



NANODRUG

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newsletter

Issue 7—November 2013



THE LAB FASHION WEEK AT QMUL



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My first days in London.

A few weeks ago I left my country (Spain) to start my next science step as an Experienced Researcher at Queen Mary, University of London, for the NANODRUG project. From the beginning I knew that it would be great to come here, to join Prof. Marina Resmini research group and working in a multidisciplinary network. After my first contact with multicultural London city, I observed that here everyone is welcomed, and that is an amazing feeling. I had a lot to deal with: looking for accommodation, deal with the administrative work regarding my contract, organise my research Project, contact the national insurance services, the doctor surgery, meet my new neighbours and my new flat and labmates. Basically I was go on board for all that and I feel really happy about it. Beautiful experiences are waiting for me here and I am looking forward to live them.



Biarritz, oh la la! My lovely first contact with the Nanodrug family

I had the chance to participate actively in the 2nd NANODRUG meetings and summer school in Biarritz, France, where I could meet all the NANODRUG scientists and hear about all sciences advances and future perspectives inside skin drug



release new nanomaterials. I was amazed for the nice, friendly, cozy and active people even more desiring to move forward in the science life.





Le Domaine de Françon hosted us during the meeting days. It is a peculiar residence located in Biarritz, also a holidays vacations village, within this beautiful region of the Basque Country. Between the ocean at 1.5 km, the village centre located at 3 km and the mountains, this ancient mansion was restored with Anglo-Norman style and is surrounded in a park of 12 hectares and more than 50 species of plants.

From early morning, bakery and smell of coffee woke up us with energy for the firsts sessions. On

Monday and Tuesday, PhD students presented their scientific results. Guest lecturers from Germany and USA gave an idea of how the results are taking part in real skin disorders applications.



Later on, Prof. Marina Resmini explained the training activities of this Second Summer School programme. The purpose of it was to understand from inside, a correction procedure of a real european proposed project. Forming teams, we could meet other network participants (Chebana) and researchers, where we worked together, sharing our different opinions and arguing about the proposed pro-

jects, all basically depending on our science background. It was a beautiful experience, not just for learning more about how subjective can be an examiner panel, also for working with the other network, setting up new contacts and of course discovering new friends.

On Wednesday, we had the European Commission Research Executive Agency visit. It was a bit stressful for all of us, due to the need to show them the science advances on the Project, currently working people and new recruitments (including me and Sara Bozo, the two newly recruited experience researchers in both QMUL and Sanofi). After each ESRs and ERs presentations describing their background, research project and showing amazing results since the start of the Project two years ago, the EC representatives were happy with the work progress of the project. Of course, after the meeting, we celebrated the great coordination and research work with special pink champagne. *CHEERS NANODRUG! WELL DONE!*

Thursday and Friday were more relaxing days. Prof. Resmini transferred us basic and useful tools about how to apply for a MSCA Fellowship (good key points to take in account if you want to achieve your objective and get a individual fellowship). There are few people who could explain us the tricky points, so, many thank to Marina, it is so important for all of us! In the afternoon, we had a lovely bus excursion and we visited two different towns, belong to Basque country, close to France-Spain border. The beauty of that region fascinated us. One of the most popular thing in that region are the red peppers, being dried by following ancient tradition procedu-



re, hanging on the houses walls (by 20 peppers each group exactly). Chocolate shops took profit of this spicity and they incorporated it in several kind of sweets (ummm, delicious by the way).

The most impressive area of Saint-Jacques gave the welcome to the pilgrims from everywhere in the Santiago's way (a typical spanish path that everyone should do it at least once on life, for the meditation





as well....awesome path, I strongly recomend it to you even I still want to do it). On the main street, it was posible to find colorfull typical shoes all around (“espadrille Artisanale”).

Finishing the outing, the guide tourist surprised us with a typical basque song (pretty sounds from the Pyrenees) in the way back to the residence and to complete that day, a basque dinner was ready.

great NANODRUG family. Thank you so much for that cozy welcome to the network...more adventures together are waiting for us next time in Coimbra, just looking forward to see you all there! Of course, my sincerely acknowledgements to Prof. Marina Resmini for giving me the chance to participate in this promising project as a new postdoc in Queen Mary University London.



The meeting was going to its ending, and after the whole night with our respective work team, we had our open discussion about the projects (Nontox-nano, Nascent and Chebana). It was a good training for us and also people realized how difficult can be becoming committee panel.

