



CLOE

Centre for Life's Origins and Evolution

September-October 2021

CLOE NEWSLETTER

MESSAGE FROM MAX

Just a quick reminder to everyone to upload your publications to RPS immediately after formal acceptance. This goes for all members of CLOE and applies even to papers published before arriving. This is essential for our REF performance. Thank you! I look forward to seeing you all at CLOE coffee every Friday at 10.30 in the Darwin Common Room.

RECENT PUBLICATIONS

Chris Thompson's group have two papers. The first is '[Dictyostelium discoideum: an alternative non-animal model for developmental toxicity testing](#)' from Robert Baines in Toxicological Sciences. '[Mutant resources for functional genomics in Dictyostelium discoideum using REMI-seq technology](#)' is in BMC Biology with Balint Stewart, William Salvidge, Robert Baines and Chris Brimson.

Max Reuter has a paper in Genetics Society of America: Genetics entitled '[Sex differences in deleterious mutational effects in Drosophila melanogaster: combining quantitative and population genetic insights](#)'

Nick Lane's group have two papers published. '[Mitonuclear Interactions Produce Diverging Responses to Mild Stress in Drosophila Larvae](#)' from Enrique Rodríguez, Finley Thomas, and Flo Camus and '[Spontaneous assembly of redox-active iron-sulfur clusters at low concentrations of cysteine](#)' by Sean Jordan, Hanadi Rammu and Aaron Halpern.

CONGRATULATIONS

Congratulations to Max Reuter who is the new Editor-in-Chief at the [Journal of Evolutionary Biology](#)

Congratulations to [Julia Day](#) who is now Professor of Zoology.

CLOE QUARTERLY SYMPOSIUM

Thank you to Hernán Burbano for organising an excellent symposium. Many thanks to the speakers [Sandy Hetherington](#), [Sebastian Schornack](#) and [Talia Karasov](#) for taking the time to share their work and for the great discussions which followed. The recordings can be watched on the CLOE website.

UPCOMING EVENTS

2nd Nov

Joint Group Meeting. 10AM

17th Nov

[GEE Seminar](#) Prof Michael Russell, University of Turin. Talk Title: 'Order from Order: How Life Emerged from a Convection-driven Submarine Spring'. 12PM

Welcome

Welcome back to all our students new and old! It is great to see everyone in labs again and we are excited to welcome all the new project and masters' students

Goodbye

We say goodbye to Lara Meade, who has been at CLOE for eight years. Robert Baines is leaving CLOE to join a biotech start-up. We wish you both all the best for your new roles!

Media

Nick Lane features in a new BBC World Service called '[A Geochemical History of Life on Earth](#)'

JOINT GROUP MEETING

Speaker 1: Jiayi Ji. 'Significant cross-species gene flow in the *Tamias quadrivittatus* group of North American chipmunks'

Speaker 2: Eyal Privman (Institute of Evolution, University of Haifa). 'Social supergenes'

VISITING [PROF PEDRO MARTINEZ SERRA'S PROJECT WITH PAOLA OLIVERI](#)

Pedro is based at Barcelona University where his group looks at regeneration of animal tissues focusing on Acoel flatworms. He joined CLOE for a month-long project to identify and track the expression of genes related to stem cells.



"In the laboratory of Prof. Paola Oliveri, and with the help of Dr. Ferdinand Marletaz, I identified the homologues of those genes, followed their expression during regeneration and finally generated primers for in situ expression analysis. The analysis required extensive use of the genome and different profiling tools. I couldn't have done this without the input provided by Oliveri's laboratory, which pre-processed a large portion of the expression data during regeneration. The results ended up being particularly compelling and will be used in the ongoing preparation of the genome paper."

The project was supported by EU COST Program "Maristem," a consortium of labs interested in the characterization of aquatic/marine stem cell-like cells. This is a large consortium directed by the University of Padova and provides funds for inter-institution research visits.

NOTICES FROM CHRIS THOMPSON

There are many [training programmes](#) and [career development opportunities](#) for Post Docs and Technicians. These are mandatory and should be flagged by staff and supervisors during appraisal. Supervisors will support anyone applying for these opportunities and will allow them the time to complete them.

Staff should be aware that there is an online tool ([Report and Support](#)) for reporting bullying, harassment and sexual misconduct. We are constantly working to improve Report and Support, so if anyone has any comments regarding Report and Support, please forward to [lone Karney](#) by 16 Dec.

CLOE staff should highlight to colleagues an amazing opportunity for new fellowships in GEE, aimed at increasing the number of academics from underrepresented groups. UCL's Excellence Fellowship Programme seeks to recruit the highest calibre early career researchers from across the globe, supporting **clinical or non-clinical** researchers to develop an outstanding and innovative research programme and to establish their independent research careers.

The support for this round of fellowships comes from UCL's Eugenics Restitution fund. We aim to appoint two Excellence Fellows to address the current underrepresentation of groups targeted by Eugenics. The Fellowships will support applicants who have experienced hardship or been disadvantaged in the pursuit of their education and early research career. We therefore particularly welcome applications from the BAME (Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic) community and those with disabilities.

Within GEE applications are particularly welcome from candidates using genetics to address questions in ageing and age-related disease; the origin of life, major transitions, the early diversification of eukaryotic life; the evolution of eukaryotic development and cell types; theoretical evolutionary modelling; computational approaches applied to big data; microbiology and disease ecology/evolution; cross-disciplinary applied and translational ecology; community or behavioural ecology (especially relating to plants, insects and/or microbes) or other disciplines in the department.

A TRIP AROUND EUROPE



Enrique Rodriguez and Stefano Bettinazzi (Lane group) went on a trip through Europe to retrieve an Oroboros O2k Fluorescence Respirometer after a failed delivery left the group with a lost piece of equipment. The journey started with a flight to Verona, Italy and a stay with Stefano's parents. A train ride into Innsbruck, Austria ended with the successful collection of the Fluorescence Respirometer

and a meeting with the Oroboros CEO, Erich Gnaiger. A couple more trains from Innsbruck to Paris via Zurich and then a Eurostar to London completed the collection.

CLOE COFFEE MORNING



CLOE held its first coffee morning in October. It was great to see everyone in person and we hope many more of you will join us in Darwin Common room every Friday 10:30-11:30am. Please drop in even if you cannot stay for whole hour.



Max Telford, Casey Dearbhaile and Laura Piovani at the Marine Models in Evolution and Development programme in Kristineberg, Sweden.