Message from the Head of Department

Last month I was delighted to comment on our research funding successes. This month I think the greatest achievement is the submission of the learning outcomes and assessment details for all of our undergraduate units and for nearly all of our masters units –credit to everyone who generated the content, Michelle who did various editing tasks, and thanks to Robert who edited every single one of them to make sure they obeyed the new rules. Hopefully they won’t come back and by next month the budget uncertainty will have resolved so we can plan for next year. I sincerely hope that next year will go a bit more slowly than this year seems to have! I hope you all enjoy the last few weeks of 2019.

Best Wishes,

Alison Rodger
Department Updates

I - Academic Staff Meeting, Tuesday, 19th November at 1pm, 4WW322
To all staff: Please attend the next Academic Staff Meeting if you are interested in academic matters. Light refreshments will be provided, so please bring your own mug cup!

Pre-purchase East 2 and 3 carpark vPermit
For those wishing to pre-purchase a Staff Premium vPermit (East 2 and East 3 carparks) can now apply* online.
*There is no guarantee you will be able to secure a permit in this release. There is no waiting list. If you miss out on 4 November, you can repeat the process on 18 November.
Register or login here.

End-of-year lunch Friday 13th December 12pm-2pm
Please join us to celebrate the achievements of 2019 at the Biology Courtyard for MolSci end-of-year lunch from 12-2pm on Friday 13th December. Please RSVP to the calendar invitation from MolSci Reception by 29th November.
MQ is a partner in the "XLChem: Synthesizing our Future" grant ($8.1M). Aiming at the training of tomorrow’s executives, the objectives of XLChem Graduate School are to propose innovative, research-backed, master’s and doctorate degrees, with a strong and specific formation in management, innovation management and entrepreneurship. The lead CI is Pierre-Yves Renard at the University of Rouen. This grant provides opportunities for MQ MRes Students to spend a semester at one of the three Universities in Normandy (Rouen, Caen, Havre) and for cotutelle PhD programs. This could be for MQ students to spend half the _me in France or French students to spend half their _me at MQ. MQ would have to come up with the funds for the _me spent here. First round of scholarship/exchange EoI's is due November 25, please see Peter Karuso.

Achievements

Stop Press: I have for the first time thought what the phrase “stop press” means when I asked the publication of this newsletter to be stopped to include the great iGem news: Gold medal and best energy (again!). CONGRATULATIONS TEAM!

The Macquarie University iGEM team won the best prize for the Energy Track as well as a gold medal at the iGEM Jamboree this morning. This was for work in development of a hydrogen biosensor.
Congratulations to Kevin Chau for receiving scholarship from the AMGEN Scholars Program to undertake an 8-week summer research project at the Bio21 Institute of Molecular Science and Biotechnology, University of Melbourne. The AMGEN Scholars Program aims to open the door to research opportunities for undergraduate students at 24 host institutions all over the world. This is the first time for Australia, specifically The University of Melbourne to become an Amgen Scholars partner and Kevin will be one of the first 15 Undergraduate students in Australia to be a part of this exciting program.

Recent Events

Emergent 2050 - Sydney's Spark Festival
On Saturday October 19, Ian Jamie and Will Frazer (CBMS UG student) ran an exhibitor table and Will provided a lightning talk at Emergent 2050 as part of Sydney’s Spark Festival. They showcased how we can build leaders and help provide an inclusive STEM literate City of Sydney in 2050. To hear Will at the event please click here.
RACI NSW Branch Annual General Meeting
On October 17, Joanne Jamie was the invited speaker at the Royal Australian Chemical Institute (RACI) NSW Branch Annual General Meeting, held at Macquarie. She presented on “Facilitating Indigenous Community Capability Strengthening Through Chemistry”. She was also an invited speaker at Melbourne University as part of the 1st Cross-continent Eremophila Conference, held on October 28 and 29.