Lovely memories are packed on my mind now, because of good scientific results, great experience lived and new good friends that I found. Therefore, that was my first experience as a new member of the

Yplanda

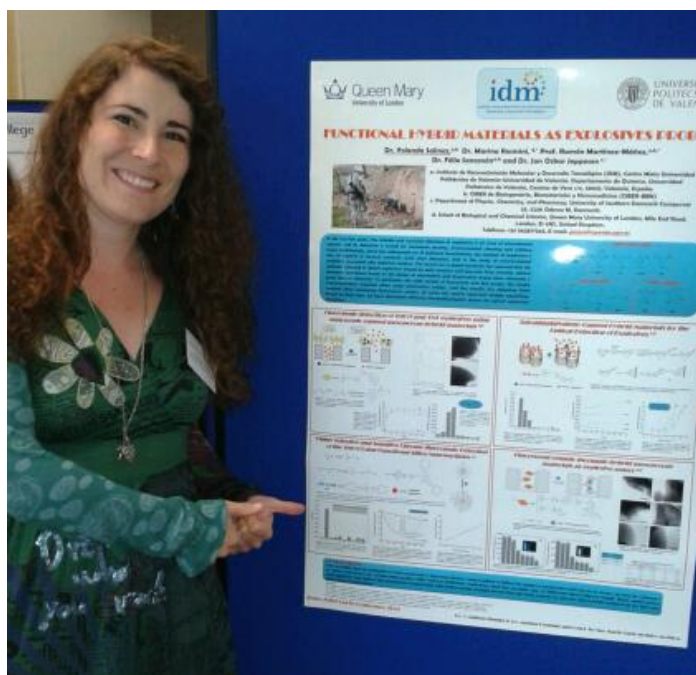




Just after the meeting in Biarritz, I presented my research results in a poster communication at The “Irène-Joliot Curie Conference 2013, Establishing an Independent Career in Chemistry”.

The conference was hosted at Imperial College London on 11th and 12th September 2013. This event stood out the importance of women inside the science. Never before that nowadays, women had the support of the whole science community, after many years of repression behind the man position. From my point of view, an huge step in our society. We had the great experience of meeting with the first president woman of the Royal Society of Chemistry, For the first time in my short life, someone talked to me with the sunshine on her eyes looking at the women as a powerful tool we are within the science.

Between all the conferences, I showed my before PhD results (as in my postdoc position I just started)



in a poster communication in the hall of Chemistry department, Imperial College London.

One of the first talks was “*A random walk in academic life, and how I learned to stop worrying and love the best job ever*” by Dr. Susan Perkin, University of Oxford. She impacted audience with her job passion. She explained how loving your job and what you do are the best ways to achieve your dreams come true in science field, never forgetting big amount of papers...doing all laugh about it!. Only the result of loving your work hard give you the key point. Another helpful talk was “*Writing a confident CVs/applications*” by Dr. Rachel Walls, from Imperial College London. The main point of that talk was learning weakness and strengths and how to solve them before applying for a job offer. The company CEO, Good Energy let us to know the importance of women in the industry too.

After many conferences and meeting with nice science women, we were invited for a dinner at the Library and Council Room of the Royal Society of Chemistry, in Burlington House. It was a honour to be there, I am going to remember it forever! Before dinner, RSC offered us drinks in the hall, and I had the pleasure to meet personally Prof. Lesley Yellowlees (first woman president from the whole RSC history). Friendly, charming, hard-worker and heart-warm person are qualities that characterize her and becomes her as a woman deserves to be follow.



From left to right, Dr. Wendy Xia (UCL, Eastman Dental Institute), Prof. Lesley Yellowlees (University of Edinburgh and President of the RSC), me, Dr. Yolanda Salinas (Queen Mary University of London) and Dr. María Ángeles Izquierdo (Imperial College London), during Drinks reception RSC.



Conferences journey ended with talks as “*Unseen works-visibility and evaluation of women in science*” by Dr. June McCmbie, University of Nottingham, followed of “*What has chemistry ever done for me?*” by RSC President, Lesley Yellowlees.

See you soon to all of you!! I hope you will like to read a sentence that impressed me from RSC president talk:

“Your time is limited, so don't waste it living someone else's life. Don't be trapped by dogma which is living with the results of other people's thinking. Don't let the noise of others' opinions drown out your own inner voice. And most important, have the courage to follow your heart and intuition. They somehow already know what you truly want to become. Everything else is secondary ”

Yplanda

Scientific tour in Basque country!

by Kiran (UCL)



We put paper in food, chocolate, drinks and everywhere...

Oh man! It's Pepper!

NANODRUG ITN organized its 2nd summer school and international meeting in the most spectacular touristic place, Biarritz from 2nd-7th September 2013. It was a joint training school with two other European Commission research projects: CHEBANA (ITN) and IRMED (IAPP). Among many wonderful news, I would like to share a few things with you: proposal evaluation, MCA presentation, bus trip, and micro-encapsulation symposium.

The most useful training during the Biarritz summer school was the ITN proposal evaluation. My earnest thanks to Prof. Marina and Prof. Karsten for giving us such a comprehensive and detailed information about how to write and evaluate ITN proposals and Horizon-2020, the new EU program. Our team (me, Selim, Christopher) got CHEBANA proposal and it took us 2 days to understand and evaluate such a big and complex proposal (Moral1: never underestimate assignments). Then we sat together, discussed and agreed upon the final marks for each section. I strongly believe, this was a very intense exercise and useful for our research career. We evaluated the proposal and finally the day has come to compare our evaluation with the other teams who have evaluated the same proposal. Our team did a great job and our

evaluation reached closely to that of real EU evaluation (Moral2: teamwork always wins).

