

## Newsletter

Edition 9, July 2018

### CNPEM Visit

Prof Steve Watson (co-Director) and Prof Dmitry Veprintsev (COMPARE Chair) led a visit from COMPARE to The National Center for Research in Energy and Materials (CNPEM) in Campinas on 25–26<sup>th</sup> June, 2018. The visit consisted of scientific discussions, touring of facilities and participation in the opening of the new Cryo-EM building by the Minister of Science, Technology, Innovation and Communication, Gilberto Kassab (the visit from COMPARE was mentioned in the speeches). The visit was hosted by Professor Kleber Franchini, Director of the Brazilian Bioscience National Laboratory and provided a forum for a discussion of collaborative programmes of work, and will be followed by returns from members of Professor Watson and Veprintsev laboratories for screening of natural products on and structural studies using the fourth generation synchrotron (Sirius) and Cryo-EM facilities.

COMPARE visitors with Prof Franchini, the Minister and the Scientific Director of FAPESP (Sao Paulo Research Foundation):



#### From left to right

Dmitry Veprintsev, COMPARE Chair  
Eleya Martin, COMPARE Post-doc  
Gilberto Kassab, Minister of Science, Technology, Innovation & Communication  
Steve Watson, Co-Director of COMPARE  
Alex Slater, COMPARE Post Doc  
Carlos de Brito Cruz, Scientific Director, FAPESP  
Yi Sun, COMPARE Fellow  
Kleber Franchini, Director of the Brazilian Bioscience National Laboratory

### Vice Chancellors Medal

Congratulations to Steve Hill, who has been awarded the Vice-Chancellor's Medal. Only a small number of Vice-Chancellors Medals are presented each year, making this a very special and well deserved award.

### COMPARE Annual Research Symposium Registration

The COMPARE Annual Research Symposium 2018 will take place at the new Edgbaston Park Hotel and Conference Centre at the University of Birmingham on the 28th September 2018.

The Symposium will commence at 09:30 am with a welcome by Steve Watson. Guest Speakers include Robert Insall from Glasgow University, with a presentation entitled "Cells steering themselves - how cells use self-generated gradients to spread out and probe the environment" and Kurt Ballmer-Hoffer, Paul Scherrer Institute, "How protein structures teach us novel tricks to block angiogenic signalling by vascular endothelial growth factors". There will also be presentations from COMPARE colleagues.

Please register your attendance asap on the link below.

Registration <https://compare-annual-2018.eventbrite.com>

There will be two poster and networking sessions. Abstracts should be submitted as a Word document to [compare@birmingham-nottingham.ac.uk](mailto:compare@birmingham-nottingham.ac.uk) by Friday 24th August 2018. Further details on abstract format and submitting your abstract will be sent to you following registration.

### Key Dates

#### Annual Research Symposium

Edgbaston Park Hotel and Conference Centre,  
University of Birmingham  
28th September 2018  
<https://compare-annual-2018.eventbrite.com>

#### Sandpit Event, Birmingham

*"Investigating receptor dynamics by single-molecule microscopy"* 26th October 2018  
13:30-17:30  
IBR Seminar Room  
University of Birmingham

#### Welcome PhD Student Event

1st & 2nd November 2018  
University of Birmingham and University of Nottingham  
*Details to follow*

#### Sandpit Event, Nottingham

*"Gene editing and stem cell approaches in the study of membrane proteins"*  
23rd January 2019 14:00-17:00  
University of Nottingham (room location to be confirmed)

[birmingham-nottingham.ac.uk/compare](http://birmingham-nottingham.ac.uk/compare)



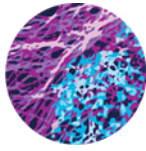
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If you have any items for the next newsletter please send to:

[compare@birmingham-nottingham.ac.uk](mailto:compare@birmingham-nottingham.ac.uk)

### IN PARTNERSHIP:

The Universities of Birmingham and Nottingham



# COMPARE

CENTRE OF MEMBRANE PROTEINS AND RECEPTORS

## Congratulations

**Dee Kavanagh, University of Birmingham**, has been selected to attend and present at the EMBO light-Sheet course in Dresden. Only 16 places were available and over 80 applied, so it is a great achievement for Dee's project to be accepted.

