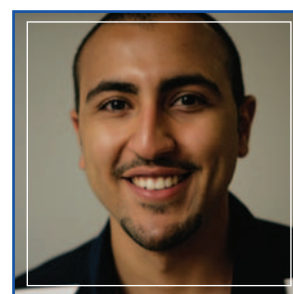
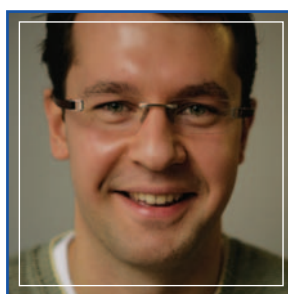
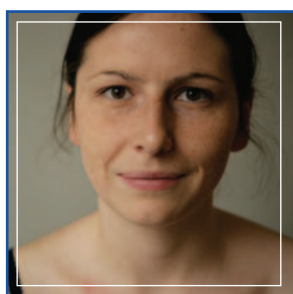
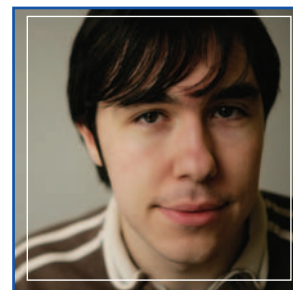
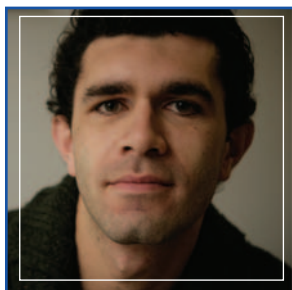
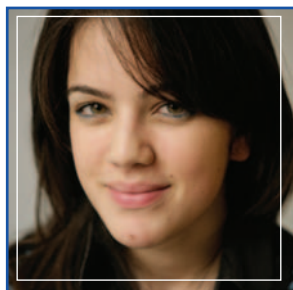
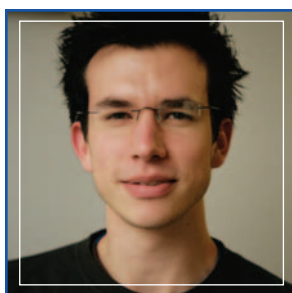


Paterson welcomes new students



Issue 15 - December 2008

MANCHESTER
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The University of Manchester

CANCER RESEARCH UK



Director's Introduction



The strength and success of The Paterson is based on the quality and dedication of its members. A core theme throughout this Newsletter is people and individuals and how they contribute to this success. Good interaction and communication is essential and the annual Institute retreat held in September is an important event designed to facilitate this. This year's colloquium, held in Ambleside, provided intense scientific interaction and networking opportunities to promote interaction and develop potential new collaborations. As ever it was a very enjoyable and rewarding two and a half days. The retreat is particularly valuable for new students as this is often their first exposure to The Paterson as a true community, allowing them to experience the range of research undertaken and meet the people behind the research.

Bringing people and teams together, with closer interaction of academia and the NHS, is a key element of CR-UK's 5 year strategy. The CR-UK aim to develop a UK-wide network of Centres, highlighted in this Newsletter, complements the Institute's cancer research strategy. Feedback from the successful visit by CR-UK head office is a strong endorsement of the MCRC approach of working in partnership to promote and co-ordinate diverse research themes to maximise the impact of our research and ultimately to deliver tangible patient benefits. With the current challenging economic environment, the need to work together and effectively co-ordinate our research efforts and optimise the use of resources is increasingly important. The impact of the financial downturn is difficult to gauge but there is no doubt that the next one to two years will be challenging and will necessitate prioritisation and focussing of activities so that our overall research strategy and direction is maintained. Good communication with the public is also of great importance—informing about the work we do and why we do it is a priority. We have been fortunate in Manchester to have had the on-site support of James Dunphy on LEAD (Local Engagement and Development) projects which has provided a great advantage in communicating Institute achievements, challenges and goals to a wider audience.

In this Newsletter, we say goodbye to Professor John Gallagher, Head of the Glyco-Oncology Group who has been associated with the Institute since 1978, focussing on glycobiology research and the pivotal role of glycoproteins in cell signalling. John has been an international leader in this field. I thank him for his dedication over 30 years and the significant support and contributions he has made to the Institute over this time and wish him well for the future.

With the people we have already in place at the Institute and continued efforts to recruit and retain world-class researchers, 2009 is set to be a fruitful and exciting year.

Nic Jones

Director

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The Paterson welcomes Goran Landberg

by Goran Landberg

Breast cancer is a highly heterogeneous disease with contrasting clinical behaviours. Some tumours are indolent, whereas others are extremely aggressive with metastatic propensity early in the progression.

Cell cycle deregulation in breast cancer is one of the main topics within my research group. Cyclin D1 overexpression for example, may cause impaired checkpoint control but will also influence the oestrogen receptor, acting as a co-factor potentially inducing ligand independent activation tumour cells and Tamoxifen resistance. Our interest in cell cycle regulation also brought us to pinpoint potential associations between proliferation control and other key processes in cancer. By studying various tumours we observed that actively infiltrating cancer cells at the front often exhibited lower proliferation compared to the central parts of the tumour. These observations and data from different experimental models led us to hypothesise that *“proliferation and invasion are two contrasting phenomena and cancer cells prefer to execute complex processes one at a time”*. A central aim of our research is to explore this hypothesis further, and determine the mechanism linking cyclins to cell migration.

