



Paterson  
Institute for Cancer Research

# Paterson Institute

autumn newsletter

## ***“Sad loss of a friend and colleague”***

Clearly it has been a very sad time for us all over the last couple of months with the sudden death of our friend and colleague Lez. We all have our own memories of Lez. I will remember him as a larger than life character, an enthusiastic and rigorous scientist, a dedicated fellow Celt, a widely optimistic Scottish football fan, an awesome party goer and above all a great Institute colleague. Lez was always willing to contribute fully to those 'extras' that make the Institute what it is - the recruitment, the seminar programmes, the open days etc.

I could always count on him. Although Lez had been at the Paterson for a number of years he was the first Group Leader that I hired. He fully embraced the opportunity and built up a strong and dedicated team. He was a stalwart of the Gene Therapy community in the UK and his loss is felt way beyond the scientific community of the Institute.

Lez and I always planned a big singing duel - me with my Tom Jones impression and he with his Edith Piaf impression! He was convinced he would triumph. Sadly now I will not be able to prove him wrong!



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# Director's Update



We are still on course for transfer of the Institute to Manchester University at the end of October. It has been a mammoth task involving a very large number of people from the Institute, Christie Trust and the University. The cooperation has been tremendous and many potential hurdles have been cleared in record time. From the Institute, great credit must go to Pippa and members of her administration team - they have all done a stellar job. The transfer will also herald the establishment of the Manchester Cancer Research Centre which will coordinate the cancer research efforts of the

University and strategically plan future development and investment. I am really excited about the opportunities that the Centre will bring to the Paterson and the rest of the Christie site. The goals of the Centre to be world-class in basic, translational and clinical research through significant new investment in cancer researchers and research infrastructure are ambitious and challenging. However, through the partnership between the University, Christie, Paterson and Cancer Research UK, they are achievable. The research strategy for the Centre is now being developed.

The retreat was again a great success this year both from the scientific view and also socially. We are of course grateful to Tony Kouzarides for taking time out of his hectic schedule to join us as our guest. We all know he took his responsibilities seriously and his socialising went beyond the call of duty! I am beginning to run out of friends and colleagues who fit the criteria for our guests - great speakers and scientists and enthusiastic party goers! The scientific sessions were great and I was really pleased with the level of scientific interaction - it seems to get better every year. It was also a nice opportunity to meet our new student intake. We are really excited

about the students we have recruited this year and have high expectations of them! My thanks again to Jenny who organised the retreat - as always it went incredibly smoothly.

Recruitment for new Group Leaders will also begin at the end of October and the plan is to have recruited 2-3 leaders by the middle of next year. The need has become more acute with the loss of Lez and the departure of Elmar, but I have every confidence we will be successful within this time-frame. One of our main problems, that of laboratory space, will be alleviated somewhat by the refurbishment of the old Molecular Biology lab on the second floor (ongoing) and the end of TRF1 development (hopefully Spring/Summer 2006). So at least we will have space to accommodate new groups! In addition, now that the seminar room is once again functional we can renew our external and internal seminar series. The external series will begin at the start of the year.

Finally, of course, congratulations to the Cell Regulation (and friends) rounders team for convincingly winning the rounders competition. Retaining a trophy is always harder than winning it in the first place - so big challenge for next year!

## 12th Paterson Colloquium, Ambleside, Sept. 2005



This year the Paterson Colloquium returned to its traditional location in the Lake District at St Martin's College in Ambleside. Tony Kouzarides started the proceedings with an excellent talk discussing the complexities of reversible Histone methylation patterns. The following morning the students set a standard of presentations for the day with excellent talks from Rachel Crossley, Graeme Smethurst, Daphne Garcin and Ngoc-Sa Nguyen Huu.

Aside from the academic program we also had an international football event, organised by Eduardo Castaneda Saucedo. Great Britain responded to a challenge from 'the rest of the world' and, following some hard play in the Ambleside mud, the game ended in an honourable draw. See the back page for an action shot of the game in our 'spot the ball' competition.



