



## Homework results!

- Who has the fastest reactions?
  - Do they differ after lunch?
- What else might affect reaction times?



# What are we going to do today?

- Learn a bit more about me, microbiology, bacteria and disease.
- Learn a little about bees: how they make honeycombs and how they are helping us to make medicines
- Hunt for bugs around your school.
- Inoculate agar!

### First a bit more about ME! How did I get here?

- From Rothwell (Nothamptonshire, England)
- I liked bugs, animals and dinosaurs (I still do!)
- I always asked lots of questions, wanted to understand things and wanted to help others (I still do!)
- Went to Rothwell County Infant and Junior School
- Southfield School for Girls, GCSEs and AS levels:
  - Biology, Chemistry, Physics & Maths
- ... study break ...
- Full-time job in a cinema and part-time job as a medical lab assistant
- Tresham College, Part-time A2 Levels:
  - Biology, Chemistry, English literature
- BSc Biomedical Science at Portsmouth Uni
- PhD Cancer cell biology at Cardiff Uni



# What do I do? ...

# Research & Teaching

Α

Experimen

37 kD

5 min EGF

HA-BCA2

n-EGER

Total EGFR

p-AKT

D-ERK 1/

1 2 3

Mock

transfected



HA-BCA2

Insert

Oncogene (2015) 34, 319-331 © 2015 Macmillan Publishers Limited All rights reserved 0950-9232/15 www.nature.com/onc

#### ORIGINAL ARTICLE

*r*elicome

Mock

60 min EGF

HA-BCA2

1 2

Differentiation of tumour-promoting stromal myofibroblasts by cancer exosomes

JP Webber<sup>1</sup>, LK Spary<sup>1</sup>, AJ Sanders<sup>2</sup>, R Chowdhury<sup>1</sup>, WG Jiang<sup>2</sup>, R Steadman<sup>3</sup>, J Wymant<sup>4</sup>, AT Jones<sup>4</sup>, H Kynaston<sup>2</sup>, MD Mason<sup>1</sup>, Z Tabi<sup>1</sup> and A Clayton<sup>1</sup>



Journal of Cancer

2016; 7(15): 2388-2407. doi: 10.7150/jca.15055





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#### PLOS ONE

WWS INTERNATIONAL PUBLISHER

Research Paper

T. Iones<sup>1⊠</sup>

#### RESEARCH ARTICLE

Simple and Versatile 3D Printed Microfluidics Using Fused Filament Fabrication

Alex J. L. Morgan<sup>1</sup>\*, Lorena Hidalgo San Jose<sup>1,3</sup>, William D. Jamieson<sup>2</sup>, Jennifer M. Wymant<sup>2</sup>, Bing Song<sup>3</sup>, Phil Stephens<sup>3</sup>, David A. Barrow<sup>1</sup>\*, Oliver K. Castell<sup>2\*</sup>



Contents lists available at ScienceDirect European Journal of Medicinal Chemistry

journal homepage: http://www.elsevier.com/locate/ejmech

#### Research paper

Novel *cis*-selective and non-epimerisable C3 hydroxy azapodophyllotoxins targeting microtubules in cancer cells

Sahar Kandil <sup>a</sup>, Jennifer M. Wymant <sup>a</sup>, Benson M. Kariuki <sup>b</sup>, Arwyn T. Jones <sup>a</sup>, Christopher McGuigan <sup>a</sup>, Andrew D. Westwell <sup>a, \*</sup>











PRIFYSGOL

UNIVERSITY

≈180 kDa

180 kD

А

# What do I do? ... Travel & conferences





75th Harden Conference - Receptor Tyrosine Kinase Structure and Function in Mammalian Health and Disease 1-5 September 2013 University of Sheffield, UK











EACR

AEK



BT Convention Centre, Liverpool, UK



# What do I do? ... Travel & conferences



# What do I do? ... Public Engagement with Science















he young Darwinian Brittle star reveals a flash is better than a glow

> Inside... Dr Dawin's curiosity shop Luminous jellyfish creates billion deller market Anemone colour heips understand effects of global warming Favour fac colour of a glob-marm revealed Revolutionay disease process revealed by tiny water flab Galapagos beaks in your garden









# What else do I do?

























# But that's just my story...a scientific degree can lead you into all sorts of different careers:

- Forensic Scientist
- Engineer
- Agriculture / Farming
- Ecology
- Medicine
- Pharmacist
- Pretty much anything!