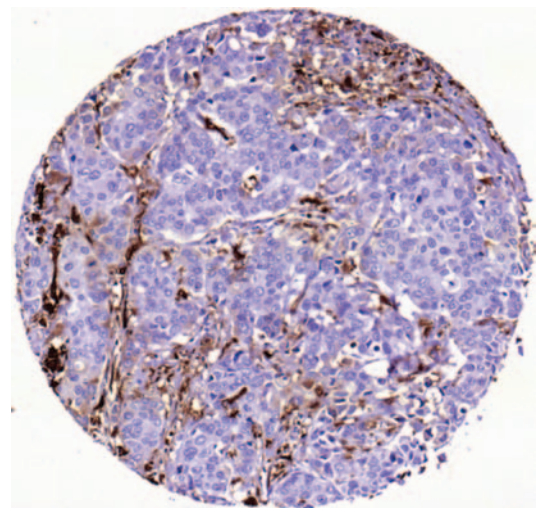
Another main interest within my group is “Molecular pathology”. Cancer tissues are extremely complicated consisting of tumour and stromal cells with different molecular properties. Analyses of biobank materials combined with advanced molecular and morphological techniques are one way of unlocking this complexity. By constructing Tissue Microarrays (TMAs; pictured) from invasive and *in situ* tumours and on tumour material from window and neoadjuvant protocols linked to clinical information, we aim to form a molecular pathology platform that can be useful for many researchers within The Paterson and Manchester Breast Centre. Besides a focus on breast cancer, we will construct TMAs including lung cancer samples as well as cell lines and animal model systems.

I started my medical and research career by obtaining a medical degree from Umeå University located high up in the north of Sweden with a very cold but fascinating climate. After finishing medical school, I presented a PhD in pathology detailing cell cycle alterations in cancer and then moved to The Scripps Research Institute in San Diego as a postdoctoral fellow. On returning to Umeå and the snow, I started my own research group and finished up my histopathology training. After several very intense years with kids, research and clinical work, the family moved to the south of Sweden and I got a chair in



Pathology at Lund University. Here, I continued my work with breast cancer and further concentrated on cell cycle deregulation in relation to treatment effects of Tamoxifen. I also established the Swedish National TMA Centre in Malmö.

In October 2008, I was appointed as professor in Molecular Pathology at The University of Manchester and the first Team Leader at the Breakthrough Breast Cancer Unit in Manchester. I am currently setting up my laboratory at The Paterson and I will combine research with clinical work at UHSM. I really look forward to work in Manchester and I think there is a great opportunity for my research group to develop here at The Paterson with an excellent infrastructure and impressive core facilities. With the Breakthrough Breast Cancer Unit we hope to be an important part of the research at The Paterson and I encourage everyone who is interested, to visit the lab and discuss research or just get a touch of Sweden. I am happy to contribute to the collection of international members at The Paterson and we all, in the Swedish colony, will do our best to blend in.



Tissue Microarray

Glyco – Oncology at The Paterson and The University of Manchester

On September 30th John Gallagher's CR-UK Programme Grant that had run continuously since 1978 came to an end and with it three outstanding members of the Glyco-Oncology Group in the School of Cancer and Imaging Sciences and The Paterson left the Institute.

Nijole Gasiunas has worked at The Paterson for 33 years, Malcolm Lyon for 25 years and Jon Deakin for a mere 21 years. All three have given exceptional service to cancer research. Nijole was instrumental in setting up the research in the new Medical Oncology Research Lab under the Directorship of Professor Derek Crowther. The science of Medical Oncology (development and testing of new anti-cancer drugs) was relatively new in 1975 and Nijole brought discipline, order and scientific standards to a lab populated with many bright young clinicians dashing in and out at high speed but not really getting anywhere! She has continued to manage the lab with humour and firmness and has helped to guide its evolution into a major centre for the investigation of complex carbohydrates in cancer (Glyco-Oncology). Amongst many important studies that Nijole has been involved in her contribution to a recent paper on the use of mass spectrometry for analysing sulphation patterns in heparan sulphate reflects the skill and attention to detail that has always characterised her work.

Malcolm Lyon, a Senior Fellow in The University of Manchester, is a distinguished scientist recognised internationally for his outstanding contributions to research on the structure and function of heparan sulphate. Malcolm has an exceptional publication record, his papers are models of clarity and vision and the quality of his writing is simply brilliant.

Jon Deakin is the youngster of the departing group. Jon is a very gifted experimentalist with an excellent grasp of the theoretical aspects of his research. He has worked closely with Malcolm over the past 15 years and together they have shown how heparan sulphate acts as a mandatory co-receptor for hepatocyte growth factor/scatter factor, a key target in human cancer. Jon and Malcolm recently published a new, state-of-the-art technique for the analysis of heparan sulphate and other glycosaminoglycans in minute quantities serum and tissue extracts. This method will have a significant impact on biomarker studies in cancer.

In addition to these more "mature" members of The Gallagher Group we have also said goodbye to three young and talented post-docs Claire Johnson, Rebecca Baldwin and Chris Robinson. Working under the supervision of Catherine Merry (now in

Materials Science at The University of Manchester but still a frequent visitor to the PICR) Claire and "Becki" have done a terrific job in bringing stem cell research into the group (Valerie and George gave invaluable help in this venture) while Chris, a man of nocturnal habits little seen by day, developed new and highly accurate methods for analysing growth factor/ receptor complexes that assemble on heparan sulphate chains.