Indigenous Science Experience
Check out the wonderful Indigenous Science Experience @ Redfern and @ Tolland community days that were held during National Science Week at:

Upcoming Events and Notices

Department of Molecular Sciences to be represented by Koushik on a trip with Feargal to India
A team of 5 academics along with the Associate Dean (global engagement) from the FSE will be visiting various universities (BITS-PILANI, Hyderabad, Manipal University, VIT, Chennai) in India at the end of November to establish new scientific connections and seek prospective collaborations. It is also an avenue for bringing in new graduate and postgraduate students.
Women in STEM Morning Tea - Thursday 14 November
The Women in Engineering Committee & The School of Engineering invite you to the Women in STEM Morning Tea. Thursday, 14th November at 10.30am Room G50, 44 Waterloo Road. Please wear enclosed shoes and bring your own mug.
Register by COB Tuesday, 12th November for catering purposes: https://bit.ly/2PPUX6Q
All FSE staff welcome!
High School Work Experience Hosting
Over November 18-22, we will have the opportunity to host several High School Work Experience students from Years 10 and 11 who have expressed interest in Molecular Sciences areas including environmental and analytical chemistry, medicinal chemistry, biochemistry, microbiology and genetics. We are looking for work experience opportunities that might be associated with research laboratories, technical assistant roles, outreach or aspects related to teaching that align with the above interests. These activities will be scheduled in blocks of 3 hours (9am - 12pm and 1 – 4pm). You can request a full day or more but will need to start and end activities with the students at the above times. Please also note that the students must be supervised and they must be working in a safe environment, and induction procedures apply.

If you are interested, please let Joanne know and include:
(a) what your work experience opportunity is likely to be and your preferred day, and
(b) how many students you can accommodate

Registrations are now open for the Macquarie ConocoPhillips Science Experience, 20-22 January, for year 9-11 students – please spread the message to anyone you know might be interested.

The Macquarie ConocoPhillips Science Experience, January 20-22, 2020 is an event that provides an action-packed 3 days of science, technology, engineering and mathematics at Macquarie University that is perfect for students entering years 9, 10 or 11 in 2020. For a taster of the 2020 event, see highlights of the 2019 event.

If you would like to assist with the MQ Science Experience, for example, help with an expo session, workshop or laboratory, or present a talk, or be involved in study/career speed dating, please contact Joanne Jamie.

Head over to NISEP’s crowdfunding page and make a donation to send Indigenous student leaders to the Macquarie Science Experience in January 2020 and/or share this link with others. As a taster on the impact of this event see https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XxB27WZWik
Department Seminar Schedule

**MolSci Weekly Seminar**

**BY CHRISTOPHER RODRIGUES**  
**UNIVERSITY OF TECHNOLOGY SYDNEY**

**NEW BIOLOGY UNDERLYING THE DEVELOPMENT OF BACTERIAL SPORES**

- **When:** 1:00pm, Tuesday  
  12th November 2019  
- **Where:** 4WW(F7B) 322 seminar room  
  Macquarie University Campus  
- **Website:** https://goto.mq/7l

Christopher Rodrigues is a molecular microbiologist interested in bacterial molecular biology and genetics. His research is focused on gene discovery and function and how proteins come together in space and time to organise and regulate the biology of the bacterial cell. His research explores these problems using the developmental process of spore formation.

Christopher obtained his undergraduate degree in 2006 from the University of Minho (Portugal) with Honours in fungal molecular genetics from the University of Amsterdam. He then obtained his PhD at UTS (2007-2011), where his thesis explored the problem of how bacterial cells define the position of the decision site. He then completed his postdoctoral training at the Harvard Medical School (2011-2017), where he developed his expertise in bacterial sporulation. He returned to Australia in 2017 as a Chancellor’s Research Fellow at UTS where he started his laboratory ([rodriguezm.com](http://rodriguezm.com)) focused on multiple aspects of spore development. He is currently a Senior Lecturer and funded by the Australian Research Council.

**Tue 12th November: New Biology Underlying the Development of Bacterial Spores**  
Weekly seminar by Chris Rodrigues, University of Technology Sydney  
(1 - 2pm, 4WW322 seminar room)

**Tue 11th December: TBA**  
Weekly seminar by Professor Keith Gordon, University of Otago  
(1 - 2pm, 4WW322 seminar room)

MolSci seminar program details can be found on our website.

**Staff Update**
Congratulations to former MRes student (completed this year), Rayan Al Omar. She had a baby girl on Sunday October 27. Mother and daughter are both doing well.

Contact Us

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The PDF version of this newsletter is available on Wiki:

Visit us on the web at www.mq.edu.au/molsci
Follow us on Twitter @MQMolSci

Please send any news, announcements or achievements you would like to share with the department to MolSci Reception!