## Angeliki Malliri

Cells possess mechanisms to translate external signals into behavioural responses. Depending on the stimulus, an appropriate response for a given cell might be to divide, migrate, differentiate, or even to undergo self-destruction. Most oncoproteins are components of signalling pathways - networks of molecules that propagate, amplify, and translate stimuli into responses. The pathological behaviour of cancer cells appears to result largely from 'faulty wiring': alteration in the amount or activity of oncoproteins results in cancer cells behaving as though they were being constantly stimulated, failing to slow down even when the alarms sound.

The Cell Signalling Group concentrates on a particular signalling module that has at its core two molecules, Tiam1 and Rac. Tiam1 is an example of a Rho guanine nucleotide exchange factor (or Rho GEF), while Rac is a member of the Rho family of small guanine nucleotide binding proteins a.k.a Rho guanosine triphosphate hydrolases (abbreviated to GTPases). Like all small GTPases,

Rac cycles between an active GTP bound state and an inactive GDP (guanosine diphosphate) bound state (following hydrolysis of the terminal phosphate group). Tiam1, as all GEFs, promotes the exchange of GDP for fresh GTP. While bound to GTP, Rac can interact and somehow activate a large and diverse range of molecules (referred to as effector molecules) that directly influence cell behaviour. Rac effector molecules (and Rho effector molecules in general) have especially dramatic effects on the shape of cells and their movement via catalyzing alterations in the actin and microtubule cytoskeletons and via their effects on adhesion complex-

es. However, Rac also has other effects less immediately apparent, but equally profound. For instance, Rac can stimulate cells to divide and can antagonize other signals that might ordinarily result in self-destruction.

Too much Rac activity could potentially trick a cell into behaving as a cancer. Recent data appears to support this hypothesis. Rac has a more notorious relative, Ras. This small GTPase, one of the first oncogenes to be unmasked, is mutated in roughly

not readily develop skin tumours that depend on oncogenic Ras for their induction. These mice are also relatively resistant to the development of intestinal tumours that rely on another oncogene, beta-catenin, for their initiation. This implies that in at least two cancer types, Tiam1 is one of the most important factors for mediating oncogenic activation of Rac. Further, while the absence of Tiam1 is apparently harmless for normal cells, it seems to be important for tumour cells to get established. The Tiam1-Rac signalling module might thus represent an Achilles' heel in these cancers that could be targeted by anti-cancer drugs. This could prove more effective and less toxic than pharmacological inhibition of Ras or its other effectors.

In the Cell Signalling Group we are trying to understand what exactly Tiam1-Rac is doing inside cells. One way we are doing this is to observe the behaviour of cells in which we can rapidly turn off Tiam1. For instance, immediately after switching off Tiam1, we analyze the ability of cells to divide. Another thing we do is to isolate and identify the effectors with which Tiam1 and Rac interact when cells are being provoked to behave as cancer cells. As

a third research thrust, we

are studying the involvement of Tiam1 and Rac in the acquisition of tumour cell invasiveness. This, the hallmark of malignancy, is the most destructive aspect of cancer.

By focusing on the Tiam1-Rac signalling pathway, we hope to expand our knowledge of the fundamental mechanisms governing cell behaviour, as well as the pathological changes which drive cancer formation and progression. Our research may also potentially identify a pipe-line of novel targets for anti-cancer therapy. These targets might include not only Tiam1 and Rac themselves but also other enzymes, such as kinases, that mediate downstream effects.