The following day, as an active member of Marie Curie Association (MCA), I asked Prof. Karsten to allot me a slot to introduce the MCA to CHEBANA, IRMED and NANODRUG researchers. He gladly accepted and encouraged me to go ahead. I introduced the MCA, its origin-aims-objectives-board-future works-power of volunteering. Many of the participated researchers have shown their interest in MCA and asked me many questions about the benefits and chances of networking with the other MC fellows globally.





I really enjoyed the Biarritz summer school and continued my scientific tour to Pamplona in Basque region of Spain. The spectacular journey from Biarritz to Pamplona needs a special mention and thanks to Andrea for giving me a ride. 19th Microencapsulation Symposium was held at department of pharmacy, University of Navarra, Pamplona. I have presented a poster and flash talk about my research work. I met many eminent professors



During the summer school, a bus trip was organized to Espelette and St Jean de Luz. The tour guide explained us Basque culture, traditions and food while we were travelling in the bus. The tour guide has mentioned that the Basque people put paper in food, chocolate, drinks and everywhere. We were seriously puzzled that why Basque people want to put paper in food-drinks and chocolates. Then suddenly, the tour guide asked us to look at our right hand side to find Basque paper. Everybody started to laugh to death after understanding that the tour guide has been talking about pepper of Basque region (Moral3: never judge too fast, you may get pepper out of paper).

and shared my ideas and learnt what translational research is. Also, the symposium gave me a good platform for collaborations and networking. The event dinner was very good and Tuna Band of Navarra University made our evening memorable and pleasant. Special thanks to Prof.Véronique for her kind support and encouragement. The landscapes, mountains, scenic views, food of Basque are awesome. My tour for 10 days in this region was an incredible and wonderful experience. Science and fun were the secret ingredients of this whole journey! (Moral4: Don't forget to thank NANODRUG)

Before next newsletter, I wish you a happy and merry Christmas. Have a joyful and prosperous New Year. All the best!



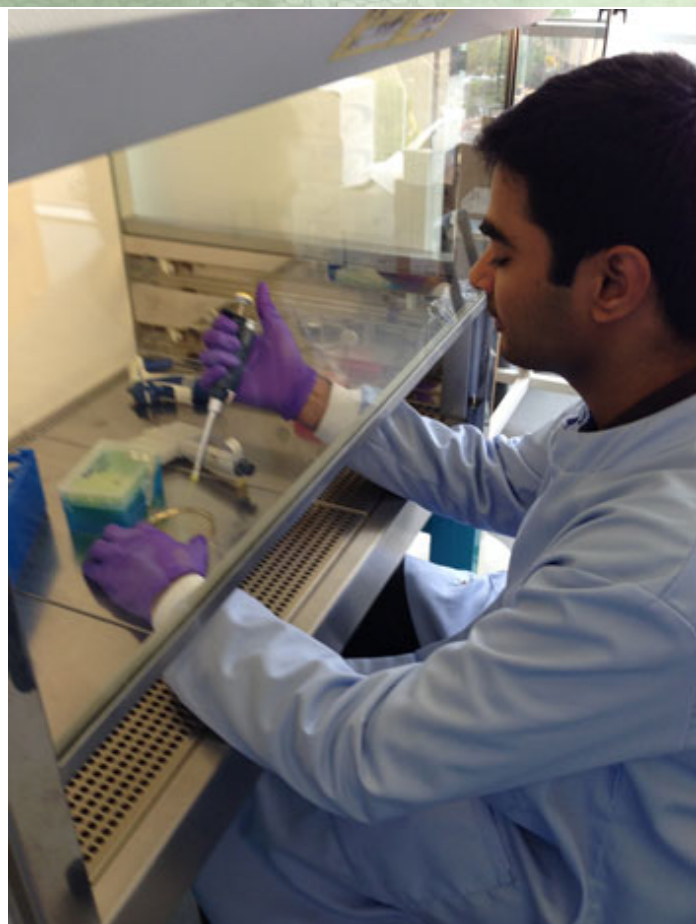


Secondment story from middle of nowhere!

Buongiorno! Saluto! Bello!
Madonna! Il mio amico!
Mamma Mia! Ciao!

Hello friends! Warmest wishes from Brussels! Hope you are ready for the winter research.

I would like to share with you my secondment experience at Cranfield Health, UK. I spent three weeks at Dr.H.Zhu's lab in July and performed cellular experiments. To start I should narrate the story from Eurostar train. Good things only come by chance, my ticket got selected for an up-gradation to first class without any extra payment, lucky me! I completely enjoyed the first class journey to London. After reaching Cranfield, the first hurdle was to get the official authorisations to enter the lab and start the work. Claudia was amazingly fast and we fin-



ished the bureaucratic work within a few days. Following the induction training, we started the experiments. Action in full swing!