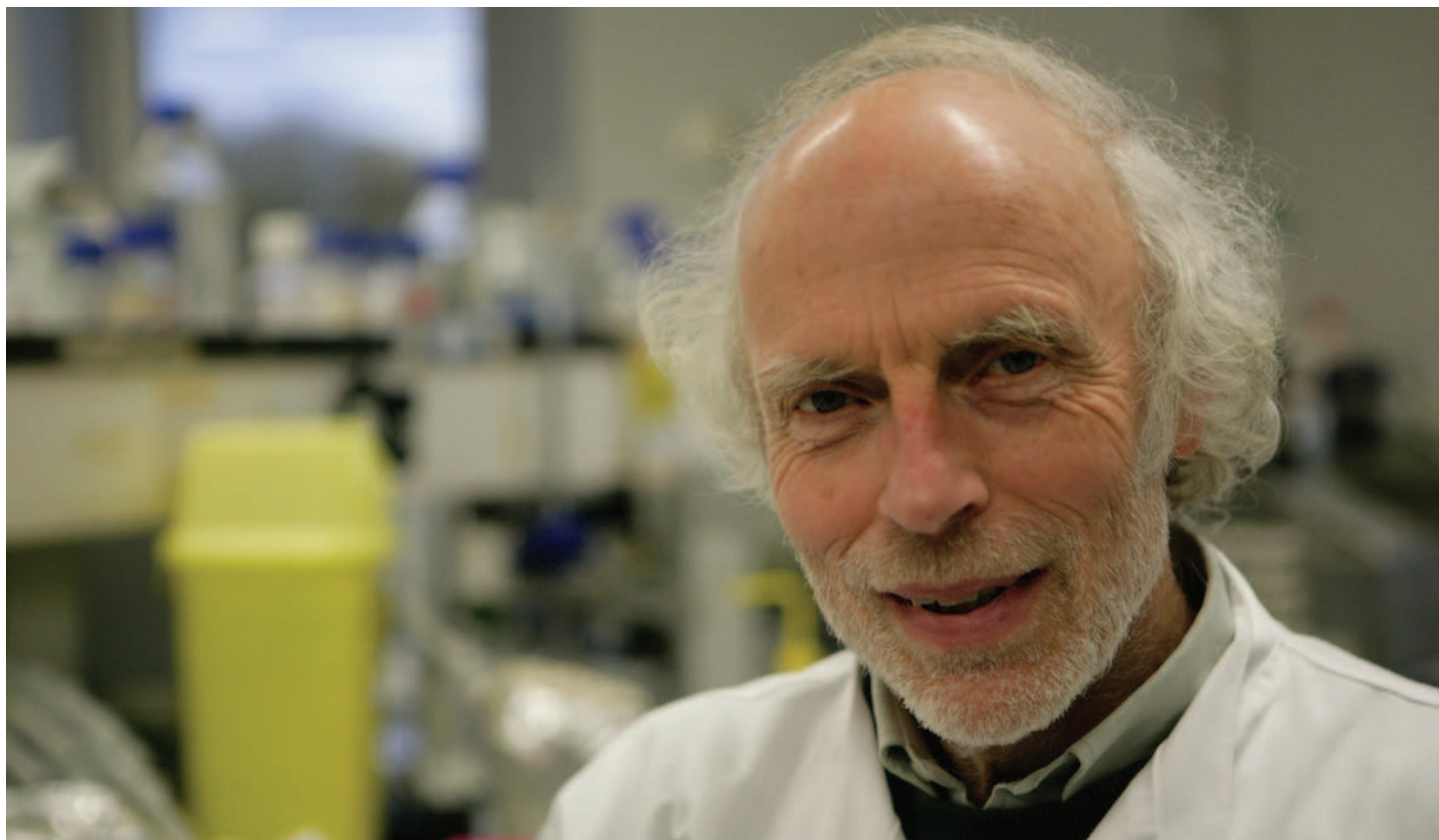
All will be sadly missed and we wish them well for the future.

The Research:

I have been asked by the Editors to add a few words about my research and the ups and downs of what became known as the Glyco-Oncology Group. It all started in 1976 when I took up a post-doctoral position with Professor Derek Crowther with the brief to study changes in cell surface carbohydrates in cancer cells. This was a natural progression for me as much of my previous post-doctoral and PhD work was in carbohydrate biochemistry. Initially we used lectins (carbohydrate-binding proteins) as probes of cell surface glycans but gradually we were drawn to what was then the arcane and mysterious world of the sulphated polysaccharides (glycosaminoglycans – GAGS for short). We became particularly interested in the heparan sulphates that decorate all cell surfaces and are very complex polymers. The structure of heparan sulphate (HS) was poorly understood and we realised early on that the techniques available for analysis of HS were inadequate.

We were quite successful in developing a series of new methods that enabled us to show that HS was a highly organised polymeric structure with subtle variations in sulphation patterns that defined its protein binding specificities – these diverse patterns, or polymorphisms, were linked to the cell of origin, stage of development and malignant transformation. Perhaps our most significant achievement was to devise methods for the sequence analysis of HS, not just the sugar sequence (four variations) but also the positioning of the sulphate groups around each of the sugar rings. This then opened up the field of structure-activity relationships in HS and was in fact very timely. Other groups had shown that cell surface HS was a mandatory co-receptor for the fibroblast growth factors (FGFs) and subsequently our own work revealed its critical co-receptor function for hepatocyte growth factor/scatter factor (HGF/SF).

It's now known that many growth and migration factors deliver their signals to cells by utilising an HS co-receptor and key questions arose concerning the identity of active sites in the HS polymer chain and the mechanism of growth factor activation –



how do HS release the signaling potential of growth factors? We have made strenuous efforts to elucidate these mechanisms. Our findings suggest that HS sequences that drive the activity of the FGF family function as “instructive templates” for the assembly of growth factor/ receptor signalling complexes on the plasma membrane whereas for HGF/SF HS may stabilise an active solution conformation of what is normally a flexible multidomain structure. Given the importance of HS for cell growth it was a natural progression to introduce stem cell research into the group. This proved to be a very fertile area of work in which we established the vital role played by HS in both neural and mesodermal differentiation and identified novel HS epitope markers of specific stages of lineage maturation.

Finally I must mention our efforts in translational research spearheaded by Gordon Jayson. Gordon has done a great job in applying fundamental knowledge to understanding of HS/GAGS in ovarian cancer and tumour angiogenesis. One of his more intriguing findings is class switching in FGF-receptors that could favour growth at the expense of differentiation. Gordon will take over the Glyco-Oncology Group in the New Year though I’m not sure whether he intends to retain the name. Graham Rushton will remain in the group. Graham is the only member of the group who combines skills in molecular biology (self-taught), cell biology and biochemistry. Gordon gets 3-in-1 with Graham.

The People/The Paterson:

The advances we’ve made have been largely due to the efforts of some outstanding post-docs, SSOs and PhD students – they did the work, I took the credit – seems reasonable to me! There are too many to mention individually but what is pleasing is that

most have stayed in basic or clinical research often continuing to work in the HS field.

