



# CLOE

Centre for Life's Origins and Evolution

NOVEMBER 2021

## CLOE NEWSLETTER

### MESSAGE FROM MAX

It was great to see so many of you attending the CLOE anniversary meeting on 2 Dec. A real shame we did not quite manage to meet in person (so close) but it was a great meeting with three really nice talks. Thanks so much to Sandra, Sergio, Enrique and Emeline for organising and of course to Muslima for all her work to make this a success.

Have a wonderful Christmas break and see you next term.

### RECENT PUBLICATIONS

Hernán Burbano and Sergio Latorre have a paper in Molecular Biology and Evolution entitled '[Multiple sources of introduction of North America Arabidopsis thaliana from across Eurasia.](#)'

Joel Dacks has a paper in Molecular Cell Proteomics entitled '[Proteomic analysis of Trichomonas vaginalis phagolysosome, lysosomal targeting, and unconventional secretion of cysteine peptidases.](#)'

Congratulations to Wenying Shou for her publication '[Steering ecological-evolutionary dynamics to improve artificial selection of microbial communities](#)' in Nature Communications.

### CONGRATULATIONS

Congratulations to Helen Chatterjee for her appointment to [Programme Director for Health Disparities at the Arts & Humanities Research Council](#)

Congratulations to [Florescia Camus](#) who started her own fellowship and group this month. Flo is originally from Australia but came to the UK to complete her degree and PhD at Monash University. She was awarded a Marie Curie Fellowship in 2016 to come to UCL.

### UPCOMING EVENTS

#### 14th Dec

JGM. 10am. Speaker: Fabian Blombach and Ryan Felice.

### Welcome

Laura Piovani has moved from Max Telford's group to the Marletaz group to start as a PostDoc.

Welcome to Sonal who joins Wenying Shou's Group as a PostDoc.

Marion Bonneau joins Kevin Fowler's Group as a PostDoc. We look forward to meeting you all!

### Media

Nick Lane shared his favourite musical pieces on BBCRadio3's [Private Passions](#).

Sean Jordan and Hanadi Rammu have written a [blog post](#) relating to their [recent publication](#) in Nature Communications.

Now as a NERC IRF, she will be working with *Drosophila* to research how metabolic genes can help or hinder species adapting to novel environments.

On 29<sup>th</sup> November Laura Piovani from the Telford lab successfully defended her thesis "*Testing the homology of metazoan larvae using single cell sequencing data.*" Examiners were Prof Steve Wilson (CDB) and Dr Jose M (Chema) Martin Duran from Queen Mary. Very well done to Dr Piovani. We plan a public celebration and talk in the spring.

### LEVERHULME AWARDS

Congratulations to Max Telford, Ziheng Yang and Paschalia Kapli for being awarded Leverhulme funding to work on deuterostomes. Congratulations also to Max Reuter, and Aida Andres for being awarded a Leverhulme grant to study the genetics of sexual antagonism in *Drosophila*.

### JOINT GROUP MEETING

This month's speakers are **Fabian Blombach (Werner group)** with "**The early phase of transcription elongation: eukaryotic elaborations versus archaeal simplicity**" and **Ryan Felice** with '**BRAIN-DRAIN-The Consequences of Encephalization: Testing Trade-offs in Cranial Evolution**'. Please find the zoom details below.

Time: Dec 14, 2021 10:00 AM London

<https://ucl.zoom.us/j/96482063370?pwd=dUIVU3Mxc1AvOUxVb2QvTjIUSHFmQT09>

Meeting ID: 964 8206 3370

Passcode: 193315

### APPLICATIONS FOR JOHN MAYNARD SMITH PRIZE

Each year the European Society for Evolutionary Biology distinguishes an outstanding young evolutionary biologist with the John Maynard Smith Prize.

The prize is open to any field of evolutionary biology. The candidates for the 2022 prize normally must have **begun their PhD study after January 1, 2015**.

The prize winner is expected to attend the next ESEB congress in Prague, Czech Republic, where he or she will deliver the 2022 John Maynard Smith Lecture. The JMS Prize comes with a monetary prize of €2500, the invitation to write a review for the *Journal of Evolutionary Biology*, and the possibility of a Junior Fellowship of 6 months at the Institute of Advanced Study (Wissenschaftskolleg) in Berlin, Germany. For more information on the Institute of Advanced Study see [wiko-berlin.de/en/](http://wiko-berlin.de/en/). The Deadline for application is **Friday the 14<sup>th</sup> January 2022**.

## SHOU LAB SET-UP

Wenyng Shou joined CLOE in April this and has been very busy setting up her lab. Sonal recently joined her group as a PostDoc and Elena Kayayan is currently a project student.



*Top Left.* Arrival (September 2021). *Top Right.* Robot setup (October 2021). *Bottom Left.* The first round of autoclaving (November 2021). Jasmine Ono (Greig lab) demonstrated to Elena how to use the autoclave of in the Thompson lab. A truly collaborative effort! *Bottom Right.* Pouring the first batch of plates (November 2021).

## IN2SCIENCE

In October Hanadi Rammu (Lane group) hosted two secondary school students through the In2science program. Before their visit, Hanadi discussed her work and position as a PhD researcher and the students' prospects for higher education. During their visit, she gave them a tour of the Darwin building and the different equipment she uses. They had the opportunity to run a small experiment themselves and visualise what they had created on the microscope. At the end of the day they met Nick Lane. "Volunteering with In2Science is really fulfilling, worthwhile, and easy to do. I highly recommend everyone gets involved and [registers](#) their interest".

Below are some comments from the two students.

"I can't thank you enough for this experience! I learnt so much and will be boasting about today for the next few months. We got such a realistic insight into UCL and it's definitely going to be my first choice now. Thank you." *Sumaiya (participant)*

"I loved it so much, if only my parents lived in London. I might decide to do a masters' degree there hopefully. Thank you so much once again, it was truly an amazing experience, and having such a nice and easy to speak to mentor made the whole experience way less nerve wrecking then it would've been. I will genuinely never forget any of the things I have learnt today. Thank you so so much!" *Samira (participant)*