

July- September
2021

Congratulations

Linda Partridge has been awarded the 2021 Mendel Medal. She will be presented with the award on the 14th of October and will be giving the headlining talk. Linda is an inspiration to the IHA and beyond! Registration details for the event are below.

Congratulations to Lazaros Foukas who is now Associate Professor and to Karoline Kuchenbaecker who has been made a Professor of Genetic Epidemiology.

We are delighted that John Labbadia has been awarded the [proleptic appointment](#) in GEE.

St John Townsend (Bähler Lab) has successfully completed his PhD Viva. He is now working as a Post-Doc in Berlin at the Charité - Universitätsmedizin.

Congratulations to Lucy Wang (Gems Lab) who completed her Masters in Genetics of Human Disease. We wish her all the best for the future.

Farewell

We said goodbye to Maria Rodriguez-Lopez after eight years in Jürg Bähler's group. Maria is now at The Francis Crick Institute.

IHA NEWSLETTER

From Jürg & David

It's time already for our 2nd Newsletter. Where did that summer go?! But as you can see, there's plenty to celebrate. And we are looking forward to more people returning to the labs, making IHA again such a lively and interactive place. A particular welcome to all the new and numerous students starting different projects in the new term.

Publications

Yahyah Aman, John Labbadia, Linda Partridge, and Ivana Bjedov have a review published in *Nature Aging* on "[Autophagy in Healthy aging and disease](#)"

David Gems and Carina Kern have a piece in *Frontiers in Cell and Developmental Biology*, '[Reproductive suicide: Similar mechanisms of aging in *C. elegans* and Pacific salmon.](#)'

David Gems has a review entitled '[The hoverfly and the wasp: A critique of the hallmarks of aging as a paradigm.](#)' in *Ageing Research Reviews*.

Jürg Bähler, Quentin Saintain and Maria Lopez have published the paper "[R-loops and regulatory changes in chronologically ageing fission yeast cells drive non-random patterns of genome rearrangements.](#)" in *PLOS Genetics*.

Nature Communications has joint paper from the Bähler and Gems groups '[C. elegans feed yolk to their young in a form of primitive lactation](#)'.

New IHA Associates

We are very happy to welcome Barbara Conradt, Daniel Davies, Ivan Gout, Glen Jeffery, and Frances Wiseman as new IHA Associates.

LEARN

The London Evolutionary Research Network (LERN) is a pan-institutional network that showcases the calibre and breadth of evolutionary research carried out by university students and early career researchers at London institutions through the running of monthly seminar series, workshops, talk sessions and social events. This year Carina Kern, President, from the Gems lab successfully received funding from the UCL Doctoral School and GEE to run events. Other IHA committee members include Aihan Zhang, Sara Javidnia, and Rhianna Williams. Recent talks involving the IHA have included a Laboratory Efficiency Assessment Framework (LEAF)-LERN collaborative seminar on sustainability in science, and a talk by Bruce Zhang on parasitic worms in alleviating inflammation.

In2Science Students Visit

[In2scienceUK](#) aims to provide young people from low-income and disadvantaged backgrounds an opportunity to gain practical insight into the STEM sector as well as the knowledge and confidence to progress to

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.

Upcoming Events

14th October 4pm

[Genetics Society 2021 Awards Ceremony](#). Linda Partridge will be awarded the Mendel Medal and present the Mendel Prize talk.

14th October 4pm

[Neurodegeneration in Flies Virtual Symposium, Prof Mani Ramaswami](#). Neuronal RNP granules and Ataxin-2: their roles in neural function and disease.

university. Each year nearly 500 students get the opportunity to take part in life-changing STEM placements, working alongside researchers and industry professionals to get hands-on STEM experience over the summer.

Nathan Woodling mentors a group of three pre-A Level school students as part of the In2Science programme. The [students visited the IHA](#) for one day experiencing the Fly labs in person. They started the day with discussions around the research undertaken at the IHA with a focus on the fly labs in which Nathan works. This was followed by a lab tour and some hands-on experience in the fly labs.

Art at the IHA

Many thanks to Maria and Sara for donating artwork to the IHA. Their pieces will be on display in the IHA meeting room soon.



Artwork by Maria Rodriguez-Lopez



Artwork by Sara Javidnia

Funding

Yahyah Aman (Labbadia group) received ARUK pump-priming funds to perform pilot studies into the relationship between MTCH-1/MTCH2 levels and susceptibility to neuronal dysfunction in *C. elegans* models of Alzheimer's Disease (AD). In collaboration with Prof. Kostas Thalassinos (ISMB), Yahyah will use mass-spectrometry based proteomics to determine whether reduced MTCH-1/MTCH2 levels increase AD susceptibility by promoting protein mislocalisation and aggregation and, if so, to identify the specific proteins that are at risk.

John Labbadia, Teresa Niccoli, Nathan Woodling and Kerri Kinghorn all secured Wellcome Trust awards to help young researchers after the pandemic. The award is called "[Welcome Restarting Research](#)". The IHA gained four of twenty-five potential awards offered throughout the whole of UCL!

Other News

The joint paper from the Gems and Bähler group in *Nature Communications* (above) has received wide press coverage, including [Mail Online](#), [Independent](#), [Evening Standard](#), [Metro](#), [Sky News](#), [Belfast Telegraph](#), [Yahoo! News](#), [IFLScience](#), [Sveriges Radio \(Sweden\)](#), [Infobae \(Argentina\)](#). Coverage is focusing on the discovery of the 'unique self-destructive process' and the potential implications for efforts to slow the human ageing process.

In July Carina Kern gave an external talk at the Escuela Nacional de Ciencias Biológicas del Instituto Politécnico Nacional (ENCB-IPN), Mexico.

In July David Gems spoke at a meeting of the Scottish Ecological Ageing Research Group, and in September, Kuei Ching Hsiung from the Gems lab presented a poster about autophagy and ageing in *C. elegans* at the Joint Biochemical Society & British Society for Research on Ageing Online Conference: Metabolism of Ageing. There is an item on [The Sheekey Science Show](#) about a Gems group article.



Congratulations to John on completing his PhD



The Alic lab found one last day of sunshine for a picnic in Gordon Square