There have been three Directors of The Paterson since I started to work here in 1976 – I’ve seen two of them off but Nic’s outlasted me! Personally I’ve had strong and invaluable support from all of them and my group as a whole has derived tremendous benefit from the excellent infrastructure, services and breadth of science that the Paterson can offer. I’ve also made many good friends here who have shared the ups and downs of research with me - in the old days we sorted the world out in The Red Lion but we don’t do that so much now, maybe its time to revive the habit?

Odd Happenings:

After 30 plus years here it would be surprising if I didn’t have a few amusing things to report. Strangely they tend to revolve around safety issues like the time there was the “fire incident”. An ex-safety officer (let’s call him Fred, not his real name) was concerned about the slow response to the Fire Bell so he decided to sharpen up the drill by starting a fire! He rolled up some newspapers and lit them at the bottom of the main stairwell. Flames, smoke everywhere – I’m not sure if we got out any faster than normal but the Fire Brigade was a bit annoyed, furious in fact. It’s rumoured they hosed Fred down at the back of the building.

Fred also told us that we couldn’t use phalloidin because it was toxic to the genitals!

John Gallagher



Inaugural conference showcases academic research and industry partnership

An inaugural conference showcasing cancer research undertaken by the MCRC/AstraZeneca Alliance was held on 22 September 2008.

Over 240 delegates from both organisations attended the event at the new conference facilities at AstraZeneca's UK Centre of Oncology Excellence, Alderley Park, Cheshire. Nobel laureate Dr Sir Tim Hunt, discoverer of cyclins – key regulators of the cell cycle in health and disease – gave the inaugural keynote lecture highlighting 'The problem of cancer'. Professor Andrew Hughes, Senior Director of Oncology (AstraZeneca/MCRC) explained the importance of the one-day showcase: "The AstraZeneca/MCRC Alliance was established with the shared vision of making the most meaningful difference to patient health through great medicines. Collaboration allows us to develop strategic projects, using pooled

resources and with early access to new treatments, that have the potential to directly benefit cancer patients."

The conference highlighted the scope of cancer research being conducted within AstraZeneca and the MCRC, with a particular focus on achievements since the establishment of the industry-academic alliance in 2006. Delegates heard about the preclinical and clinical research programmes at AstraZeneca, the fundamental, clinical and translational research at MCRC, and how clinical studies can impact clinical practice. Focusing on AstraZeneca/MCRC Alliance joint research, delegates heard about the new MCRC Tissue Bank, how biomarkers help in screening for early clinical activity, 'virtual' tumour biopsies analysing easily-accessible blood rather than solid tissue, novel combinations of radiotherapy and cancer drugs,

and how to develop a successful academic clinical research organisation. Professor Nic Jones, Director of the MCRC said: "The MCRC integrates cancer research efforts across Manchester to fully realise the potential and opportunities that a partnership between The University of Manchester (including The Paterson Institute for Cancer Research), The Christie NHS Foundation Trust and Cancer Research UK can provide. It has already been a considerable success and has demonstrated the added value that comes from working together. Extending the partnership to industry is a logical and beneficial expansion of that collaboration that strengthens our ability to make a real difference to local patients."



Poster Session



Dame Professor Nancy Rothwell and Mike Oglesby, chair of the MCRC

MCRC Biobank

By Jane Rogan and Garry Ashton

Over the past few of months, the Histology laboratory has been extended to incorporate the MCRC Biobank. The existing lab now houses the automated immunohistochemistry platform and the various antigen retrieval platforms, available for all groups to use.

There are two permanent work stations, available to staff performing immunohistochemistry based research. A new Class 2 cabinet has replaced one of the existing fume cupboards allowing Biobank samples collected at The Christie to be processed within the lab. The slide preparation areas contained within the fume cupboards will continue to be available.

The new laboratory is divided into two separate areas. At the rear there are two microtomy stations and the tissue microarray and laser capture microdissection platforms are also housed here. A new laser capture microdissection system and an automated tissue microarray platform for high throughput analysis will soon be arriving. A double-headed teaching microscope, previously based in the Histology office, is also within this area and available for all users. The Biobank specimen reception area and a database workstation are housed at the front.

Deepti Wilks (formerly Cell Division) has joined us recently. Her role is to establish and run the haematological malignancy arm of the Biobank on behalf of the MCRC. In addition we will soon be recruiting a new scientific officer in response to our increasing workload.

The MCRC Biobank has now been collecting samples for just over seven months and is going from strength to strength with over 100 patient samples already banked from several cancer



Garry and Jane pictured in the newly refurbished lab

disease groups including urology, gynaecology, colorectal and melanoma.

To target all cancer disease groups, the Biobank collects samples from across the region and by the end of the year, samples will be collected from five collaborating Trusts in Greater Manchester. The Trusts involved are The Christie, Salford Royal, University Hospital of South Manchester, Central Manchester and Pennine Acute Hospitals Trusts.

A Biobank technician is assigned to each Trust and they are responsible for consenting patients and then collecting samples from patients undergoing operations for cancer. For each patient, the technician will aim to collect a 'six-pack' consisting of frozen normal and tumour tissue, fixed normal and tumour tissue, and pre-operative blood and urine. Once collected samples are transferred to the Histology lab for further processing.

All Biobank staff work to standard SOPs to ensure that sample collection is done in a uniform manner and is of highest

standard. The Biobank is managed so that all ethical and Human Tissue Act requirements are dealt with centrally. The aim is for there to be an abundance of quality samples which researchers can access with ease

The Biobank has a management board with representatives including experts in each cancer type, representatives from each collaborating Trust, and a pathologist. The board will also review applications from researchers for use of samples.

The access policy for use of samples is currently being developed and the Biobank has something called "generic ethical approval" which will allow researchers to apply to use samples from the bank without applying for further ethics. This access policy will be in place by the end of 2008 and the Biobank hopes to start releasing samples for groundbreaking cancer research in early 2009.

The Paterson Institute welcomes the class of 'o8.