We performed migration, proliferation and cytotoxicity assays for my nanoparticles. The experiments did not last longer, but required our presence to take the pictures of cells at very odd hours like mid night 12, early morning 2:30 and so on. Repetitive and sensitive experiments, delicate cells, peak season (master students were working for thesis), my tight schedule, altogether made us a bit stressed and as a consequence, no sleep and work during off time. In spite of all rush, intense experiments and hard job, we obtained good results and Prof. Veronique was happy about the outcome.



To have break, wonderful idea, snooker! Yes, snooker was the best place to relax and learn all the crazy Italian words while playing. That's how I learnt some Italian expressions and loved to speak with hands! The accommodation provided at Mitchell Hall was very good and I also made new friends. One among them was Gaetano Caramazza, without him, my stay in Cranfield would be a catastrophe. I had a small trip to Cambridge city, which is a very old and well-known University city. Fortunately, the day I visited Cambridge, was a graduation day and it was very good to see hundreds of students wearing graduation gowns with different coloured scarfs. Very spectacular!

All-in-all, my three week stay was a wonderful opportunity to work with Claudia at Dr.Zhu's lab. Ex-

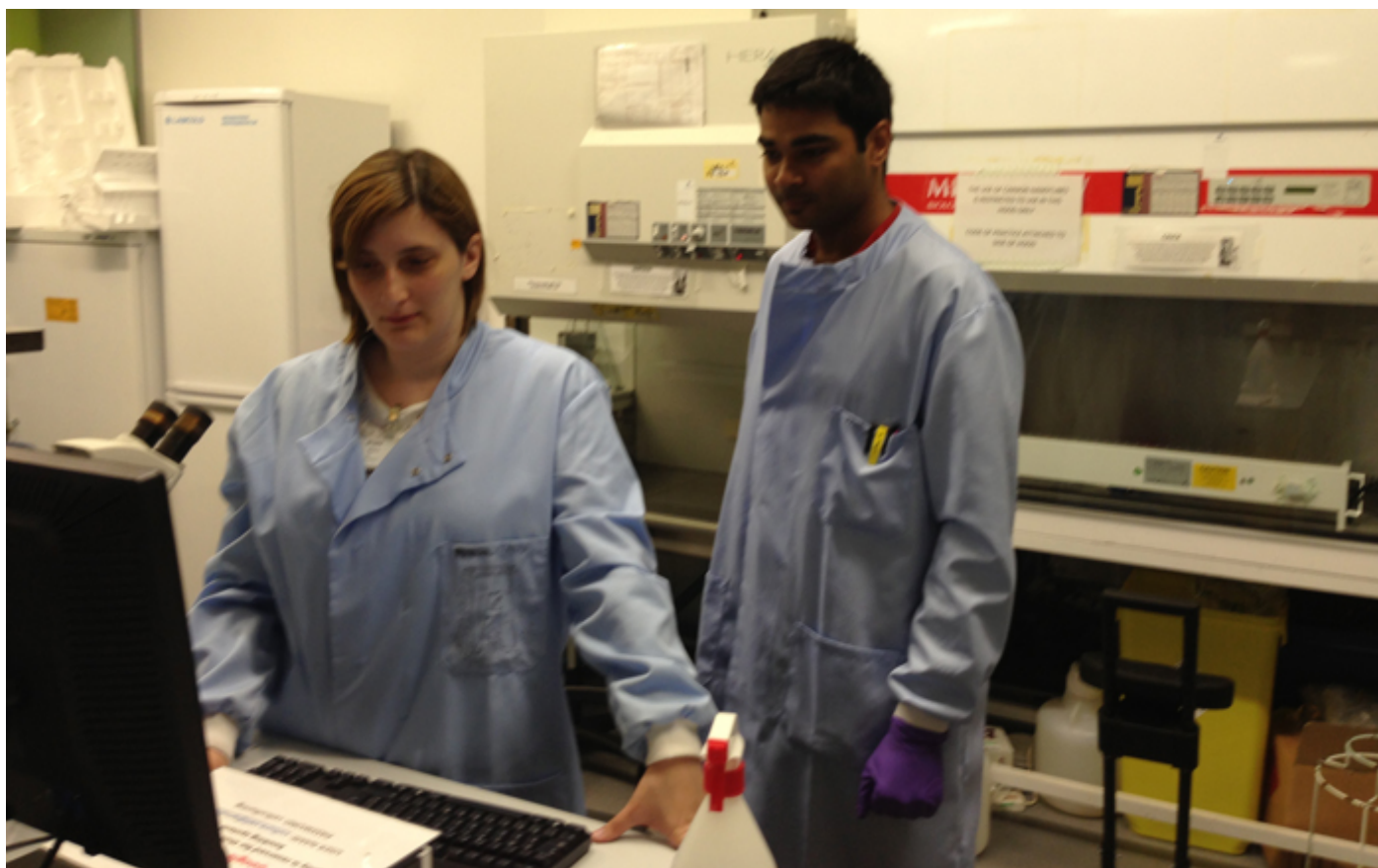


cept the geographical location, Cranfield is a good place to work peacefully and have a pleasant life. Claudia and Gaethano made my stay as cheerful as possible and also fruitful.