L - R:- Eduardo Castañeda Saucedo, Gavin White, Simon Woodcock, Angeliki Malliri, Claire Rooney

half of all solid tumours. Rac in contrast has not yet been found mutated in cancer, although its expression, splicing and subsequently its activity is often altered in tumours. Also Rac, unlike Ras, is only weakly oncogenic in cultured cells. However, its oncogenicity is boosted by coexpression of Ras effectors. Further, Ras appears to depend on Rac for its oncogenicity. Indeed, it appears that Rac is a target of Ras and Tiam1 is an intermediary, channelling Ras activity into Rac activation. Whilst a research scientist in the Group of John Collard at the Netherlands Cancer Institute in Amsterdam, we showed that genetically-engineered mice that lack Tiam1 do



## Jo Libbey

Hi....my name is Jo Libby and I am studying for a PhD in the Carcinogenesis Group under the direction of Dr Geoff Margison. For the last 3 years I have been investigating a gene therapy approach to treat prostate cancer. However, in this article I wish to talk to you about a voluntary teaching scheme called Researchers in Residence (RinR). I have recently completed a placement for this scheme at Sale Grammar School. The aim of RinR is to use current researchers to enthuse school students with realistic and modern situations where research has, or might have, an impact on their lives and the lives of others.

I had the pleasure of teaching two classes of year 9 (13/14yr olds) pupils and introduced them for the first time to DNA and gene therapy. With the help of half of the Carcinogenesis Group I also performed some experiments involving PCR, restriction digests and agarose gel electrophoresis. While this was all very

new to the students they understood far more then I thought they would and even



Jo with pupils

asked me some questions that most degree students would be proud of! The pupils really enjoyed using the hi-tech equipment (Gilsons!) and discovering that science is not all about old men with grey beards and sandals! At the end of the course they had to design a leaflet

educating their friends and family about the benefits and risks of an imaginary gene therapy treatment for a specific disease. I thoroughly enjoyed teaching the students, learning how to communicate my subject and listening to their opinions about biomedical research.

To end this article I would like to mention the time, effort and energy that Lez Fairbairn contributed to a similar scheme within the Paterson Institute and the encouragement he personally gave me to pursue the RinR program. I think that Lez fully appreciated the ability of an Institute such as ours to help teach science to the younger generation in our local schools.

If anyone is interested in learning more I will happily chat to you (over a beer!) or you can contact RinR directly Tel: 0114 2253785 or e-mail Laura Doleman at Sheffield Hallam University on [l.j.doleman@shu.ac.uk](mailto:l.j.doleman@shu.ac.uk).

## Student Social

### Kelly Chaing

Hello everyone... I have been asked to provide an insight into the more ahem...social aspects of student life at the Paterson. So, apart from the usual Friday nights at the Red (RIP Golden Lion), we do occasionally put our heads together and organise the odd event or so.

Since we were enjoying such glorious weather in the month of July, the only logical conclusion we could arrive at, for a social event, was...yep, you got it...a BBQ!!! (Don't say we students lack originality). Anyways, after some swift budgeting and a number of trips to the supermarket (how much food and, more importantly, drink can 30 people consume?), the big day arrived. All that was left was to prepare everything. Thus followed a number of hours washing lettuce, chopping tomatoes and all other manner of salad preparation (all meat matters were left to Master Chef Dan) and voilf, enough salad (and veggie kebabs – thanks to Aga and Claire) to feed the five thousand.

Then came... the Lighting of the Barbecues. Of course, this was a job for the boys who happily obliged. Finally, with the flames roaring and a wall of impenetrable heat (it was one BIG BBQ!) we all

headed into cooler realms of the garden to wait for our guests to arrive, chilling out with the help of a few cold beers. As the flames died down, the hungry guests began to arrive and soon the aroma of barbecued meat could be detected from the other end of the street (well the next door's cat came trotting through quickly enough although it did have a strange affinity to the hal-loumi cheese rather than the meat. Ah well, the more for us). As the sun set over Manchester, the mounds of food seemed never ending. No sooner had one batch of sausages been eaten, then came ribs, and burgers, and more sausages, and kebabs, and c h i c k e n and...bananas?!. As the beer took hold, and the disco lights came on (well, the motion detecting

security light), not only did we discover that our lot contained a number of patriots who serenaded us with renditions of national anthems, but that many were talented dancers. And of course, how could we have a party without an 80's film re-enactment? Or at least a re-enactment of a certain 'Lift'? All I can say is 'Now I've had the time of my life'....





