BIG DATA TAKES AIM AT A HUMAN PROBLEM

Dr Ashley Waardenberg - A James Cook University scientist is part of an international team that’s used new ‘big data’ analysis to achieve a major advance in understanding neurological disorders such as Epilepsy, Alzheimer’s and Parkinson’s disease.

Dr Ashley Waardenberg a Theme Leader from JCU’s Centre for Tropical Bioinformatics and Molecular Biology, said scientists from JCU, The Children’s Medical Research Institute, Sydney, University of Southern Denmark and Bonn University (Germany) looked at how neurons in the brain communicated with each other.

Read full Article.


GENETIC TESTING AT CAIRNS BASE HOSPITAL AIMS TO CATCH DEADLY DISEASES

Prof John McBride and Dr Matt Field - James Cook University researchers will be trialling the use of handheld genetic testing devices at Cairns and Townsville public hospitals to catch deadly diseases before they get out of control.

http://online.isentialink.com/townsvillebulletin.com.au/2019/03/07/f1f9c4f3-c20f-4ee6-af73-b268186f7b4b.html
EATING FISH MAY HELP PREVENT ASTHMA

Prof Andreas Lopata - A James Cook University scientist says an innovative study has revealed new evidence that eating fish can help prevent asthma.

Professor Andreas Lopata from JCU’s AITHM took part in the study which tested 642 people who worked in a fish processing factory in a small village in South Africa.

Read the full Article


MARCH SUBMISSIONS

Mohadeseh Dastpeyman

Structure-Function Relationships of Disulphide-Rich Peptides

RIGHT: Professor Norelle Daly & Mohadeseh at the morning tea celebration.

Bemnet Amare

Molecular and Immunological characterization of Schistosoma acetylcholinesterases and their evaluation as a potential immunogenic vaccine candidates.

Stephanie Ryan

Investigating the Immunomodulatory Properties of Hookworm Excretory / Secretory Products Produced in a Cell-Free Protein Expression System

RIGHT: Prof Alex Loukas, Dr Mark Pearson, Stephanie Ryan and Bemnet Amare


Ruethers T, Taki AC, Nugraha R, Cao TT1, Koeberl M, Kamath SD, Williamson NA, O’Callaghan S, Nie S, Mehr SS, Campbell DE, Lopata AL, Variability of allergens in commercial fish extracts for skin prick testing. Please see attached PDF

Le TTK, Nguyen DH, Vu ATL, Ruethers T, Taki AC, Lopata AL A cross-sectional, population-based study on the prevalence of food allergies among children in two different socio-economic regions of Vietnam. Please see attached PDF
If you missed the show the podcast is now available as episode 327 and available on the link below.

1. Tell me about your area of research?
I am working as a research assistant for the ParagenBio Project which is looking at finding a treatment for inflammatory bowel disease using proteins derived from hookworm secretions.

2. What interests you about working in this area?
This is an exciting project as it translational, I can imagine that the basic science we are doing could help create a therapy which could be used in the clinic.

3. How do you see your research developing in the future?
Oh, if only I knew! My role is very flexible but grant dependent. I have been working as a research assistant for 10 years and in that time, I have worked in six different labs, with everything from a few months of work after getting my degree to working in a lab in Cardiff, UK. I have gained so many different technical skills but there are still so many more I could learn.

4. What are the 5 most important techniques you use in your research?
Being a team member. Documenting everything, clearly. Aseptic technique. Developing the ability to set your timer, leave it behind and still come back with 30sec to spare. Multitasking.

5. What advice do you have for science students who are considering medical research as a career?
Try and get some work experience in a few different labs. If you can sit down and talk to the researchers, see what day to day life is like in the lab and be prepared to learn a lot of acronyms.

6. What do you see as the benefits of being part of the Centre for Molecular Therapeutics (CMT)?
Being surrounded by people who are enthusiastic to be at work and love what they do.

7. What would you like to do in the future?
I would like to keep working in Cairns at JCU, I haven’t worked here long but it’s great. The campus is in such a wild setting, the people are lovely and I’d like to bring up my family here.

8. Tell me 5 things you dislike?
Liquorice, Liars, Relentless wind, Cane Toads, Gympie road in Brisbane.

9. Tell me 5 things that make you happy?
Cooking, Gardening, Going to the Beach, Playing with my kids and Gin
10. **Tell me about the highlights of your professional career so far?**

I got to work in the Wellcome Institute at Heath Hospital in Cardiff for 3 years, it was fantastic to work outside of Australia for a while. Also, a few years ago I took an image of a gut section for my supervisor which went on to win a prize.