I'm **Crispin Miller**, head of the Bioinformatics Group and I've recently taken up the role of postgraduate tutor - so it's nice to be able to introduce myself. More importantly, it's great to be able to introduce all our new graduate students who have recently joined us, and to welcome them all to Manchester!



Ahmet Acar

Hi, my name is Ahmet from Middle East Technical University, Turkey. I started as a PhD student in Stromal-Tumour Interaction group in April. I am happy to be a part of the Paterson family and looking forward to enjoy my time in here.



Ashish Masurekar

Hello, my name is Ashish Masurekar. I am a clinician. I branched out in the penultimate year of my specialist training in Haematology in the UK to join the Children's Cancer Group. It's a great experience and an ideal training opportunity for me to be able to pursue science at the Paterson Institute of Cancer Research.



Chong Tang

I'm from Malaysia and I'm now in Angeliki's lab (Cell Signalling). I did biochemistry at the University of Manchester and during my third year I did a year placement in developmental neurobiology in the National Institute for Medical Research, London where I was using zebrafish. I am now interested in cell signalling involved in cell migration, particularly during tumour invasion/metastasis.



Elizabeth Sweeney

Hi, I'm Lizzy. I'm originally from Hull, but have been living in the North West for the past 8 years. I've spent the last 2 years at the Paterson in CEP developing QDot technology, and have just started doing a PhD in the same group.



Elvan Boke

Hi, I studied my undergraduate degree in molecular biology & genetics in Middle East Technical University, Turkey. I joined the Cell Division group in this September, and my project is related with protein kinases involved in cell division cycle and I am working with fission yeast to find out their role. It is a great pleasure to be a member of the cell division group and the Paterson Institute of Cancer Research, where you can find an intellectually stimulating environment and broad research facilities.



Georgi Marinov

Hi, my name is Georgi Marinov and I come from Bulgaria. Prior to coming to Manchester I did my undergrad in molecular biology and an MSc degree in Virology at Sofia University. I also completed a Masters degree in Cancer Immunotherapy at the University of Nottingham. I am now part of Peter Stern's group (Immunology) at The Paterson and I will be working on the functional interactions of the oncofoetal antigen 5T4. I am happy to say that the Paterson is an incredible environment to work and I am glad to be part of it.



Julian Blaser

Hi, my name is Julian Blaser and I am from Germany but grew up in Malaysia. I am a first year rotation student now working in the Cell Division group on *S. pombe*. I came straight from my undergrad studies and thus am missing the lab experience a master graduate would have. Luckily my position as a rotation student allows me to gain experience in a range of techniques.



Lilly Sommer

Hi, my name is Lilly Sommer and I'm from Germany. I studied Biochemistry in Jena and so happened to end up in New Zealand for my Masters project. I started work in the Inositide lab in July, which was just about the right time to enjoy all of Britain's beautiful summer. Nevertheless I really enjoy living and working in Manchester.



Matt Ablett

I grew up just outside Birmingham and moved to Manchester when I started my undergraduate degree in Neuroscience and Psychology. I stayed with the Faculty of Life Sciences where I completed a Masters of Research (MRes) in Biological Sciences and I now am doing a PhD as a part of the Breast Biology Group in Dr Rob Clarke's lab investigating Notch signalling in normal and malignant breast stem cells.



Monika Antkiewicz

Hi, My name is Monika Antkiewicz and I am from Krakow - an extremely beautiful city in the South of Poland, where I have finished my Master's Degree in Biotechnology last year. Here, at the Paterson, I am working in Stem Cell Biology Lab discovering haematopoietic development. Apart from science, my hobbies are mountain climbing and dancing and I hope to enjoy my moments here, in Manchester.



Shaun Villa

I developed an interest in molecular biology and genetics while studying marine biology at Southampton University. I pursued this interest through a translational medicine MRes at The University of Manchester. During the research aspect of my masters I worked with the in vitro cancer bioscience group, part of discovery medicine at Astra Zeneca, where I screened a range of molecular compounds against glioma cell lines. I joined the CEP lab in October this year and work in the paediatric focus group with Guy Makin where I am investigating the inhibition of Src family kinases (SFKs) and PI-3 kinase (PI-3K) in osteosarcoma and Ewing's sarcoma cell lines.



Timurs Maculins

Initially I am from Latvia, where I was doing my medical training. Already as a medical student I got excited about the biomedical research that lies behind today's health care. I moved to Rotterdam, the Netherlands for Masters in Science degree in Molecular Medicine and following my graduation joined Dr. Karim Labib's laboratory that investigates DNA replication and cytokinesis.



Waleed Alduaij

Hello everyone, my name is Waleed and I am a medical student who started off intercalating in an MRes and converted this year to PhD. I am working with the Targeted Therapy group under Professor Tim Illidge. I come from Kuwait (yes the one with all the oil!!) and I'm under government sponsorship. Coming from a medical background, the first thing I learned from doing research is how to be critical and 'think outside the box'. I like travelling, football and everything to do with FOOD! I have been in Manchester for 6 years now, so if you have any questions about the city, I can be your tour guide free of charge!



William Harris

Hi there, my name is Bill and I travelled here from the far-off lands of the West Midlands! I gained a first class degree from the University of Birmingham and subsequently stayed on as an honorary research associate, splitting my time between the Biological Sciences and Medical Schools to assist on various haematological malignancy studies. I started a 4-year PhD in Tim Somervaille's lab in September and feel lucky to be working with such a great group of people. Outside of the lab I am something of a music aficionado and one of the best things about moving to Manchester is that there is always a great gig to go to, any day of the week!



Sarah Hughes

I am one of the four CR-UK/AstraZeneca research fellows, based in CEP. I have incorporated this PhD into my clinical training as a Medical Oncologist. I will be investigating the mechanism of action of the AstraZeneca drug ZD4054 in prostate cancer, using both in vitro models and clinical samples, acquired through two window studies in men with localized and metastatic prostate cancer.