## Very many congratulations to.....



**Catherine Gavin (Gene Therapy)** and Michael Stephenson (left) who tied the knot on June 18th at St Ambrose Church, Stockport followed by a reception at the Alma Lodge Hotel.

**Julie Hallett (Administration)** and Darran on the birth of their beautiful daughter Martha Ruby Malice (7lbs 15ozs) on Friday, 16th September. Big sister Lily is delighted with her new playmate.

**John Lord (Estates)** for successfully passing the first year of his Higher National Certificate in Building Services.

**Phil Pearson (ex-Porters)** who together with his inline hockey team (West Coast Wasps) have qualified for the World Amateur Inline Hockey Series final in Disneyland, Florida this October. They are one of two teams to qualify from the UK in the junior age group, which is quite an achievement. To cap it all, Phil shared 'the most valuable goalie' of the tournament prize with the other west coast goalie Greg (they couldn't separate them on their statistics). Each of them won a hockey goalie bag and a set of wheels for skates worth around £200!

**Michael Stanton** from the BRU who recently passed his MIAT exams. This involved written, oral and practical examinations and judging from the pass rate, this is not easy!

**PhD student Rachel Duxbury** (Right)(Tissue Engineering Group, Medical Oncology) who married Lyndon Crossley on July 16th at Haigh Hall in Wigan.



**Anna Pearson (HR)** who has recently become a fully-fledged graduate (Practitioner level) of The Chartered Institute of Personnel and Development (CIPD). This is the professional body for those involved in the management and development of people. Anna has worked really hard over several years to attain this highly respected and valued qualification and can now put her feet up and relax (not!!!)

**A very big welcome to Sharon Barnes** who joined us in Administration at the beginning of August to help Shirley during Julie's maternity leave. Sharon has settled in really well and is a great addition to the team. So if you need help with any typing, binding, photocopying or general office duties then pop along and see 'the girls' in the Administration Office on the ground floor and they will be happy to help you.



## Quintessentially Scottish

*By Graham Cowling*

Leslie Fairbairn joined the Experimental Haematology Department as a fairly brash postdoc looking to apply his molecular skills in the ongoing work. In Manchester he discovered cell biology and by combining this with molecular biology forged ahead in trying to understand some of the basic molecular mechanisms of haemopoietic development before turning his attention to the new art of gene therapy. He was an early pioneer of gene therapy at the Paterson and has contributed much to this area earning the respect of his peers for his results and thinking but alas his best work was probably to come. He worked a crowd well. Fundraisers, students and school kids found the way he could explain complex science involving and stimulating.

Memories flood back of bar rallies and fancy dress Christmas meals where lubricated by many bebies, often dressed in "female clothes" firing off his acid-wit, Lez would love to party to the end. I will miss his banter, the sarcastic comments, the surprising puritanical views he came out with at times and the way that when fuelled by a few 'heavies' his Scottish accent would thicken and the volume increase. I raise a glass of single malt to you, Lez, for many being such a bloody memorable person and may you party on.

## Nae mair y'r lum reeks

*By Geoff Margison*

My interactions with Lez started in 1988, when Mike Dexter, then head of Experimental Haematology suggested that Lez should have one foot in the Department of Carcinogenesis, as it was then, working with us on the effects of DNA repair gene transfer on the sensitivity of mammalian cells to the genotoxic effects certain chemotherapeutic alkylating agents. Lez's first couple of papers in that area were joint publications in EMBO J (with a Norwegian, Arne Klungland) and PNAS (with an American, Eric von Hofe). Studies of this type, together with some of the other projects that Lez was undertaking in Experimental Haematology, were pointing to gene therapy as a feasible method of protecting normal tissues against the acute toxic and long-term carcinogenic effects of O6-alkylating agents. Achieving this in cancer patients would have a very substantial impact on the success of their treatment.