**Birgit Caspar, University of Nottingham** was the runner up in the IUPHAR 2018 Young Investigator Award In Japan. Birgit competed against a shortlist of eleven finalists at the World Congress of Pharmacology meeting in Kyoto. The competition was open to postgraduates and PostDocs and judged at a special symposium session. She was only beaten by a very senior PostDoc from the USA.



## Team Science Committee 2018-2019

The new Team Science Committee from October 2018 will be as follows;

Chair            Mark Soave, University of Nottingham  
Committee     University of Birmingham; Connie Koo, Amanda Dalby, Jack Yule  
                      University of Nottingham; Desislava Nesheva, Chloe Peach, Leigh Stoddart, Joëlle Goulding

The first meeting of the new Committee will take place in October 2018 and news and events will follow.

## The Royal Microscopical Summer Student

Owen Underwood is one of the Royal Microscopical Summer Students, spending 6-8 weeks working within the Nottingham Cell Signalling COMPARE labs. Owen has just finished his second year on the Biochemistry and Molecular Medicine undergraduate course at the University of Nottingham and will be jointly supervised by Dr Joëlle Goulding and Dr Carl White on a project entitled '*Enhancing the sensitivity of imaging single cell NanoBRET ligand binding using the novel redshifted nanoluciferase TeLuc*'. Owen will use population based live cell assays and bioluminescent imaging on the Olympus LV200 to compare nanoluciferase to the more recently developed teal-nanoluciferase for the application of ligand based NanoBRET. The Royal Microscopical Society Summer Studentships is a competitive scheme offering six studentships per year split between the physical, biological sciences and interdisciplinary projects.



<https://www.rms.org.uk/study-read/summer-studentships.html>

## Imaging Scientists

UKBioImaging have launched a new website highlighting the imaging scientist and their contribution to scientific research. The site comprises a number of videos and interviews with imaging scientists from around the UK and COMPARE and Team Science is very prominent in them. Details can be found at: <http://www.imagingscientist.com/> #imagingscientist

Laura Kilpatrick, Chloe Peach and Carl White from the University of Nottingham were interviewed, in collaboration with BMG Labtech, about their work within COMPARE. They talk about Cancer Research and how they use Microplate Readers PHERAstar and CLARIOstar to support their work in BRET studies, such as looking at ligand binding kinetics. <https://www.bmglabtech.com/pherastar-clariostar-review-university-nottingham/>

## COMPARE Publications

### Latest publications with COMPARE affiliation or by COMPARE PIs:

Geer MJ, van Geffen JP, Gopalasingam P, Vögtle T, Smith C, Heising S, Kuijpers MJE, Tullemans BME, Jarvis GE, Jeeves M, Overduin M, Heemskerk JWM, Mazharian A, Senis YA, (2018). Uncoupling of the ITIM receptor G6b-B from the tyrosine phosphatases Shp1 and Shp2 disrupts platelet homeostasis in mice. *Blood*. doi: 10.1182/blood-2017-10-802975. [Epub ahead of print]

Hofmann I, Geer MJ, Vögtle T, Crispin A, Campagna DR, Barr A, Calicchio ML, Heising S, van Geffen JP, Kuijper MJE, Heemskerk JWM, Schmitz-Abe K, Obeng EA, Douglas M, Freson K, Pondarré C, Favier R, Markianos K, Turro E, Ouwehand WH, Mazharian A, Fleming MD, Senis YA, (2018). Congenital macrothrombocytopenia with focal myelofibrosis due to mutations in human G6b-B is rescued in humanized mice. *Blood*. doi: 10.1182/blood-2017-08-802769. [Epub ahead of print]

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

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