DNA Disorder Team Blaze a Trail for Cancer Research

The MRC Cell Mutation Unit has been winning worldwide recognition recently for its pioneering research into forms of rare cancer-prone diseases. Professor Alan Lehmann and his team hosted a workshop on DNA repair disorders last month which was attended by thirty leading international experts. The object of the EU-funded workshop was to examine DNA disorders which lead to skin cancer and other life-threatening conditions such as leukaemia and immuno-deficiency problems.

Alan's own research scrutinises the effects of rogue DNA to uncover the secrets of these genetic disorders. And the team has just won another in a long line of lucrative grants - from the Association for International Cancer Research - to pursue its trailblazing project. The charity's chief executive, David Napier, hailed Alan's work as "among the cream of the crop in scientific research into cancer."

"If you have XP and you go out unprotected even on a cloudy day you will end up with skin cancer."

Crucially, Alan's research has led him to uncover links between XP and other inherited disorders which have radically different symptoms. The disease trichothiodystrophy (TTD), which causes scaly skin and brittle, sulphur-deficient hair together with mental and physical retardation, has also been found to be caused by the inability of cells to repair their DNA. Because they are so rare, and the symptoms so generic, such diseases are very difficult to diagnose.

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Fly the Flag High - Art Collection Discovery

Another piece of treasure to add to the trove of the University’s art collection has been unveiled. Retrieved from a skip in the loading bay at EDB, the piece is a pop art print bought by the University in 1969. Entitled Flag, it is one of a limited edition of 19 silkscreen prints created by local artist Harvey Daniels in 1968. The University bought it for £16.16 guineas.

The artist still works in Brighton, and his more recent works are currently on show in the Fiveways Open Houses exhibition. Simon Lane (pictured right), who is tracking down the missing pieces of the University’s art collection, is delighted with the find. Anyone who thinks they might have found a work of art should contact him on ext 3500.
VC's Voice

Like most members of the University, I was greatly relieved at the voluntary ending on Friday May 7 of the occupation of Sussex House. The occupiers showed good sense in bringing their action to a close. They benefited from the good fortune that unexpected delays in the legal processes had postponed their involuntary ejection. Pleasure and relief at the ending of the occupation should not obscure the fact that it was a futile and damaging action. It may have won a few minutes of sympathetic coverage in the local media for the problems of student funding, but this was achieved at a significant cost to the University. The occupiers were careful to avoid damage to the occupied offices, but the occupation still cost us many thousand pounds. There was also the non-monetary cost imposed on those staff who suffered the unpleasant experience of invasion of their personal working space.

The occupation was strikingly unsuccessful in building support among the vast majority of students and staff, who understood that the occupiers' dispute was with the government not the University. This was underlined by the way that the occupation stopped the distribution of grant cheques and hardship funds to students. The University exists to serve students and to further the pursuit of knowledge, and disruption of its work inevitably damages services to students.

Perhaps the strangest feature of the occupation was the unwillingness of the occupiers to enter into any discussion with me or other University officers. The University is committed to free speech and open discussion. Reluctance to argue openly betrays a lack of confidence in the strength of one's case.

Student funding is now a key issue for the new Scottish Parliament. Most political parties in Scotland want the Scottish Education Department to pay the fees of all full-time students from Scotland. If Scottish taxpayers put an additional £40m into student support, that will be most welcome. But I'd rather see the extra money put into supporting the maintenance costs of students from less well-off families than paying the fees of students from better-off families. Slogans about 'the right to free education' are in danger of supporting transfers from the poor to the rich.

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DNA Disorder Team Blaze a Trail for Cancer Research

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In fact, it is the common tendency to misdiagnose these conditions and treat them inappropriately which puts the work of Alan and his team at a premium. Although these disorders are incurable, early treatment can mean the difference between life and death. The Sussex team make around thirty diagnoses a year by examining the cell tissues of patients sent to them by doctors from around the world. By using cells from these patients, Alan can understand at 'gene level' what is causing the disorders. He grows cell cultures which have defective DNA repair, and beams UV light on the cells to investigate what happens. He then compares this process with the effect UV light has on healthy skin cell cultures. 'Donating a piece of skin is the price of setting foot in this building,' he jokes.

"From our work we are able to understand what causes these disorders, but we are also able to understand more about skin cancer in general. And by looking at the way these disorders relate to each other, we can learn more about the way DNA works in all of our bodies. This mysterious process is something all scientists would love to know more about," says Alan.

Professor Margaret Boden (COGS) has been elected Chair of the Philosophy section of the British Academy.

David Dyker (EURO) has been awarded a grant of EUR 70,000 from the EU ACE programme to study industrial networks in Hungary and Slovenia.