Lez later teamed up with Joe Rafferty, who was originally in Carcinogenesis, and the area took off. They were indeed a formidable team: Joe, the larger than life Irishman with melifluous voice and Lez, the powerful Scot, whose accent I always had trouble understanding. Joe and Lez, together with Samy Chinnasamy and others were amazingly productive, co-authoring 22 papers together in less than 5 years, and also obtaining a number of project grants from MCR, CRC, LRF, etc. and at the same time, Lez continued to make a major contribution to many other projects within Experimental Haematology. This productivity and success was recognized and Lez was made a group leader, indeed the only senior post doc to achieve this, following the institute review of 1999.

A substantial amount of Lez's work, much of it in animal models, clearly showed the potential for chemoprotective gene therapy, not only in its original concept of improving cancer therapy, but also in the treatment of gene deficiency diseases, and Lez was in the process of obtaining approval and support for clinical trials in cancer patients, when he died. I am only now coming to realize and appreciate the enormous breadth of his interactions and influence in the scientific community; and I think I am seeing only the tip of the iceberg.

In the earlier times, the Christmas party was a major feature in the life of the lab, in particular the Paterson Review, a series of penetrating sketches and dubious songs, with occasional dire choreography, in which the participants delighted in taking the piss out of themselves and each other. With his great voice and sharp wit, Lez was a key player in these events, and the Experimental Haematology sketch was always a showstopper.

Lez was a man of many hats, both inside and outside research, wearing each and every one with purpose, dedication and passion. He brought colour, joy and motivation to all of those he interacted with. A bright light has gone out at the Paterson.



“ He never took himself too seriously, which was probably how we managed to get into a nice restaurant in Geneva despite him being covered in seagull droppings after sitting on a wall by the lake! ) ”

- Laura Hollins

“ Over the Tannoy came the announcement that the highlight of the tour was now visible,..the St. Louis cement factory. Lez made the executive decision that we were moving to the bar. ”

- Tom Southgate

“ Lez’s humour was shown in the way that he compartmentalised his staff. One of the methods he’d use was to pick the member of staff up and dump them into a cardboard box. ”

- Dorothy Gagen

“ Lez worked hard and played hard. He was always up for a dare and would definitely cross the line. His escapades ranged from hiding personal equipment of colleagues, to doctoring photographs so they became the brunt of a practical joke. ”

- Lorna Woolford

“ German understanding of a Scots man: Lez “blah, blah, exciting, blah very interesting, blah, aye!”, me “?” ”

- Barbara Verbeek





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## Laura Humes

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With the Paterson Institute being part of the NHS and soon part of the University, the staff benefits available to staff are vast. Here in the HR department we aim to make all staff aware of the staff benefits available to them. Therefore we regularly update the HR notice board (ground floor) with information on staff benefits. These benefits can range from childcare discounts to discounts on AA Roadside Assistance. If you are unfamiliar with the benefits which are available to you whilst working at the Paterson may we suggest that you click onto the Christie's Intranet:-

<http://intranet.christie.nhs.uk/staffbenefits>

or alternatively visit the NHS Discounts Website ([www.nhsdiscounts.com](http://www.nhsdiscounts.com)). The NHS Discounts Website is a free online service which allows staff to scroll through and view all of the fabulous offers available to them. In the near future we shall be merging with Manchester University; the information on the benefits available will be displayed on the notice board for staff to take full advantage of. If you do have any questions concerning any of the benefits available to staff please do not hesitate to contact me by popping into the HR office or via my email address ([lhumes@picr.man.ac.uk](mailto:lhumes@picr.man.ac.uk)).

Smoking Ban to be enforced from the 1st October 2005

The Christie Hospital NHS Trust and the Paterson Institute acknowledges that smoking tobacco is a serious health risk and breathing other peoples' smoke is a public health hazard. Therefore from the 1st October this year a no smoking ban will be in force to stop staff and patients smoking in and around the vicinity of Christie Hospital and the Paterson Institute. Many smokers could take this as a perfect opportunity to kick the habit - if you would like any information on the 'stop smoking' support networks available, please collect a leaflet from the HR Department or email me on the above email address.