Ready to welcome you all to Brussels for 2nd NANODRUG workshop! Before that have a good time and wish you all success in your research.

Kiran





Today, 1st November, while writing this article for the NANODRUG Newsletter, I realized that it's already 18 months since I started this adventure as an Early Stage Researcher in Cranfield! Time surely flies...

In the last few months since our last newsletter issue, quite a few things have happened. The mentoring of MSc students Patrick and Berenice took a lot of my time during both June and July, as they needed to learn how to work properly in a research lab, as well as learning practical techniques for toxicology studies. I'm quite proud of these two brilliant students, who worked very hard to get their research done and put together a good thesis. Last I have heard from them, Bere, who is from Mexico, applied for a visa extension to get a research position, whereas Patrick, after spending the holidays in his native Portugal, has moved on to a PhD position in Southampton.

Apart from that, July has been a quite handful month for another reason: Kiran came to Cranfield for his first secondment! The period he chose was not the best, as our labs were full of MSc student doing their thesis work, but we made most of it, working even

late at night (Kiran, if you're reading this, I'll never let you forget that you dragged me in the lab at 1.00 AT NIGHT), but also enjoying our free time with my group of friends, between trips, late nights playing pool and home dinners. Hopefully the results we got will be of use for a joint collaboration/publication.

August was instead focused on one thing only: get everything ready for our second NANODRUG Summer School. It was a hectic month, working late hours to finish key experiments to include in my scientific presentation, as well as doing both the powerpoints needed for the meetings. Thankfully everything was finished in time without too much fuss.

It was awesome to see everybody so early, just a few months after the workshop held in Cranfield in April; it was also an extremely busy meeting, between lectures, the mid-term meeting and the summer school, but I think it went quite well all considered. Only downside: getting sick the last day because of the extremely hot weather-air conditioning difference...

Claudia



It seems to be back to a year ago, apart from one of the warmest autumn ever in London. All the university activities have started again in September and the campus looks like Oxford street during the Christmas sales...

...and all of this, just after summer holidays and the NANODRUG meeting in Biarritz. I honestly already really miss that time a lot. The perfect mix for speaking about science, networking and building friendships. Every time is like meeting your second family, abroad.

But you know, when you come back to the lab, everything turns like in the picture.



Also our research group is getting bigger as Yolanda (you already have met her in Biarritz) and Joyce, a new PhD student have recently joined the Resmini group. Not only members of our group have to 'survive' in our lab space.. when a young girl from middle school had a two weeks summer lab experience under my supervision it was something new to me. Now I'm in charge of Latifa, an undergraduate

student who is learning how things work in research. At the end of her three months project she will either like the idea of continuing her studies with a PhD once graduated, or she will give up choosing to do something completely different (at that point because of me as boss.. who knows?!). Things in QMUL never stop. Giorgio, Dolça and I had an experience in presenting our posters at the Joint Industrial Liason Forum. That was a really nice experience as people who do not directly work in drug delivery were questioning us with a lot of interest. Ok, we did not win the best poster prize, but at least now we know how things work. The next time will do!

As I read the newspaper "Metro" in the tube, while getting to the lab in the morning (I always find something interesting in it), I saw a nice picture saying: 'you can get to Paris'. Probably a flight company showing offers, but obviously I did not pay that much attention, until in the evening Prof. Resmini confirmed I was going for my secondment to Sanofi in Paris in November. I'll say more: I will join Yin, who is currently working hard in computational, with the mega computer he always dreamed of. I know I will probably be like his shadow. Still few days and I will be ready for this experience in industry. Camera and restaurant guide are already in my luggage, just in case I can enjoy 'la ville lumière' in Christmas time. Stay tuned for a report from Paris ;)

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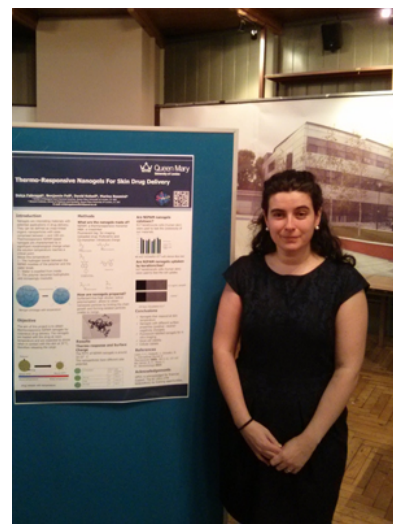
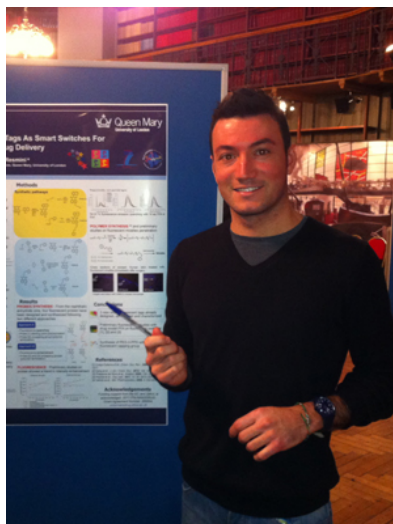
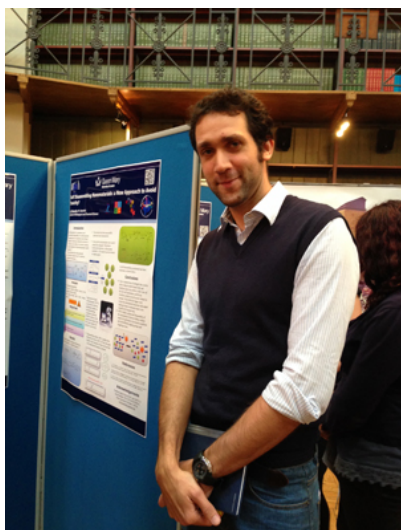
Stay tuned for a report from Paris ;)