Nigel Llewellyn (EURO) is directing the 30th International Congress of the History of Art to be held in London next year.

Professor William Outhwaite (EURO) and DPhil student Franz Solms-Laubach have been invited to co-ordinate an internet-based cultural exchange programme with the University of Freiburg in Germany. Sussex students discussed European Social Structure with Freiburg students in a series of on-line seminars in May.

Professor Jeff Leigh (CPES) has been given a Royal Society of Chemistry award for his work in electrochemistry and transition metal chemistry.

Professor Ed Hinds (Centre for Optical and Atomic Physics) has been awarded a five year Senior Research Fellowship from the EPSRC.

In the recent local elections, Julie Carr (School Office Senior Clerk in EURO) was elected to Lewes District Council as a Liberal Democrat.

From left to right: Martin Allen (Donne, Mileham & Haddock), Judge Guy Anthony, Bryan Scattergood, Rosie Lockyer and Judge Michael Kennedy.

A Jolly Good Moot

Rosie Lockyer and Bryan Scattergood were the winners of this year's annual mooting competition, held at Lewes Crown Court. Organised by Brighton-based law firm Donne Mileham and Haddock, the contest challenges law students to show what they are made of in a real courtroom situation.

The mock trial centred on a person accused of criminal damage. Rosie's defence saved the fictional client from prosecution. Judges Michael Kennedy and Guy Anthony presided over the event and were full of praise for the performance of all the mooters.
Happy Birthday
Professor Harvey

The University has been involved in several celebrations to mark the 60th birthday of Jonathan Harvey. Jonathan is an honorary Professor of Music here at Sussex and one of the most imaginative and innovative composers in Europe today. Sussex sponsored his opera, *Passion and Resurrection*, performed last week as part of the Brighton Festival. The opera is based on an anonymous 12th century Latin Passion Play and was staged using local and professional singers in the fine acoustic of St Martin’s Church.

Also in honour of Jonathan's birthday, a lunchtime recital was performed last month by the Trio Fibonacci, as part of their debut season in England. The Canadian group were formed in the spring of 1998 by violinist Julie-Anne Derome who brought together pianist Andre Ristic and cellist Gabriel Prynn. Taking its name from the celebrated thirteenth century mathematician, Leonardo Fibonacci, whose theories and discoveries so much influenced compositional techniques, the trio is dedicated to the performance of twentieth century repertoire. The group chose to play two pieces by Jonathan Harvey for their England tour and also a piece by Michael Finnissy - a prolific composer of contemporary music who currently teaches composition at Sussex. As a consequence Sussex seemed the obvious choice as the venue for the trio’s first concert in England.

The recital was recorded by MSU and more details can be obtained from Terry Bryan in Essex House or visit the trio's website on http://www.bcity.com/fibonacci.

Research Funding Opportunities

This is a selection of Research Opportunities. More details of these and other opportunities are available from the Research Grants & Contracts Office, contact Debbie, ext 3812 or email: D.Foy-Everett@sussex.ac.uk. For an extensive listing of funding opportunities see REFUND on the Research Web site: http://www.sussex.ac.uk/Units/research or USIS Home Page, under Research.

The Royal Society is inviting applications from scientists in any subject for industry fellowships. Funded by the Society, the EPSRC, the BBSRC, the PPARC and Rolls Royce, the scheme provides opportunities for academics to spend a period of time working in industry and vice versa. The award is for between 6 months and 2 years full-time equivalent. Deadline: 4 June 1999.

The BBSRC has announced a call under the title macromolecular assemblies. The objective is to study the molecular architecture, design and functioning of large molecular assemblies. Research grants are for up to 5 years. Deadline: July 1999 for October meeting although applications can be made at any time.

The EPSRC is inviting research proposals which will provide generic structural integrity methodologies through integrated approaches across disciplines, industrial sectors and life cycle stages. Encouraged areas: implementation of IT; heterogeneous materials; design and manufacture for structural integrity; and assessment. Deadline: outlines 21 June 1999.

The Joint Food Safety and Standards Group is inviting applications for funding during 2000 and 2001. Applications for funding should be for a maximum of 3 years in the first instance. The 4 priority areas are: food quality and nutrition; chemical safety of food; food hygiene; and meat hygiene. Deadline 28 June 1999.

The Lindbergh Foundation provides grants of up to £6,500 to researchers whose work furthers the Lindberghs' vision of the balance of the advance of technology and the preservation of the natural/human environment. Research areas are: agriculture; aviation/aerospace; natural resources; education; exploration; health; and waste minimisation and management. Deadline: 15 June 1999.

The PPARC is inviting applications for research projects in technology development for astronomy. Key technological priority topics under this programme are: space; solar-terrestrial physics; and ground-based astronomy. Deadline: 1 October 1999 (outline proposals are requested).