Vaskar Saha in the news



Professor Vaskar Saha has appeared on the TV, Internet and in the local newspapers supporting a variety of new campaigns.

On November 4th he helped to launch Cancer Research UK's new campaign. Behind Every Success Story has been designed to increase the public's understanding of the link between the charity's work, the groundbreaking research into cancer, and the benefit this has on people's lives.

The charity hopes that putting a spotlight on people who have benefitted from cancer research will help the public to understand the importance of research into the disease. The central message of the campaign is that behind every cancer success story there are years of research. The advertising focuses around the stories of two cancer survivors, Declan and Maqsooda. These success stories were chosen because they are real people from the North-West who have beaten cancer and have both personally benefited from CR-UK's work into the disease.

Vaskar launched the campaign with child cancer survivor Declan Tattersall and Senior Research Nurse Helen Ferns. Declan was diagnosed with astrocytoma – a tumour on his spine when he was just 18-months-old. The youngster had been unwell for months, but doctors initially thought he was suffering from teething pains. Declan underwent surgery to remove most of the tumour but a small section proved inoperable. Sadly, a subsequent scan revealed that the remaining part of the tumour had started to spread and Declan needed intensive chemotherapy treatment at Royal Manchester Children's Hospital in Pendlebury. Happily the brave youngster, who is from Clitheroe in Lancashire, is now fighting fit and has been free from cancer for more than four years.

Also featured in the campaign is Maqsooda from Widnes. She was diagnosed with breast cancer in 2006 after attending a routine mammogram. The results showed a lump and a subsequent biopsy revealed cancerous cells in her breast. Maqsooda had surgery which was followed by a course of radiotherapy and was then put on a course of tamoxifen for two years, which she recently finished. She is now receiving Arimidex and is clear of cancer.

The face of eight-year-old Declan will be shown on the 59ft Manchester Tower screen, near to Piccadilly train station. The poster featuring Declan and Maqsooda will appear at bus-stops, railway stations, billboards, gyms, shopping centres and in the window of Cancer Research UK shops right across the North West region.

Pictures and interviews from the launch featured on Granada Reports, Channel M, Century Radio and in the Manchester Evening News.

Vaskar's lab in the Paterson Institute has also been recently visited by film crews recording for the Teenage Cancer Trust and Cancer Research UK.

The group has been featured in an exciting new initiative called My projects. My projects is a unique way to support Cancer Research UK's research. www.cancerresearchuk.org/myprojects

Supporters are given the option to find an area of our work that is relevant and interesting to them. They can help fund a particular research project, a piece of medical equipment or cancer information nurses, who offer information and support to cancer patients. Other specific research projects featured include: work on lung, prostate, breast and bowel cancer. Each project has their own homepage which supporters can visit regularly to see updates in progress.

Vaskar's page includes a two minute video describing his research and motivations behind his work. The page also includes an overview of the science and the people involved. It is expected that the page will be regularly updated and more people will be motivated to support the Charity.



Pink Cakes raise £125



The Breast Biology and Breakthrough Molecular Pathology Groups held their annual very popular Pink Cake sale on 22nd October to raise money for Breast Cancer Campaign during breast cancer awareness month.

Breast Cancer Campaign's mission is to beat breast cancer by funding innovative world-class research to understand how breast cancer develops, leading to improved diagnosis, treatment, prevention and cure. Gillian Farnie (from November, 2008) and Rob Clarke (from October, 2006) both hold Breast Cancer Campaign Research Fellowships. Their lab now has two of the four Research Fellowships that have been awarded nationally. These are five year research awards worth nearly half a million pounds each.

MCRC at the NCRI

Every year the National Cancer Research Institute (NCRI) runs a competition to encourage delegates to visit the exhibitor stands. Pippa McNichol, Director of Operations, MCRC, is seen here presenting the MCRC ipod Nano to conference delegate Richard Stephens. As a patient advocate, Richard said "I shall recommend one for every cancer patient. After the ipod Nano comes the ipod Chemo".



Management training for Postdocs

by Tom Southgate

In June this year The Paterson ran a course in Post doc management training. 15 willing volunteers spent a day discussing some of the common issues that arise in any job, such as effective time management. We also got to look at practices and methods for efficient and effective management of ourselves and of others.

As part of the course we were all psychologically profiled and prior to the day had a report sent to us about how the test thinks we react to situations, (it is based on the ideas of William Moulton Marston who invented both the polygraph and strangely 'Wonder Woman'). At first, I must admit it appeared like a load of psycho babble with us described in terms of 'natural' (how we act normally) and 'adapted' (how we act in a situation such as work) personalities. As discussions went round

the group on the day however many of us could see not only how the test illustrated ourselves but also those who work around us. (If you're interested in what's tested type DISC assessment into Wikipedia).

The course was run by Dr Margaret Collins herself a scientist with an active research group for over 15 years. This meant that the training and advice given was both relevant and from a person who actually understood what it is like to be a scientist. There was also an opportunity for each of us to have a one on one coaching session to address further ideas from the workshop later on. There are going to be further training courses run in the future and I would recommend that anyone with an interest in developing themselves both in management and science should attend.

The Paterson Scientific Officer Working Group

by Cassandra Hodgkinson

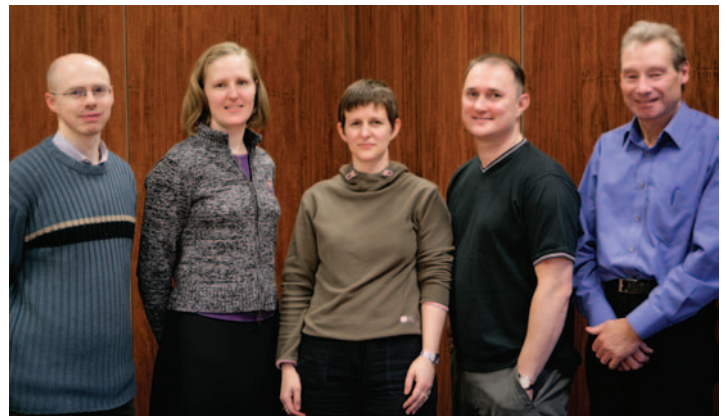
The idea to set up a Paterson Scientific Officer (SO) working group came about as a result of discussions during the first SO Management Training course. Both the Institute and the Scientific Officers enthusiastically supported the concept of an SO working group.

