addition to the talks there is a poster session with three prizes to be won, and a conference dinner followed by a ceilidh. The meeting is inexpensive (£75 registration for students, £125 for others; accommodation costs £215 or £275 if you want your own bathroom), and the deadline for registration is the 29th October (abstracts for posters need to be submitted by 15th October). Further details can be found at www.genesandcancer.org, or alternatively you can just look at one of the posters that have been placed around the institute.

“This year the Paterson Institute is the second largest sponsor of the meeting, and we’re funding a session on Genome Stability.”