The European Chemical Industry Council (CEFIC) invites applications for funding basic research into health and environmental effects of chemicals. See RGCC for priority areas. Deadline: 10 June 1999.

Miscellaneous

Car Free Day on Thursday 27 May. Join the University’s cycle rides starting at 8.00am from St Peter’s Church in Brighton or 8.30am from Lewes Riding School (just down from the prison). Free breakfast for all cyclists at the Meeting House.

The Centre for Continuing Education invites you to a Continuing Choice and Open Evening with information regarding part-time degrees, certificates, diplomas and weekly courses (part-time courses are available to members of staff at a reduced rate). To be held on Wednesday 26 May from 5.00 - 8.00pm in the Terrace Room, Refectory.

Gardner Arts Centre Freebies - Fab folk with Maddy Prior on Sunday 6 June. The Gardner Arts Centre has one free ticket to give away to each of the first 10 readers who turn up at the box office waving a copy of the Bulletin.

Charity Sports Night in aid of the Rocking Horse Appeal on Thursday 3 June from 6.00 - 8.00pm at the Falmer Sports Complex. Teams of six wanted, minimum of two females per team. £4.50 per ticket (includes barbeque), £2.00 goes straight to charity. Closing date: Thursday 27 May. Please contact Karen or Sam on (67)8229.

Research Assistants wanted: Two/three in-house Research Assistants (one an economist) for one year from October or possibly earlier. Candidates should have a Masters degree, or good first degree in a social science. Contact Rosalind Woodhouse, IDS Admin Office Room 203, IDS or tel: (67)8266. Closing date: 28 May.

Employee Opinion Survey

The Staffing Services Office would like to remind all staff that the closing date for the Industrial Society's Employee Opinion Survey is Monday 24 May. If you have not already done so, please complete the questionnaire today and return it in the freepost envelope provided.

If you have any questions about the survey, you may contact either Richard Price, Staff Welfare Officer (ext 3598) or telephone the Industrial Society direct (details are provided on the questionnaire).
Lectures, Seminars, Colloquia

Monday 24 May
12.30pm Sussex Continuing Education Research Forum: Juliet Merrifield (Director, Learning from Experience Trust), Mutual accountability and educational performance. D310.

1.00pm Experimental Psychology Seminar: Pete Clifton, Antipsychotic drugs and obesity. BLR.

2.00pm Falmer Language Group: Arthur McNeill, TBA. A155.

3.00pm SEI Seminar: Kuba Michalek, Trade effects of Poland’s accession to the EU. B117.

4.00pm Mathematical Analysis: B Pelloni (Imperial), A spectral transform method for solving boundary value problems for integrable PDEs. Room 2A2, PEVI.

4.30pm Neuroscience Seminar: Daniel Glaser (Institute of Ophthalmology, London), Spatial and temporal dynamics of orientation selectivity: voltage dye recordings from visual cortex. BLR.

5.00pm Women’s Studies Research-in-Progress Seminar: Anne Hole, Performing identity: the funny fat female body from Hattie Jacques to Jo Brand. D610.

Tuesday 25 May
2.15pm SEI Research-in-Progress Seminar: Frank Gregory (Southampton), The JHA action plan on organised crime - a select analysis of the implementation process. A71.

4.00pm COGS Seminar: TBA. COGS 5C11.

4.15pm Biochemistry and Genetics & Development Seminar: Martin Bushell, Apoptosis and translation. BLR.

4.30pm SPT Seminar: Alison Stone (Cambridge), Pateman’s social contract theory: a critique. D630.

5.00pm Literary and Intellectual History Seminar: Jason Scott-Warden (York), The early-modern text as a bearer of relationships. D410.

5.15pm German Research Colloquium: Peter Pulzer (Oxford), Jews in the Weimar Republic: a minority in a democracy. Meeting House.

Wednesday 26 May

1.00pm IDS Seminar: Ruth Wilson (Devonport Action Against Poverty), Poverty of voice: using media to promote participatory development. Room 221.

2.00pm Query: Tamsin Wilton, OUT:performing ourselves? queer and feminim confront Cartesian Dualism. D630.

4.30pm History of Art Lecture: Reminder Kaur (SOAS), Interrogating the spectacles of nationalism: festival displays in Western India. A103.

5.00pm English Graduate Colloquium: Tanya Horek, ‘More intimate than violence’: Sarah Dunant’s Transgressions. D640.

Thursday 27 May
11.30am Economics Seminar: Ligia Melo, research outline. D310.

4.00pm Experimental Psychology Colloquium: Andy Cador, It’s written all over your face: tapping the mechanisms underlying facial expression recognition. BLR.

5.00pm Modern French Thought Seminar: Celine Suprenant, ‘a blatant interrogative’ in A la recherche du temps perdu. A71.