# SCIENCE TIME! Let's look at some bacteria...



So what's the problem with bacteria?

Some types can cause infections

If you don't like yucky photos... Look away now!



## Bacteria cause lots of different types of infection!



Tonsillitis

Meningitis

Food poisoning

### And we treat them with special medicines called....



Raise your hand if you know the answer

## Antibiotics: super medicines, fighting bacteria!





### The Threat of Antibiotic Resistance

- You're all likely to die from a bacterial infection.
- Deaths from antibiotic resistant bacteria to outnumber cancer deaths by 2050 – wно 2014
- Bacteria are becoming resistant to all known drugs.
- Ancient cures and remedies from plants may be a way of combating the problem.

# Now let's meet our baddie...

If you don't like yucky photos... Look away now!



## Methicillin resistant Staphylococcus aureus (MRSA)





Methicillin-resistant Staphylococcus aureus MRSA











### We've got our baddie so now we need our hero...



















#### Is Manuka Honey 'Better Than All Known Antibiotics?'

Manuka honey has well-documented antibacterial properties, but the research is too preliminary to declare superiority over all antibiotics.





# Why (else) do bees matter?



# How do bees store honey?

- The most efficient shape (the one that holds the most volume with the smallest edges) is a sphere. That's why planets and bubbles are round.
- Like all creatures bees want to save energy & do things in the easiest, most efficient way
- Bees store honey in a structure called a honeycomb, but how is that honeycomb made?









# Let's make our own hydrobead "honeycomb!"





# Results!

The spheres don't pack together without gaps, there is wasted space. One sphere is very efficient but lots of them packed together are not.

Squashed spheres form hexagons which packed together perfectly without gaps (tessellated). This is how a real honeycomb is made!

# Results!



# Biohazard Time!

# CAUTION

POTENTIAL BIOHAZARD PRESENT

MADE IN USA

RWS-7561-7X10

www.RightAwaySigns.com

# How Many Bacteria can you find??

- We are now going to do some grime scene investigation.....
- Rub swabs over where you might think the most bacteria will be and bring them back for analysis in our laboratory.







## Places to swab



- Label Petri dish
- Rub swab gently over surface



# YOUR NAME



# You are now officially microbiologists!

#### What happens now?

- We 'Grow' the bacteria at 37 °C for 24 hours
- I will then do some analysis and send all of the pictures and my findings back to you!

















# PRIFYSGOL



### See you soon!



#### **STRICTLY FOR: CATHAYS PRIMARY SCHOOLS**

# **Cancer is a disease of cells**

Normal cells stop growing but cancer cells just keep growing!



### Cancer is an ancient disease - even dinosaurs got it!



- Gorgosaurus

Late Cretaceous period(76.6-75.1 million years ago)

- 7.3 m, 2 tonne relative of *T. rex* 

- Evidence of brain tumour





## I need your help with some cancer research but why is it important?



- 1 in 2 people in the UK will get cancer in their lifetime
- Very serious disease that can make people very unwell & if untreated they can die
- Cancer treatments work
  well but could be better



Gill Dainty-Wymant 1954-2001

# Cancer treatment is like spot the difference!



Need to find something that only cancer cells are doing or that they do a lot more of .... like dividing/growing





# Targeting Cell Growth: Tubulin









# I need YOU to help me choose which is the best new medicine?



Untreated control cells







Medicine 1

0

μm

μm

0

25

50





#### Medicine 1

#### Medicine 2



# **GREAT JOB SCIENTISTS!** HOPEFULLY WE'LL MAKE A NEW CANCER MEDICINE SOON

