

COMPARE

CENTRE OF MEMBRANE PROTEINS AND RECEPTORS

Newsletter

Edition 8, June 2018

Team Science Away Day—18th May 2018 by Leigh Stoddart

The COMPARE Team Science Away Day was held at the Old Ikon Gallery in Digbeth, Birmingham. The event was attended by over 40 early career researchers and technicians from COMPARE, in equal numbers from Birmingham and Nottingham. Abdullah Khan and Carl White began with a short presentation on their Team Science-funded grant, which was followed by a great talk by Prof Jason Swedlow (University of Dundee) on collaboration amongst imaging scientists.

The interactive part of the day started with a speed networking exercise, which helped to break the ice, as members had a limited time to find out an interesting fact about their partner before moving on to the next person. Delegates were placed into teams and tasked with creating a grant proposal in 30 minutes, utilising all team members and their respective skills. This 'speed grant writing' session was highly enjoyed by the delegates and we ended up with six fantastic proposals. These ranged from an outreach programme of science videos to the all-singing-all-dancing proposal for optogenetic CXCR4 receptors to be CRISPRed into cells (and then *in vivo*) and imaged with light-sheet microscopy. This activity really highlighted the breadth of expertise we have within COMPARE, and hopefully will get the wheels of ECR/technician collaborations turning.

In the afternoon, the second topic discussed authorship. We were thrilled to have Elizabeth Moylan from COPE, and Christine Mieck from Nature Communications, who gave very interesting talks on what it means to be an author. This progressed into a lively panel discussion on potential authorship issues, chaired by Dean Kavanagh, and featured Jason Swedlow, speakers from COPE and Nature Communications, Tim Self and Steve Watson. Delegates were then split into different groups again and were tasked with critiquing a different guideline to authorship, ranging from the NIH and ICMJE guidelines, to guidelines offered by the Universities of Birmingham and Manchester. Responses from these groups was gathered and over the coming months we will collate these into a COMPARE specific guideline on authorship which will be in keeping with the Team Science approach.

Grant Success

Professor Mark Wheatley, University of Birmingham, has been awarded a BBSRC-Industrial Partner Award (£612,412), together with Professor David Poyner (Aston Uni) and Professor Tim Dafforn (UoB), in collaboration with the global Pharma company UCB entitled "*Investigating GPCR-RAMP interactions using nanobodies*".

COMPARE Vacancies

Applications are invited for a **Professor of Cell Biology of Membrane Receptors** to the Centre of Membrane Proteins and Receptors (COMPARE) at the **University of Birmingham**, to provide leadership in cellular and molecular receptor research. Applicants should have a background in imaging approaches to study cell surface receptor activation and signaling in the fields of tyrosine kinase-linked receptors (including regulation of Src and Syk kinases) or G protein-coupled receptors. Applicants who have a track record of active engagement with the physical and computational sciences to develop new methodologies are strongly encouraged especially in probe development, nanoscience, image analysis, and machine learning. The major biological areas of focus in COMPARE are cardiovascular, metabolism and inflammation / immunology.

Further details and applications can be made through the University of Birmingham's vacancies page <https://www.birmingham.ac.uk/staff/jobs/index.aspx>. **Closing date 28th June 2018.**

Key Dates

Seminar—Alejandra Tomas
"Targeting receptor trafficking to improve beta cell function"
4th July 2018 15:00-16:00
IBR Seminar Room
University of Birmingham

Annual Research Symposium
Birmingham Hotel & Conference Centre
28th September 2018

Sandpit Event, Birmingham
"Gene editing and stem cell approaches in the study of membrane proteins"
26th October 2018 14:00-17:00
IBR Seminar Room
University of Birmingham

Welcome PhD Student Event
1st & 2nd November 2018
University of Birmingham and University of Nottingham
Details to follow

birmingham-nottingham.ac.uk/compare



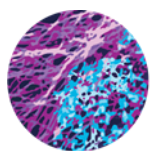
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compare@birmingham-nottingham.ac.uk

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COMPARE Dual PhD Studentships

Interviews have now been completed for the COMPARE dual PhD Studentships and offers are being processed. The successful candidates and their PIs are shown in the table below. Hopefully you will get the chance to meet the successful candidates at the Annual Research Symposium in September and during the course of their three year study in both institutions.

PI Birmingham	PI Nottingham	Nottm or Bham lead	Project Title	Candidate Name
Steve Thomas, Rob Neely	Steve Briddon	B	Investigating the role of actin dynamics on receptor clustering and oligomerisation	Evelyn Garlick
Davide Calebiro, Iain Styles	Steve Hill	B	Single-molecule analysis of protein-protein interactions in GPCR clustering and internalization	Jak Grimes
Natalie Poulter, Neil Morgan	Jonas Emsley	B	An integrated light microscopy and structural biology approach to studying receptor clustering of GPIb in Bernard Soulier Syndrome	Jack Yule
Neena Kalia	Jeanette Woolard	N	In vivo cardiovascular haemodynamic consequences of adenosine A2AVEGFR2 protein-protein interactions and their implications for combined cancer treatments.	Edward Wragg
Steve Watson	Barrie Kellam	N	Development and Application of fluorescent ligands for GPVI	Foteini (Fay) Damaskinaki
Iain Styles	Dmitry Veprintsev	N	Molecular basis for hetero-oligomerisation of CB2 and CCR5 receptors	Palash Jain

Congratulations

Congratulations to Palash Jain, who has been awarded the Vice Chancellor's Scholarship from the University of Nottingham.

Palash will be joining the COMPARE Team on the 1st October 2018 as a Dual PhD Student working with Professor Dmitry Veprintsev, University of Nottingham and Dr Iain Styles, University of Birmingham on Molecular basis for hetero-oligomerisation of CB2 and CCR5 receptors.

Team Science Committee 2018-2019

Nominations are now being invited for the Team Science Committee 2018-2019, closing date 15th June.

The Team Science Committee plan, organise and run the Annual Away Day and other agreed events e.g. seminars and events to link to the COMPARE Annual Research Symposium.

Committee membership will commence from 1st October 2018 to 30th September 2019. Meetings are held quarterly, alternating between Birmingham and Nottingham and using Skype where needed. It is a great way to be involved in COMPARE and meet colleagues from our partner University. If you are interesting in joining the committee or to find out more information, please email compare@birmingham-nottingham.ac.uk, with an expression of interest (max 200 words).

COMPARE Publications

Latest publications with COMPARE affiliation or by COMPARE PIs

Benninger RKP and Hodson DJ, (2018). New understanding of beta cell heterogeneity and in-situ islet function. *Diabetes*. 67:537-547
Hall SC, Tognoloni C, Charlton J, Bragginton EC, Rothnie AJ, Sridhar P, Wheatley M, Knowles TJ, Arnold T, Edler KJ, Dafforn TR, (2018). An Acid-Compatible Co-Polymer For the Solubilization of Membranes and Proteins Into Lipid Bilayer-Containing Nanoparticles. *Nanoscale* (in press).

We would like to celebrate our successful publications via the newsletter and the COMPARE website. Please email compare@birmingham-nottingham.ac.uk with the references of published papers.

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