## Spotlight On Logistics

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## Martin Chadwick

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**Logistics manager: Martin Chadwick**

For me each day at the Paterson is never the same, there are certain jobs that have to be done on a daily, weekly and monthly basis, but daily there is always something different that needs to be done and no two days are ever the same.

I have 4 main areas that I am in charge of and these include the lab aides, the porters, the stores and the institute freezers.

Being in charge of these 4 areas, and the day to day running of them, means that there tends to always be something to keep me busy, if not just the day to day stuff but the unusual things that can go wrong and need rectifying.

### Lab aides and Porters

So far in my time here I have been trying to modernise the lab aides and porters. These modernisations have included intranet ordering for stock items, computerising and updating the stores, and hopefully the soon to be introduced bar code reader for lab services and stores.

My main daily tasks are to manage and ensure that the porters and lab aides

are working efficiently and have all the tools they need to do their jobs. This can involve routine maintenance of the water purifiers and industrial washers based in Lab services through to ordering the required parts and stock they need to keep them running.

### Stores and freezers

On a monthly basis I have to do jobs such as recharge all the stores and institute freezers back to the labs, on a weekly basis I have order stock for both freezers and stores.

I often meet with the sales reps to discuss items to be held in stores and the prices we pay trying to negotiate the best deal. I also meet regularly with certain reps to monitor stock levels of the freezers and ensure we have what is needed.

### Order chasing

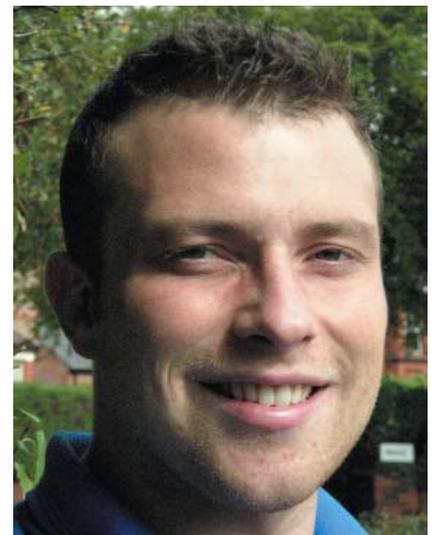
This is another important area of my job to find and source items. I have a good list of contacts that I use when chasing up missing orders or trying to solve problems regarding deliveries. In my time here I think I am beginning to develop a 'sixth sense' when it come to locating misplaced or missing parcels, sometimes it can just be down to human error which considering the porters deal with approximately 500 parcels per week there will always be

one or two that go missing, hopefully only for a short while anyway.

### Personal

In the coming year I hope to gain my Msc in Management from Manchester Metropolitan University after studying part time every Tuesday and Wednesday after work for the past two years I am just currently entering my 3rd year where I am writing my dissertation.

I have also been made 1st XV captain of Sale Rugby Club for the coming season and after a good preseason hope to win our 3rd league title in as many years.





L-R - Seated:- Patrycja Sroczynska, Kate Sloan, Lucy Hopcraft, Hannah Kitson,  
Standing - Katalin Boros, Dimitra Michal, Orestis Chocholis, Lucy Dalton. Not pictured: Adhiraj Chakrabarty

## **A big Paterson welcome to all the new students who have just started with us: They are:**

**Adhiraj Chakrabarty:** Hello, I come from Calcutta, India. I am starting my PhD in the Immunology/Medical Oncology group here at the Paterson. I like music and playing cricket. Not a serious follower of football, but when in Manchester I do indulge myself!! Hey, I do support Manchester United FC.... the safest thing to do in Manchester!

