The first COMPARE on-line ECR GPCR Symposium took place over two afternoons on Tuesday 19th and Wednesday 20th May 2020. Due to COVID19 the meeting was hosted on Teams, which proved a successful platform for the majority of delegates.

We would like to thank the event speakers (listed below) for agreeing to participate and for providing excellent talks and slides, which sparked some very interesting questions from the audience;

**Day One**
- Aurelien Rizk, InterAx Biotech
- Raphael Haider, Uni of Jena
- Shannon O’Brien, Uni of Birmingham
- Brad Hoare, Uni of Nottingham
- Reggie Bosma, Vrije University

**Day two**
- Matthew Harris, Uni of Cambridge
- Liz Rosethorne, Uni of Nottingham
- Miriam Scarpa, Uni of Glasgow
- David Favara, Uni of Cambridge
- Simone Prömel, Uni of Leipzig
- Ines Liebcher, Uni of Leipzig

Registrations were received from over 200 delegates across 20 countries, which was an amazing response considering the short time the symposium was advertised following lock-down.

**Date for next meeting**

Following the success of this meeting and positive feedback, it has been agreed that COMPARE ECRs will host a follow up meeting in **September 2020**. If you would like to register your interest in attending or presenting your research to the GPCR community, please contact Mark Soave (mark.soave@nottingham.ac.uk) or Laura Kilpatrick (laura.kilpatrick@nottingham.ac.uk).

The date and registration details will be advertised in due course.

**IN PARTNERSHIP:**
The Universities of Birmingham and Nottingham
Research Posters were held in break-out rooms where delegates could contact the presenters and discuss findings and research.

Posters were submitted by the following ECRs;

**Ross Cheloha, Boston Children’s Hospital**
Nanobody tethering provides improved GPCR ligands

**Laura Figuerola, Instituto de Química Medica**
Evaluation of LFA261A as a biased allosteric modulator for the orphan G protein-coupled receptor GPR55

**Amod Godbole, University Hospital Jena**
Dynamic adenosine receptor conformations deferentially influence residence time for agonists and subsequent G-protein activation and signalling

**Maria Angeles Jimenez Sigstad, University of Nottingham**
Using alanine scanning data from V2R and CB2R to predict biased signalling with Random Forest Classifier

**Clare Harwood, University of Nottingham**
Solubilisation of the functional β2-adrenoceptor in the polymer Diisobutylenemaleic acid (DIBMA)

**Eline Koers, University of Nottingham**
Chaperone-mediated folding of GPCRs in health and disease

**Desi Nesheva, University of Nottingham**
Examining the mechanism of action of small molecule modulators of the human CXCR2 receptor using Split Luciferase Complementation and TR FRET methods

**David Sykes, University of Nottingham**
Development of novel TR-FRET-based adenosine A2A binding assays using the polymers SMA and DIBMA

**Abigail Walker, Imperial College London**
Reprogramming prostaglandin EP2 signalling in the pregnant human myometrium from an anti- to a pro-labour receptor via crosstalk with the oxytocin receptor

**Edward Wragg, University of Nottingham & Birmingham**
Investigating Colocalisation Between VEGFR2 and Adenosine A2 Receptors Using NanoBRET Saturation Assays

Feedback from poster presenters on the new virtual platform;

**Edward Wragg, University of Nottingham & Birmingham**
The virtual poster session gave me a unique opportunity to discuss my work with researchers from across the world, both via messages in my poster chat room, and face-to-face via video call. I received some thought-provoking questions and feedback on my poster, and this has helped me plan the next set of experiments that I will undertake in the lab. I enjoyed this virtual session, and I look forward to partaking in more of them in the future.

**Laura Figuerola, Instituto de Química Medica**
I am a PhD student and the COMPARE conference gave me the opportunity to present my research as a poster. I am very grateful to the organization. The virtual poster presentation was a great idea since experts in the field could chat with you and brought new debates. A channel section for each poster was a good experience even though I got some small home internet connection troubles. I would definitively participate to virtual conferences of such high scientific level again.

**Maria Angeles Jimenez Sigstad, University of Nottingham**
I took it as a challenge to show most of the work that I’ve done at Dmitry Veprintsev’s group while I was finishing my degree in MSci in Neuroscience. I would have liked to have given a 10 minute summary of my poster to explain my work during the main presentations. The online set up of different chat rooms is a hard-to-follow procedure for new remote workers, which restricts the number of people that can access the posters. I have to say that combining Machine Learning tools with Molecular Neuroscience is hard to grasp, but I hope people were able to get a short overview of what was done. My take-home-message is poster sessions should have been included in the main transmission, and not individually because sometimes we don’t know we might be interested in one topic unless we are being targeted with it.
Thank you to all the delegates that have provided feedback and suggestions, this will help us to formulate plans for future events. We have received some very positive comments and helpful suggestions:

**The talks were great.**
Being online allowed people from all over the world to attend without the expenditure and carbon emissions.

**It has been well organized and the talks have been great.**
You can talk to presenters on private rooms.

**The format worked really well, and it was a thoroughly enjoyable meeting.**
Length of talks was just right.

**Organisation was great!**
MS Teams worked quite well. Viewing the schedule during the meeting, would be good.

**Scientific interaction at a time when travel and social distancing is in place. Excellent science.**

**It was great to get introduced to so many different new aspects of GPCR signalling.**

**Excellent talks on a range of aspects of GPCR biology.**
It was great to feel connected to the wider GPCR.

**New research findings in understanding GPCR’s**

**Talks on Family B GPCRs and adhesion GPCRs**

**BRET and arrestin and RAMP and GIPR talks.**

**The two half day option made it easy to fit the meeting into a regular working schedule. Great to have students come and attend as well.**

**A fascinating idea; a very good new platform for discussing novel GPCR research; great organisation**

**Two half days every 3-4 months might be a good option to allow PhD Students and Post Docs to present**

**I thought the use of a channel for each speaker and poster presenter was great and provided an opportunity for some**

**Perhaps a way to add open discussion channels for particular topics**

**Thanks to the organisational team for putting this one together. It was great be able to be apart of a symposium**

**Great talks, good quality speakers. Brilliant scientific content. Interesting topics on GPCR**

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Thank you and best wishes to Dr Laura Kilpatrick, who will formally become a member the School of Pharmacy at the University of Nottingham from the 1st June on an Anne McLaren/Nottingham Research Fellowship. Laura has been an important member of Cell Signalling and COMPARE for the last ten years as research assistant, BPS A J Clark PhD Student and Postdoc.

The fellowship provides Laura with three years of independent funding and is linked to a permanent academic position in the School of Pharmacy. Laura will remain an important member of COMPARE as Associate PI and will now be eligible to be a full academic supervisor for our Wellcome Trust Four-Year PhD programme on Drug Discovery and Team Science and for ONCORNET2.0. Laura will continue to use the Cell Signalling laboratories and so we hope she will be around to troubleshoot our experimental problems for a long time to come!