Friday 28 May
4.00pm Chemical Physics and Materials Seminar: Norman Billingham, Polymers. CHI-3R241 (53).


Miscellaneous

Saturday 5 June, Day School. Documenting everyday life in Britain: Mass Observation in the 1990s. Exploring how the writings of ‘mass-observers’ can be used to explore everyday life in Britain in the 1980s and 1990s. Tutor: Dorothy Sheridan, EDB. Contact the Day School Administrator, CCE, on ext 8926.

Sussex Language Institute: 30 hours of English - free! New teachers will be training here this summer. They need practice, so they need you to help them. They get a chance to try new ideas - and you get free English lessons. Starting 7 July. Contact Linda Gunn, B141.

Small Ads

FOR SALE: Four seater grey buttoned back suite - £90, Finlux 29” colour television with Nicam Speakers in Yew wood cabinet - £750 o.n.o., Dark wood, teak effect computer desk - £20, Glass show screen (patterned) - £35, Standard size doors, stripped and ready for hanging. Please call after 2 pm on 811008.

FOR SALE: Matsui CD 67, with CD player/radio/single tape deck, and a Hitachi radio alarm clock. Together, originally £60, now £30 o.n.o. Barely 7 months old. V & E - Must Sell! Call 247051 or email frdu00.

TO LET: Lewes (Malling Area), 3 bedroom terraced House, Gas C/H, furnished, in good decorative order (No Pets), rental £600 p.c.m., for further details, tel: 478468 or 475079.

FOR SALE: Yamaha psr-195 keyboard. 61 full-size keys. 100 voices, 100 styles. Half year old, hardly used, VGC, still under guarantee. Adaptor, steel stand, sustaining pedal, all together £110. Call Haifeng on ext. 2567 (before 5:00pm) or 385408 (after 7:00pm).

FOR SALE: Team Saracen Limited Edition Mountain Bike with heat treated aluminium frame (very light) and shimano gearbox (21 gears) ($350) + cat-eye helmet ($45) + padlock ($20), hardly used, all for only £250 o.n.o. Call Kostas ext. 2859 or email k.manolis@sussex.ac.uk.

FOR SALE: Upright piano ALLISON, iron framed, overstrung and with underdamper for all the keys, excellent sound quality, only £655 o.n.o. Call Kostas ext. 2859 or email k.manolis@sussex.ac.uk.

WANTED: Person over 16 to collect boy aged 10 from Wallands School, Lewes, one or three days a week (Mondays and/or Fridays) at 3.30 pm to take him home and stay with him until about 6.30 pm. Please contact Doreen du Boulay on ext 3823 or tel. 477140 or email: D.Du-Boulay@sussex.ac.uk or room B136.

FOR SALE: Toshiba TFT colour laptop, 32MB RAM, 1.1GB, CD-ROM, fax/modem, Windows98, office pro97, many more, bag, excellent condition, only £450. Please call Marmar on 29477.

FOR QUICK SALE: Compaq Pentium2, 266, 4.2GB harddisk, 13.3”tf colour, 24xCD-ROM, touchpad, leather case, pcmcia fax card, only few months old, Windows98, Microsoft publisher98, office pro97, etc. Must be seen. Real bargain only £950 call rez on 888828.

HOUSE TO LET: A three bedroom house is available in the Hanover area immediately. £700 p.c.m. Would suit postgraduates / faculty. Ring 677401(eve) or 877266 (day).

OPPORTUNITY! Enterprising internet company offers marketing partnerships. For practical original software ideas. Please contact brightspark@apc.co.uk for further information.

AVAILABLE: Painting and decorating, interior and exterior work. Experienced mature student. Tel: 698719.

FOR SALE: COMPaq LAPTOP, Windows, Microsoft Office, Brand new mouse, Docking station, Only £150. Please call 564102.


FOR SALE: Sony colour video 8 camera, immaculate with battery, recharger and hard case - £120 o.n.o. Awe 64 soundcard - £85. Pentium 266 CPU - £30. Motherboard (built on sound & graphics - can disable) - £40. Contact Dan Harper in IDS Publications Office or call 731068.

WANTED: Research fellow looking for 2 b/room flat or house in Hove (preferably) or Brighton area. From end of June to Dec 1999 (though flexible with regards to earlier move). Please contact David on ext 7081 (day) or 739596 (eve) or email: dsmith@biols.susx.ac.uk.

Bulletin

The Bulletin appears every Friday during term time with copy deadlines the preceding Friday lunchtime. We welcome any suggestions for news, events, letters and small ads from staff and students of the University.

Please contact the Information Office in Sussex House on Ext. 8209 or Email: Bulletin@sussex.ac.uk.