Stay tuned for a report from Paris ;)

Stay tuned for a report from Paris ;)

Gabriele



European Night of Investigators in Coimbra - E agora Frankenstein? (And now Frankenstein?)



Since a passionate researcher also needs to be creative, creativity is sometimes expressed in craziness.

This summer craziness was expressed in theatre. By this my colleague Cristiana, me and some other scientists, challenged ourselves with theatre. Who said a scientists can't be a good actor?



The theme of the European Commission Researchers' Night was "Future". After discussions, we chose to translate the 200 year old story Frankenstein into a contemporary scientific play. We translated it from English to Portuguese and back from Portuguese to English for me. We also translated Frankenstein's 200 year old problems to the problems we are fac-

ing today.

Our Frankenstein is a real womanizer. Together with his friend Claire, he builds up the first creature from body parts he “found” on the cemetery. Besides this relationship he proposed Elizabeth (Cristiana), his cousin, to marry him and to spend their life together. Whatever happened with Elizabeth, Frankenstein is going for the future. With Tuleva (me), his Finnish colleague (which is carrying also Frankie’s baby) he is using stem cell technologies to give the first creature a girlfriend (Noiva). At the end the Creature showed up to get his Noiva, not expecting to meet Claire in the lab which defended the Noiva. The Creature got very furious and killed Claire and the entering Security men. As revenge Frankenstein killed the Noiva. Tuleva completely shocked that he destroyed her work jumped, trying to rescue her cells, but the monstrous Creature was faster, hit her on the head and she fainted. After this spectacular showdown, the Creature disappeared and everything was destroyed.



We believe our theatre was a big success. Regarding that our songs, the thunders and all of sudden the awaking creature made a kid running away in tears. Not only serving shocking features, but also advancements in technology and funding. Frankenstein developed in our play from a scientist stealing body parts from the cemetery to a passionate stem cell engineer, supported by European Commission funds.

I want to thank all the people taking part in the theatre, Mario for guiding us and to put the jigsaw together and the Science Museum in Coimbra giving the environment for this event. To play theatre in Portuguese was a great experience for me.

And tell me Frankenstein, o que é agora?

(Joséphine Blersch aka. Tuleva)



Secondment at Sanofi, Paris, France

Hello everyone.

I'm now enjoying my first secondment at Sanofi R&D Structure Design & Informatics department in Paris

Before the secondment I attended the CECAM workshop on the coupling between protein, water, and lipid dynamics in Lausanne in the last week of September. Our external collaborator Dr. Zoe Cour-nia kindly organized this workshop and invited many important people. There's no appropriate flight between Innsbruck and Lausanne. Klaus and I took the train there so we could still do some working during the trip and also could enjoy the beautiful scenery of Switzerland.

This workshop was partly focused on membrane

modeling. Klaus gave a pretty nice presentation there and I also learned a lot from others. We exchanged ideas and I was very glad to know many researchers from the modeling society. More importantly, I had such a good opportunity to directly communicate with Prof. S.J. Marrink who is the developer of MARTINI force field which can be used for lipid simulation.

Three days after I was back from Lausanne, I went to Paris for the secondment. Renting a room was always a challenging task in Paris especially for a short term yet I got the good luck. The exact date on which this secondment would begin was fixed in





Trip to Lausanne

June. Immediately, I put my name on the waiting lists of all the student residencies' website. At first I was very happy because only one manager replied NO to me after one week. However, at the end of August, I was still on all these waiting lists. Since then, I turned to private owned apartment. The only problem was that most landladies leave only the telephone number on the website. I had to call them directly. Perhaps, you would have asked me, how's your French? How can you speak with the landlady on the phone? The trick was I only contact with Chinese house owner. In just two days I contacted tens of apartments and found a suitable one easily. After one month living in Paris, I found out the language Chinese is sometimes much more useful than English in Paris.