Much thought and consideration has gone into the idea, and we have formulated a mission statement that reflects what we hope to achieve.

To further the research efforts of the Paterson Institute by providing a platform for scientific officers to share information, working experiences and expertise, both within the Scientific Officer Working Group and with other staff members.

Our main objectives will be:

1. To present Scientific Officers as a coherent, professional body that acts as an interface between Scientific Officers and the rest of the Institute.



2. Improve communication between Scientific Officers, creating a platform to facilitate communication and build relationships.

3. Improve working practices by working together to help the Institute and each other.

To ensure that this group works well, not just for the Scientific Officers but all staff within the institute, your input is needed and very much welcomed.

If you require more information or have any suggestions please feel free to contact any of the following people: [Cassandra Hodgkinson](#) (CEP), [Ricky van Deursen](#) (Cell Cycle), [Kate Mulryan](#) (Immunology), [Mandy Watson](#) (Carcinogenesis).

CR-UK Centre Initiative gets underway

A highly successful summer visit by CR-UK head office marks the start of a new initiative that aims to develop and support centres of excellence in cancer, delivering world-class research, improved patient care and fostering local engagement.

Establishing a UK-wide network of centres is a key aim for CR-UK and the MCRC has been approached as a potential location for one of approximately 15 centres planned.

What is the CR-UK initiative and what will it do?

As the largest independent funder of cancer research in the world, CR-UK is able to set ambitious strategic goals: partnership and teamwork are essential for fruition and delivery of these goals. The creation of a national framework of centres with common objectives has four overarching aims, to

- enhance cancer research and ensure broad research coverage across the UK
- ensure that research leads to improved patient care and public health
- provide a trained workforce to meet current and future needs
- expand public engagement and local fundraising.

What are the benefits for the MCRC?

As a CR-UK Centre, the MCRC will be able to maximise the impact of research it carries out and also retain and secure stable infrastructure and training support for the medium term with the potential for increased support in the future. The MCRC will also be able to seek development funding to kick-start new initiatives with the potential to attract support for recruitment and enhancement of facilities. Additionally, the MCRC will be a first port of call for new developments instigated by CR-UK and members of a national network of centres of excellence in cancer research.

The MCRC already fulfils many of the requirements of a CR-UK Centre as Professor Nic Jones, MCRC Director explains: "In many ways the development of the MCRC with CR-UK's major input was a forerunner of the Centre initiatives and we are already satisfying and delivering almost all the strategic initiatives associated with a Centre. The recent visit reinforced the shared commitment of the University and The Christie Trust and the integrated approach that exists."

What is the process and what happens next?

The first step, the initiation visit, took place on 22nd July 2008, during which CR-UK presented the initiative to ensure willingness of all parties to participate. Once an agreement in principle to proceed is secured, CR-UK will work with the MCRC to prepare a strategy document. The document will be developed and submitted within 6 months of the initiation visit and should explain how the MCRC, as a CR-UK Centre, aims to achieve the four key aims of the initiative.

Given the diversity of potential CR-UK Centres, there is no single centre model – instead there is an inherent flexibility of process that will allow Centres to build on existing expertise, develop new expertise, or consolidate a wide range of cancer-related activities within a geographical location. "The approach of CR-UK in the development of this national community of cancer centres of excellence complements and mirrors the approach we have taken in establishing and running the MCRC for almost 3 years now. Taking part in the initiative is a logical next step for the MCRC – it will help to provide us with an improved and stable funding stream and infrastructure support so that we can make long-term strategic plans and have the resources to implement these plans. This is a very exciting time for the MCRC and for cancer patients in the region," said Professor Nic Jones.

New Head of HR

By Pippa McNichol

I am delighted that Rachel Powell has joined us as our new HR Manager. Rachel has taken over from Anna Haylock who sadly relocated to Bristol.

Rachel has over 10 years experience of working in Human Resources. During this time she has gained extensive experience in all aspects of HR such as Recruitment and Selection, Training and Development, Employment Relations and Reward. She has worked in both the private and public sectors, initially spending 6 years working in the Engineering and the Offshore Industry and latterly working in the public sector as the HR Manager and the Head of HR for The Christie. During her time at The Christie Rachel gained some experience of the Paterson Institute prior to its transfer to The University of Manchester in 2006 which has given her a good understanding of the Institute.

By Rachel Powell

I was thrilled when the opportunity arose for me to be able to join the Paterson Institute in August of this year as the HR Manager.



Working at The Paterson will be an exciting and challenging role for me, especially during such an exciting time in the Institute where it is hoping to expand over the next couple of years. My role in the first instance will involve looking at the HR function as a whole to ensure that the department is fit for purpose and is aligned with the aims and goals of the institute. This will mean going back to basics to ensure that all the right processes are in place, policies and procedures are in line with the ever changing legislation and establishing whether we have the right HR systems in place in order to be able to deliver a high class HR service to the Institute. Once all the basics are in place we can then move forward to look at how the Human Resources Department can support the institute strategically.

New Associate Business Manager

As many of you will already know, Cancer Research Technology (CRT) Associate Business Manager Gemma Hill relocated from London to Manchester to be based at The Paterson at the end of May and can now be found on the first floor in RF-25.

The reason for Gemma moving to the Paterson, rather than continuing to work from CRT's central office in London, as CRT Business Managers have done historically, is so that Gemma can be more accessible for intellectual property related matters and work with more closely with researchers at the Paterson. There are now also CRT Business Managers based at the Beatson Institute in Glasgow and at the Northern Institute for Cancer Research in Newcastle.

