MICROBIOLOGY, GENETICS AND MOLECULAR BIOLOGY OF ARCHAEA

9TH UK MEETING

The University of Birmingham
Edgbaston

January 7th – 8th 2010
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SPONSORS
The organizers would like to express their gratitude to the meeting sponsors:

The Genetics Society
Roslin BioCentre
Wallace Building
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Midlothian EH25 9PS
http://www.genetics.org.uk/

Society for General Microbiology
Marlborough House
Basingstoke Road
Spencers Wood
Reading RG7 1AG
http://www.sgm.ac.uk

Society for Applied Microbiology
Bedford Heights
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MK41 7PH
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New England Biolabs (UK) Ltd
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http://www.neb.uk.com

Bioline Ltd.
16 The Edge Business Centre
Humber Road
London
NW2 6EW
http://www.bioline.com
ATTENDEE INFORMATION

Venue: Lectures and registration take place at:

The Biosciences Building
The University of Birmingham
Edgbaston Campus
Birmingham B15 2TT

Registration
Registration will take place from 12:00 to 13:45 on Thursday 7th January in the Undercroft of the Biosciences Building. If arriving outside these times, please contact the conference organizers directly. Badges should be worn during the meeting.

Scientific Sessions
Talks will take place in lecture theatre NG8 of the Biosciences Building. Speakers should ensure that their talks are loaded onto the resident PC or Mac laptop before their respective session. Posters will be exhibited in the Undercroft of the Biosciences Building. The poster session is scheduled for 17:10 on Thursday 7th January.

Accommodation
Overnight accommodation is in Lucas Hall. Room keys can be collected after 14:00 on Thursday 7th January. Rooms must be vacated by 10:00 on Friday 8th.

Meals and Refreshments
Breakfast will be served in Lucas Hall. Tea / coffee and buffet lunches will be served in the Undercroft of the Biosciences Building. Beer / wine / soft drinks will be available during the poster session scheduled for 17:10 on Thursday 7th January.

The conference dinner will be held at Shimla Pinks (one of Birmingham's top Indian restaurants), Five Ways Leisure Complex, Broad Street, Birmingham B15 1AY, starting at 20:00. For location see maps on page 5. (http://www.shimlapinks.com)

Parking
Pay and display parking spaces are available at the North Car Park. Cars can be left overnight at Lucas House if you obtain a permit when collecting your room key.

Local Taxi Services
TOA Taxis (black cabs) 0121 427 8888
CastleCars (radio cars) 0121 472 2222
Visitors are advised to check http://www.about.bham.ac.uk/maps/ for additional maps and for information about roadworks in the vicinity of the Campus.
THURSDAY 7TH JANUARY

12:00 Registration and Lunch (Undercroft, Biosciences)

SESSION 1 (NG8, BIOSCIENCES)
Chair: Malcolm White (St Andrews)

13:45 Introduction and housekeeping

14:00 Evidence for interaction of Hel308 with DNA damage signalling and repair proteins.
Edward Bolt (University of Nottingham)

14:20 The archaeal FANCM homolog Hef and Holliday Junction resolvase Hjc define alternative pathways essential for cell viability in Haloferax volcanii.
Roxane Lestini (CNRS)

14:40 Multiple functional MCMs in Methanococcus maripaludis
Alison Walters (University of York)

15:00 Helicases and nucleases in archaeal NER
Christophe Rouillon (University of St Andrews – Scotland)

15:20 Tea / Coffee (Undercroft)

SESSION 2 (NG8, BIOSCIENCES)
Chair: Thorsten Allers (University of Nottingham)

15:50 Identification of an ortholog of the eukaryotic RNA polymerase III subunit RPC34 in Crenarchaeota and Thaumarchaeota suggests specialization of RNA polymerases for coding and non-coding RNAs in Archaea.
Fabian Blombach (Wageningen University)

16:10 The mechanism of transcription initiation.
Mirijam Zeller (Universität Regensburg- Lehrstuhl f: Mikrobiologie)

16:30 Transcription Elongation of Archaeal RNA polymerase.
Finn Werner (UCL ISMB)

16:50 Archaeal RNA polymerase subunits and transcription factors -a study in interaction and interrelation.
Dina Grohmann (UCL ISMB)

17:10 Posters and wine reception (Undercroft) Sponsored by Bioline

20:00 Conference dinner
FRIDAY 8TH JANUARY

SESSION 3 (NG8, BIOSCIENCES)
Chair: Finn Werner (University College London)

9:30  Pulse EPR studies on the archaeal RNA Polymerase subunits F/E
   Daniel Klose  (University of Osnabrück)

9:50  L-glutamine dependent binding of the allosteric transcriptional regulator Sa Lrp from Sulfolobus solfataricus to different target genes
   Amelia Vassart  (Vrije Universiteit Brussel)

10:10 Constitutive and inducible promoters for a S. acidocaldarius shuttle vector system
    Silvia Berkner  (University of Bayreuth)

10:30 Haloquadratum walsbyi strain comparison
    Friedhelm Pfeiffer  (Max-Planck-Institute of Biochemistry)

10:50  Tea / Coffee  (Undercroft)

SESSION 4 (NG8, BIOSCIENCES)
Chair: Peter Lund (University of Birmingham)

11:20  Invited Speaker  Travel sponsorship from New England Biolabs
   Biofilm formation in hyperthermophiles
   Sonja-Verena Albers  (MPI for terrestrial Microbiology)

12:00 Initiation and regulation of translation in halophilic Archaea
    Jörg Soppa  (Goethe University- Frankfurt)

12:20  Can an archaeal chaperonin function in a bacterial host?
    Andrew Large  (University of Birmingham)

12:40 Tat-dependent protein transport in halophilic archaea
    Albert Bolhuis  (University of Bath)

13:00 Business meeting – choice of venue and organisers for next year

13:10 Buffet lunch and departure (Undercroft)
Poster Presentations
(17:10, 7th January, The Undercroft)

Role of protein Mth203 in *Methanothermobacter thermoautotrophicus.*
**Chitvan Bochiwal** (University of York)

Genetic tools in *Sulfolobus* ssp.
**Michaela Wagner** (MPI for Terrestrial Microbiology, Marburg)

Biofilm formation in *Sulfolobus* spp.
**Andrea Koerdt** (MPI for Terrestrial Microbiology, Marburg)

A new replication initiator in an Archaeal virus
**Xavier Giroux** (Institut de Génétique et de Microbiologie, Paris-Sud)

Putative stability determinants in the pNOB8 plasmid from *Sulfolobus:* Dissection of a motor-like protein and its binding partners
**Fernando Rodriguez-Castaneda** (University of York)

TBA
**Bushra Patoli** (University of Nottingham)

RPAs in *Haloferax volcanii.*
**Amy Stroud** (University of Nottingham)

Cas-CRISPR: an antiviral defence mechanism in prokaryotes
**Jamieson Howard** (University of Nottingham)
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