Vitry-sur-Seine

This Sanofi site was located by the River Seine in the suburb of Paris. Dr. Anke Steinmetz arranged everything very well. The badge, the user account and the email address were all already set up. The NO PHOTO sign on the badge reminded me this was a company and not a university any more. Usually the equipment was always the same for every simulation lab. But I was surprised when I went into my office. There were three monitors on my desk

and one of them is a 3D monitor. During the first days, Anke and I drew up plans for the following three months. She spent hours every day demonstrating the new software for me with very comprehensive explanation. Working in Sanofi was really a happy experience. Oh, there was one more thing. The lunch in Sanofi was very cheap and extremely delicious.

As a tourist attraction, Paris is attracting tourists from all over the world. There are many famous buildings representing the culture of the city such as the Eiffel Tower, the Arc de Triomphe, etc. The



building attracted me the most is the Louvre Pyramid. This glass pyramid is even more famous than the Louvre Museum itself in my hometown-Suzhou because I.M. Pei who is the architect of the glass pyramid is also originally from Suzhou and designed our city museum.

I'm glad to hear the good news that Gabriele will come here for his secondment. I'm also looking forward for the meeting with Prof. Resmini in later November.



Bonjour à tous!

Hi everyone and greetings from Compiègne.

It seems unreal that almost two months have passed since we last saw each other in Biarritz. I think it's fair to say that following the 2nd International Scientific Meeting and the mid-term review we are now charging full speed ahead with research!



Part of UTC contingent after Biarritz



L-R Vishal Kale, Timo Valta and Selim Beyazit working with the Horiba Fluorolog.

Nanodrug ITN researcher, Selim Beyazit, worked quite closely with Timo Valta in the surface modification of nanoparticles; while IRMED experienced researcher Serena Ambrosini works with Francesco Canfarotta. Thomas Zanni's project is related to closely membrane models so we have been able to exchange ideas and troubleshoot together. It was (and continues to be) an excellent opportunity to discuss scientific problems and solutions while making new friends.

At UTC, our research is very interdisciplinary and our group is truly international (at last count we had 13 different nationalities!!), so it was very natural for us to welcome four (yes I said four J) CHEBANA ITN fellows who chose to do their secondments with us. Timo Valta (Roche Diagnostics, Germany), Vishal Kale (University of Turku, Finland), Thomas Zanni (University of Regensburg, Germany) and Francesco Canfarotta (Cranfield University, UK) have each spent one, two and three month respectively within our group at UTC. Fellow



L-R Marcelina Starok, Thomas Zanni and Jacqueline Maximilien using QCM-D technology



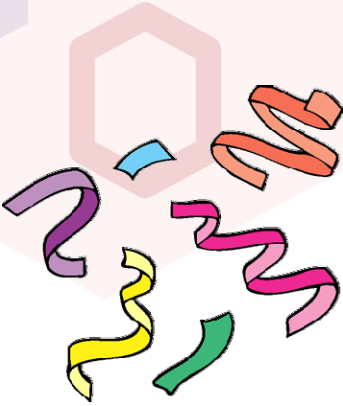
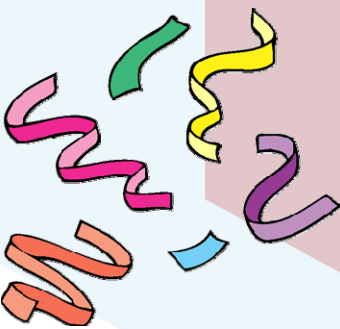
Cathedral at Amiens

Needless to say, it wasn't all work and no play, as the fellows made time to visit Paris, Amiens and other neighbouring cities.

Overall we've had a busy but productive secondment 'season' and look forward to further fruitful collaborations. Well it's back to work now but I'd like to wish everyone an amazing holiday season. Yes.....Christmas and New Year will be here before you know it.

Warmest Regards

(As I'll be in Barbados this year for Christmas 😊) *Jacqueline*



Recruitment



NANODRUG



Dr. Yolanda Salinas Soler was born in 1984 in Valencia, Spain. She obtained in 2008 her degree in Chemical Engineering in the University of Valencia, after carrying out her final degree project in Ghent University (Belgium) under supervision of Dr. Jeriffa De Clercq. In October 2008, she joined the research group of Professor R. Martinez-Manez at the Polytechnic University of Valencia, where she worked in the development of a new imprintable optical sensor for control of meat freshness. Few months later, she received the FPU grant from the Spain Ministry of Education to continue her PhD Thesis in the synthesis and evaluation of chromo-fluorogenic sensors for explosives, in the "Institute of Molecular Recognition and Technological Development". It should be noted that she was the first PhD student involved in the line dealing with chromogenic receptors for nitroaromatic explosives sensing, within the best valorated Spanish Government project of the year.