Gemma deals with a range of activities related to intellectual property on behalf of CRT, the technology transfer arm of Cancer Research UK, working together with both UMIP and the University Research Office. The focus of her role is to identify new potential drug targets, diagnostics and exploitable research methods and reagents and to support their commercialisation for the benefit of cancer patients.



Congratulations

- [Georges Lacaud](#) on having his latest paper accepted by Nature (more details in next edition)
- [Jeff Barry](#) (FACS) on his promotion from a Scientific Officer 2 to a Senior Scientific Officer
- [Jenny Brettell](#) (MBCF) on her promotion from a Scientific Officer 1 to a Scientific Officer 2
- [Geoff Dippnall](#) (BRU) on his promotion from a Lab Aide to a Lab Support technician
- [David Jenkins](#) (Finance) on achieving his NVQ Level 2 Supply Chain Management
- [James Dunphy](#) (CR-UK) who proposed at 8.08pm on the 08/08/08 to Kathryn Meechan, during a week's break in Portugal

Paterson Social

5-a-side Football

Every Tuesday at 6pm
Manchester Central Power League pitches
Contact: Luke Harrison (lharrison@picr.man.ac.uk)

Badminton

Every Thursday at 6 or 7pm
Didsbury Sports Centre or Armitage Sports Centre
Contact: Avinash Patel (apatel@picr.man.ac.uk)

Games Console Club

Wednesday 10 December 2008 at 5.30pm
Holt Major
Contact: Tom Southgate (tsouthgate@picr.man.ac.uk)

Film Club

The Edukators
Thursday 27 November 2008 at 5.30pm
Holt Major
Contact: Esther Walker (ewalker@picr.man.ac.uk)

There is also a Wine Tasting club, (contact Kieran Mellody kmellody@picr.man.ac.uk) which meets every couple of months, the infamous annual Bar Rally and the Fantasy Football competition (contact Pippa McNichol pmcnichol@picr.man.ac.uk) which is in full swing with 29 teams from around the Paterson.

Hello & Goodbye

A warm welcome to:

Postdocs

James Bradford

Applied Computational Biology and
Bioinformatics

Giacomo de Piccoli

Cell Cycle

Luis Garcia Rodriguez

Cell Cycle

Xu Huang

Leukaemia Biology

Tetyana Klymenko

CEP

Claire Rooney

Cell Signalling

Sugopa Sengupta

Cell Cycle

Scientific Officers

Tim Bloor

BRU

Robert Szczepaniak-Sloane

CEP

Brian Trueman

CEP

Jennifer Whittingham

BRU

Ting Zheng

Stem Cell Biology

Placement Students

Laura Glass

CEP

Operations

Susan Lewis

Domestic

Rachel Powell

HR Manager

Goodbye and many thanks to:

Amna Butt

Postdoc fellow with Geoff Margison

Nimesh Joseph

Postdoc fellow with Iain Hagan

Amanda Williamson

Technician CEP

Anna Haylock

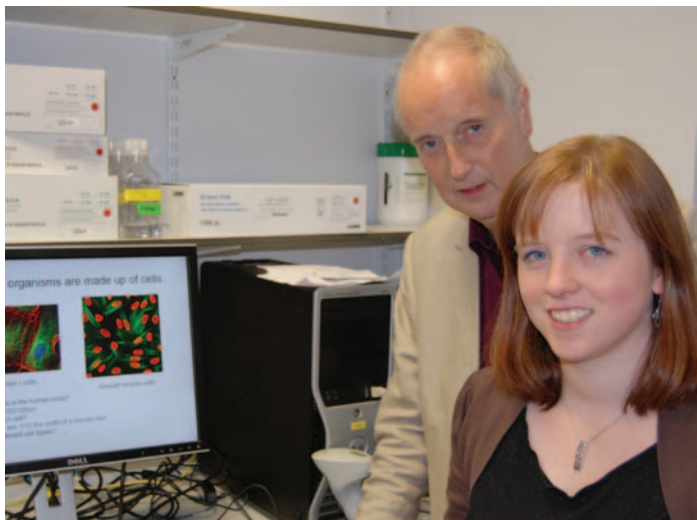
HR Manager

Mark Wadsworth

Graphic/Web Designer

CR-UK Update

by James Dunphy



Tessa and Martin Doughty

The Institute welcomed a group of fundraisers and volunteers who were thanked for their support of Cancer Research UK Race for Life.

The party of 20 enjoyed an afternoon at the Paterson Institute for Cancer Research in Withington, Manchester where they met a team of scientists and learned how their efforts are helping to beat the disease.

Tessa Doughty, 25, of Fallowfield, who so far is one of the highest fundraisers from the Manchester race, took part in her first Race for Life because of her father, Martin Doughty, who has had colon cancer for 4 years.

Tessa said: "It was a real honour to have been invited to the Paterson Institute and to be able to directly see the money we'd help raise being used to help fund vital research into beating cancer."

Jen Hobson from Cancer Research UK said: "We wanted to offer our sincere thanks to the women who provided us with their amazing support this year. We also wanted to show them first hand how their support helps Cancer Research UK continue our life-saving work. Everyone left feeling inspired by the research undertaken at the Institute"

Team from The Paterson offer support as sun shines on Tatton Park 10k

The Paterson Institute offered support to a unique 10k double header at Tatton Park in September. On the Saturday the hot weather meant the team had a vital (and extremely busy!) role to play in manning the half way water station. The Sunday event was supported by Caroline Dive and family who helped give out medals at the end.

Event Manager Esther Hartas said:

"Volunteers are vital for the success of these events and the team from the Paterson were brilliant. Working on the water station and at the end meant they got the opportunity to support our runners whilst also raising more awareness of the world-class research we fund here in Manchester"

The weekend marked the first time that 10k held two events at the same venue over one weekend. It is hoped that the events will raise over £200,000 for the Charity.



Tatton Park 10k Race

This year, Cancer Research UK, supported by Tesco, is hoping that 50,000 men and women nationwide will Run 10k and raise more than £5 million to help fund the charity's world-class research.

Thanks to all that supported this event.