**Orestis Chocholis:** Hello, I am Orestis, I am Greek and I work in the Cell Regulation lab with Nic Jones and Caroline Wilkinson. I enjoy reading science fiction and fantasy fiction books, going to the movies and such like. I will always say 'Yes!!!' to a pint of beer, parties and other social events, although I would disagree with the term 'party animal/troublemaker!'

**Lucy Dalton:** I'm originally from Leyland (Lancashire) and have been enjoying Manchester life for about a year whilst doing a Masters up at the University. I'm working in the Cell Signalling group with Angeliki Malliri. Unlike the other Lucy, you would never catch me at the pub getting drunk over a rowdy game of darts!!

**Lucy Hopcraft:** My name is Lucy from a naff town called Bracknell which is outside South West London. I've just graduated from Leeds University and now I'll be working with Peter Stern and the other guys over in Immunology. When I'm not hard at work in the lab I like socialising, preferably over a game of darts and a cheeky half (you may have seen the results at the Colloquium), kickboxing and cooking - I can do a mean roast chicken!

**Hannah Kitson:** I came here from the Wellcome Trust Sanger Institute in Cambridge. I worked there for 5 years, after graduating, in the Mouse Genomics Team producing and using CGH microarrays. I am now starting a 3 year Medical Strategic PhD working in Rob Clarke's Clinical Research team studying breast cancer.

**Dimitra Michal:** I am from Athens, Greece and I came to the UK for the weather! I completed my first degree and MRes in molecular biology at the University of Glasgow. I am currently a PhD student in the Clinical and Experimental Pharmacology group here at the Paterson.

**Patrycja Sroczynska:** Hi, I am Patrycja and I arrived here from Poland, where I finished my studies at Jagiellonian University in Krakow. I have just joined the Stem Cell Biology lab, so you can meet me any day in the KK!

**Kate Sloan,** I'm Kate and one of the few local people at the Institute - all the way from exotic Altrincham. I will be working in Iain Hagan's Cell Division group. Hobbies include jogging (just did my first marathon - ouch!) and at the moment, lots of DIY on my new house!

**Katalin Boros:** I'm Katalin and I am in Iain Hagan's Cell Division group for a rotation project. I have just moved here from Hungary and I am looking forward to exploring Manchester! I enjoy music (listening as well as playing) and hanging out with friends.



# Rounders Competition

## Steve Bagley

It was decided over a couple of ales one night to resurrect the Paterson Institute rounders competition which was last held five years ago. The thought was to help improve communication between groups within the institute and to create some gentle 'friendly' competition. Research groups, administration and the students put forward teams and the initial competition consisted of three games each at Fog Lane Park. The first two games were a success, there was cheerful banter, fair play and it would appear that a large proportion of the institute was laughing at the defeats of other groups. Unfortunately the level of competition increased as it would appear that the honour of each team was at risk.

Our first injury was when Anna Pearson was fielding and a twisted ankle occurred, Steve Glover was nearly

floored with a badly fielded ball which hit him in the forehead, Mike Hughes (one of the umpires) got a ball to the sternum, then Dominic James was stretchered off with a broken ankle and leg. Other highlights of the matches were one team bringing in a ringer who turned out to play in a professional team and could hit a ball into Burnage, one team having at last count five practice sessions and another team hitting a researcher from their research lab, who was playing for another team, on the back of the head with a ball whilst he was running between bases.

Happily matters reached a conclusion without any more injuries being sustained and the final took place on Wednesday, 28th September between The Students and Cell Regulation. Cell Regulation came away with a convinc-

ing victory and are now the proud owners of the 'Paterson Rounders' Trophy', which I am sure they will treasure..... at least for the time being!

Next year ... Paterson Institute Tiddly-winks ... although someone will probably put an eye out!



Gavin Wilson hits out!

## A big 'thank you' to the Women's Trust Fund.



In September the Women's Trust fund handed over a cheque for £80 000 to cover the cost of the 384 well real time PCR machine for the Molecular Biology Core Facility. Each year the fund raising group selects a specific target and attempts to raise the full purchase cost of a major piece of equipment, just over twelve months ago they decided that the real time PCR machine was a suitable choice, and they have been busy organising fund raising events ever since to reach the total. In September that total was reached and members of the group visited the Core Facility to see the equipment in action. So, next time you are running some samples on the qPCR machine spare a thought for all the hundreds of hours of hard effort that went into providing it.