During her researching, she enjoyed two Predoctoral research stages, three month by the Dr. Jan Oskar Jeppesen supervision, in the University of Southern Denmark, in Odense, during 2011, developing tetrathiafulvalene-capped hybrid materials for optical explosives detection, and three months research with Dr. Knut Rurack, in the Federal Institute for Materials Research and Testing (BAM), in Berlin (Germany), during 2012-2013, designing a new molecular bio-gated scaffoldings for selective TNT detection based on antibody rabbit. She was awarded the title of Doctor from the Polytechnic University of Valencia on July of 2013, with a distinction "cum laude" given unanimously for her doctoral thesis entitled "Functional hybrid materials for the optical recognition of nitroaromatic explosives involving supramolecular interactions" under supervision of Prof. Ramon Martinez-Manez and Dr. Felix Sancenon Galarza. The main fields of expertise that she developed during these researching years were in supramolecular and material chemistry science.

Currently, Dr. Salinas Soler joined Dr M. Resmini's research group at the School of Biological and Chemical Sciences - Queen Mary, University of London, since September 2013 with an Experience Research Marie Curie contract, to carry out a project entitled "Novel nanoparticles for drug delivery to the skin" which is financed by The Commission of the European Union.

OTHER RECRUITMENT WITHIN THE TEAMS



Yejjiao was born in Hebei Province, China in 1990. She obtained her BSc in Pharmaceutics at China Pharmaceutical University in 2013. And she also received a two-year minor course degree in Traditional Chinese Pharmacy at the same university in 2012.

Yejjiao's research interest lies in the construction and evaluation of the nano-drug delivery system. She worked as the postgraduates' assistant at this research direction firstly in Prof. Jianping Zhou's research group and later in Prof. Lifang Yin's research group during her university life at China Pharmaceutical University.

In 2013, she conducted her final year project and finished her graduation thesis on total synthesis of natural products under the supervision of Dr. Liansuo Zu, at Tsinghua University. She is responsible for synthesise a novel chiral phosphoric acid catalyst and investigating it's catalytic features in the Fischer Indole Reaction. In September 2013, Yejjiao joined Prof. Resmini's research group at the School of Biological and Chemical Sciences - Queen Mary, University of London as a PhD student working on developing novel nanoparticle for neural stem cell drug delivery.



Sara Vicente was born in Boiro, a very small town looking at the Atlantic Ocean in Galicia, a region located in the North-West of Spain. She moved to Santiago de Compostela to start her studies on Pharmacy at the local University, the second oldest University in Spain. During this period she had her first contact with research when she visited Dr. Paolo Colombo's laboratory at the University of Parma (Italy) for six months, as an Erasmus student. She enjoyed so much this experience that she enrolled the PhD program of Innovation and Development of Pharmaceuticals in the University of Santiago de Compostela, back in Spain, under Dr. Maria J. Alonso's supervision. She had the opportunity to carry out her doctoral thesis about the "Design and Development of Polysaccharide-based Nanocarriers for Vaccine Delivery" under an important project within the Grand Challenges in Global Health Initiative. In addition, she could visit other laboratories expert in different scientific fields, such as immunology at the University of Glasgow (Scotland, UK) and radiology at the University of Texas Health Science Center at San Antonio (USA), under the supervision of Dr. James Brewer and Dr. William Phillips, respectively. These experiences abroad allowed her to broaden her multidisciplinary background.

Sara finally obtained her PhD on Pharmaceutical Sciences in March 2013. The scientific activity during her PhD resulted in 9 presentations in international meetings and conferences, either as poster or oral communications, as well as 1 review, 1 chapter of a book and 2 original research articles already published and 3 submitted to scientific journals. Since September 1st of 2013, she has moved to Toulouse (France) to start her post-doc in Sanofi within the Marie-Curie Research Training Network NANODRUG. She is interested in contributing to the development of new nanostructures for drug delivery and studying their behavior in biological environments.

Besides science, Sara loves good music and movies, and enjoys going to the theater and travelling all around the world!



media appearances

Kiran Kumar Chereddy

UCL
Belgium

Kiran talked about the useful tips for MC fellows to the 1st Marie Curie Actions Alumni Newsletter. The article entitled:

“Five top tips: getting on top of Marie Curie Action administration”

and can be accessed at:

<https://www.mariecuriealumni.eu/newsletter/five-top-tips-getting-top-marie-curie-action-administration>



Former British Prime Minister makes a rare appearance at Queen Mary University of London on Monday 28 October

Tony Blair addressed an audience of academics, students, politicians, civil servants, journalists and businesspeople on ‘How Government Really Works’. Blair spoke of the need for governments to modernise and adapt to a rapidly changing world.

Read more at: <http://www.qmul.ac.uk/media/news/>



Forthcoming Events

NETWORK EVENTS

2nd NANODRUG Workshop

13-14 March 2014

UCL, Brussels, Belgium

3rd NANODRUG Summer Training School

29th June—2nd July 2014

Portugal

3rd NANODRUG International Scientific Meeting

3rd—4th July 2014

Portugal

CONFERENCES

4th Zing Bionanomaterials Conference

6 – 9 Apr 2014

Málaga, Spain.

E-MRS 2014 Spring Meeting

26-30 May 2014

Congress Center - Lille, France

NANODRUG



Cranfield
UNIVERSITY



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