

## Newsletter



### Away from the Lab...



PhD Students David Kuntin and Andrew Stone are away on three-month internships working with funding organisations to find out more about how scientific research is supported. Here is a summary of what they've been up to.

#### **David: How to govern emerging genetic technologies**



Novel genetic technologies are rapidly emerging, each new discovery opening up a new avenue of application. At The Royal Society, the Genetic Technologies Policy Team focuses on anticipating the ethical, technological, and societal impact of emerging applications for new genetic technologies, and brings together Fellows of the Royal Society and experts in the field to discuss these issues and propose frameworks for effective governance. One current project is focusing on how to set up an approach to approving genetically modified organisms in the UK after Brexit, which does not take into account how the genetic modification was created. I've been working in the Genetic Technologies team in researching current EU and UK legislature,

and comparing it to other countries, such as Canada, in order to get an overview of the current landscape. I have also been speaking to UK authorities in order to get their perspective, and have been drafting a report on public perception on genetic modification, which will feed into what will eventually be a position statement from the Royal Society on what changes to recommend.

#### **Andy: Supporting biomedical research at the AMS.**

I am currently on a 3-month hiatus from the lab while I do an internship at the Academy of Medical Sciences in London working in the careers team. It's easy to miss being in the lab doing research but, so far, it's been a fascinating insight into how a charity and funder of

biomedical research operates. One of my key roles is helping to organise and run career development events for scientists, helping them to become better managers, leaders and researchers. In order to ensure we have the best outcomes for patients in the future, we need to have the most well-rounded scientists leading in the discovery of new treatments. The training we provide could help these researchers in producing the very best science and we hope they will pass on what they learn to build strong teams around them. I am also reading grants, identifying academics to review applications and taking minutes at grant decision panels. I'm hoping I will be able to bring the skills I've learnt here back to the Genever lab for the benefit of our research and to help me develop my own career as a researcher.



## Welcome!

We are very pleased to announce that Jordan Tzvetkov will be joining the lab in October 2019 to start his PhD on the Molecular Mapping of Osteoarthritis, funded by Versus Arthritis.



## Conferences

We will be attending the European Calcified Tissue Society annual conference in May. Dr. Alasdair Kay will be talking about his research, explaining how he has discovered that some stem cells are more efficient at making bone than others. Andy Stone has a poster and oral presentation about his work on extracellular vesicles and possible new therapies for bone and joint disease.



## Other News



Paul will be part of the "Pint of Science" festival, with an evening entitled "The Bare Bones of It" (21 May, Fulford Arms, Fulford Road, York). He will be talking about "Regenerative Medicine for Skeletons of the Modern Age".

More information about this and other Pint of Science events happening around York can be found [here](#).



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