## Christmas Party

I know it's only October and people don't want to be thinking about tinsel, ho ho ho and christmas shopping, but before we know it, December will be upon us along with the festive season!! However, for all you bah-humbugs, there is light at the end of the tunnel - the Staff Christmas Knees-Up! This will be held from 4:00pm onwards on Friday, 16th December in the Holt Lecture Theatre, so make sure it's in your diaries. As usual there will be plenty of food and drink for everyone - so please come along - all welcome! Plus of course there will be the obligatory quiz, which brings out the competitive streak in everyone, - you thought last year's was hard, well just you wait..... Also this year, we thought it might be fun to have a fancy dress competition for all those who like dressing up (this will not be held against you at a later date, honest!) - but it has to be something with a Christmas theme - prizes will be awarded for the best individual and group efforts. See you there!!



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 recipient of the poisoned chalice is Jenny Varley.

## **1. What is your favourite part of the UK?**

I love anywhere wild and remote, preferably near the sea and with mountains nearby, and lots of wildlife! I am not sure I have a single favourite place though.....

## **2. What is the most important lesson that you have learnt from life?**

Be yourself and let people judge you for what you are.

## **3. What is your favourite book?**

It varies from month to month and year to year - it all depends on mood and

association. A few favourites are C.P. Snow's Strangers and Brothers, anything by Ian McEwen and Birdsong by Sebastian Faulks.

## **4. What is your favourite film?**

Fuji Provia 100F!

## **5. If you had to change careers tomorrow, what would you do?**

Wildlife photographer!

## **6. What three things would you save from your burning house?**

Can I assume that my three cats and husband can get out on their own? If not that could be a hard choice (naturally I jest). Family photos, my camera gear and the bureau that my Dad made my Mum for her 21st birthday. Although as he made it from solid mahogany I may need help to move it!

## **7. What is your greatest fear?**

Heights. I am absolutely hopeless. I even have trouble going up a step-ladder! Strangely though I am fine if enclosed in something like a cable car – no logic to it.

## **8. How would you like to be remembered?**

A fabulously attractive, wealthy and witty genius.

## **9. If you could change one thing in your past, what would it be?**

Nothing. There is no point thinking about things like that, you are what you are – for better or worse! However I do

think about past events and try to adjust accordingly. Overall I am pretty happy with my life, so very lucky!

## **10. What would be your perfect meal?**

Freshly caught barbecued seafood, by the sea, watching the sun set in a completely peaceful and tranquil place with my husband. Accompanied by a nice bottle of wine or two of course!

## **11. What trait do you most deplore in others?**

Dishonesty at any level.

## **12. If you had to spend £1,000,000 tomorrow, what would you do with the money?**

Buy a cottage in the country for my sister, give some to charity, have a party, and book some holidays!

## **13. Which words or phrases do you most overuse?**

At the moment "Guess what those \*\*\*\*\* builders have done now?"

## **14. What is your idea of perfect happiness?**

I am not sure I can discuss that in mixed company.....

## **15. What keeps you awake at night?**

Worrying, and that could be about anything from trivia to really serious worries! But they all seem as bad at 3am!

## Items for the newsletter

If anyone would like to submit an article to the newsletter or has information for the 'Staff News' section, we would love to hear from you. Equally, if you have any feedback about the new format of our newsletter or ideas for future issues, then we would really like to hear your views!.

Please contact Elaine on x3101, or via [emercer@picr.man.ac.uk](mailto:emercer@picr.man.ac.uk)



## Spot The Ball



Name

Department

Ext No.

Mark clearly with an X where you think the ball is.

All entries should be sent to Elaine Mercer by  
Friday 21st October

