



News from our students

Eat your vegetables!

Audrey Henderson, a second-year EASTBIO student, and Dr Ross Whitehead (University of St Andrews) have just finished a 6-week collaborative study with the BBC. They were interested in the link between fruit and vegetable consumption and skin colour appearance. 10 volunteers increased their fruit and vegetable consumption by two portions per day during the 6-week period of the study whilst Audrey and Ross measured changes in the volunteers' skin colouration. Before and after photos were also taken to see if any change was perceived in terms of looking more healthy and attractive. The study and results will be aired on **BBC2 this April** as part of a science and entertainment programme looking at Britain's favourite foods and what they do to our bodies. Don't miss to watch the programme!



Reducing risk of deadly hospital infections

Sesha Venkateswaran (a second-year EASTBIO student) has found himself on the spotlight, both at the University of Edinburgh and the BBC following the publication of his research on how to reduce infection risk with new coatings for surgical devices. The study identified several polymers that resist the adhesion of a broad range of microbes and have the potential to be used for non-toxic, antibiotic-free, bacteria repellent coatings for a range of medical devices. The use and implementation of such devices in hospitals will have a major economic impact and will save human lives. The study was published in the *Journal of Materials Chemistry B* in September last year. Read more at:

<http://pubs.rsc.org/en/content/articlepdf/2014/tb/c4tb01129e>

PIPS update

Over the past two years, the EASTBIO students from the 2012 cohort have completed their internships with a variety of host organisations including SMEs, charities and organisations involved in science education, policy and publishing. We received some excellent feedback from internship providers about the performance of our students. The student feedback and case studies have also confirmed that the internships provide a fantastic professional learning experience.

For instance, when asked "Has your PIPS broadened your view of your future career aspirations?", one student said: "Definitely. I had not previously considered a career in publishing, but I would do so now."

The next **PIPS Q&A event** will take place in **Dundee on 20th February 2015 at the Dalhousie Building, 10.30-16.30**.

Anuj Segal will set the scene and chair the session, followed by presentations by EASTBIO students who kindly agreed to share their insights into the sector, based on their unique PIPS experiences, reflect on the skills they developed and discuss whether or not PIPS has updated their career aspirations. You will hear from Vrushali Patil (BBSRC - policy PIPS), Matthew McFarland (Cults Academy – teaching PIPS), Cara Green (Royal Society London PIPS) and Dean Houston (Harrison Goddard Foote LLP- PIPS with a legal firm).

Supervisors are very welcome to attend.

EASTBIO Symposium

15-16 June
John McIntyre Conference Centre,
University of Edinburgh

This year the EASTBIO annual symposium organised by our first year student reps will focus on the **industrial impact of bioscience research**.

The event will feature talks and discussions with policy makers, scientists and industry representatives as well as posters and a *Dragon's Den* competition. Ideas and suggestions for speakers and fun are always welcome - please get in touch with your local student rep.

Remember to register at:
<http://goo.gl/JMrbYu>



Training update

Training Strand 1 Our Research Training is changing! For 2014 cohort of students, this training strand is now delivered in four face-to-face meetings that occur throughout year 1. Each partner will host one meeting where students and supervisors will discuss their projects and consider key challenges in the research under their priority area. The programme and updates on the meetings can be found on the EASTBIO website.

Training strand 2 Registration is now open for **SysMIC** (<http://sysmic.ac.uk/home.html>) -- a comprehensive BBSRC-funded online course in Systems biology aimed at researchers in the biological sciences. The course provides introductory and advanced training in maths and computing based around biological examples. Don't miss this excellent training opportunity! **SysMIC starts in April** • Email F.Fillaci@ed.ac.uk or enquiries@sysmic.ac.uk to express your interest and register for the course.

Events

Leadership and Entrepreneurship in the Biotech Industry

Monday 16 February; Seminar Room 1.08, Waddington Building, King's Buildings, University of Edinburgh

This Innovation Forum event is open to all PhD students in the School of Biological Sciences and the Roslin Institute (UoE). For more information visit:

<http://www.inno-forum.org/#!/leadership-and-entrepreneurship-in-the-b/c1mig>



If you are interested in participating in the Innovation Forum and helping organise future events at your University, please contact **Harsh Vaidya** <s0976049@staffmail.ed.ac.uk> a PhD student from the Institute for Stem Cell Research (UoE) and President of Edinburgh Innovation Forum.



New Initiatives

Watch this space

A team of first-year PhD students at the University of Aberdeen, including EASTBIO student **Frances Vaughan**, have been awarded £250 to develop an online collaboration network for postgraduate students. They hope to apply for a further £1,000 later in the year which would be put towards the development of a smartphone app. Their project aims to facilitate networking, collaboration and skills sharing between students in Aberdeen.

EASTBIO student profiles

Tell us about yourself and your project

We would like to allocate some space on the EASTBIO website to our students' research profiles in order to enhance the visibility of our students' research, as well as promote networking & collaboration opportunities.

EASTBIO students, please email Maria.Filippakopoulou@ed.ac.uk a photo of yourself and a short paragraph about you and your research by the **10th of March**.



Quick Reminder

Send us your NEWS

For all EASTBIO students: If you have any publications, scientific presentations or an interesting knowledge exchange experience, please email the EASTBIO Administrator, Maria, or Tweet to @EastbioDTP. We will be happy to publicise your news and interesting stories on the EASTBIO website and in the EASTBIO Newsletter.

Also, we would like to hear anything that you have to say about the current EASTBIO training and your ideas for potential future training events.