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SPPIRIT NEWSLETTER

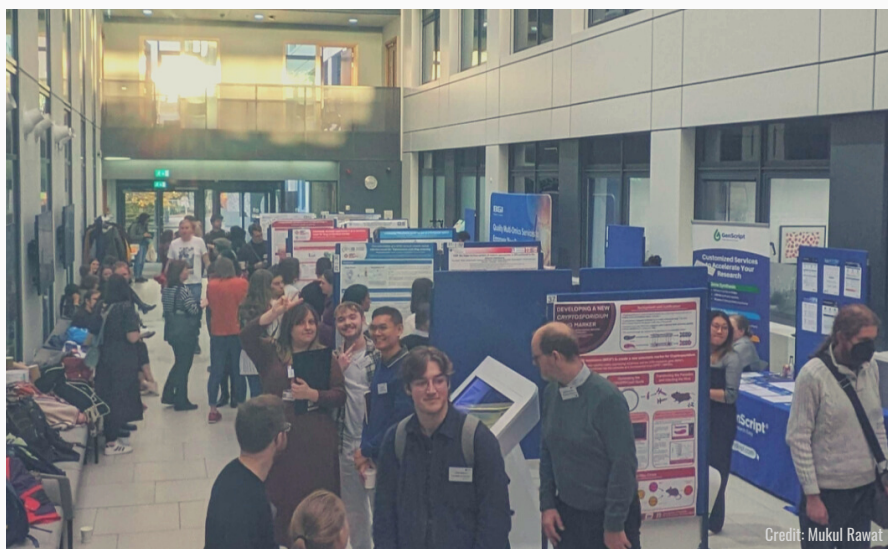
Official Newsletter of the SPPIRIT Network

Trypanosoma brucei brucei (credit: Wellcome Collection)

Main Feature

2ND SPPIRIT ECR SYMPOSIUM

This year's ECR Symposium, hosted by the University of Dundee, brought together more than a hundred researchers from across Scotland to showcase their science. Alexander Mühel from the University of Glasgow started the day with an opening keynote titled "Dissection and Inhibition of the Toxoplasma Respiratory Supercomplex." This was followed by a series of insightful talks, and three networking sessions that provided researchers with valuable opportunities to enhance their skills and expand their research networks. Beatriz Baragana, from the University of Dundee, delivered the final talk of the day, discussing the development of anti-infective treatments with novel modes of action. The event concluded with remarks from Mattie Pawlowic,



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Contributions by: E Briggs; M Pawlowic;
J Richards; F Venter

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2ND SPPIRIT ECR SYMPOSIUM

who also announced the winners of the poster prize: Vivien Shek, Rupa Nagar, and Erin Butterfield. Congratulations to them, and a heartfelt thank you to all attendees and various sponsors for their support.

 For your diary: Our next SPPIRIT event will be a 'Fellowship Surgery' on 19 March, with more information to follow.



"Delighted
to win,
surrounded
by so many
brilliant
posters."

VIVIEN SHEK
DUNDEE

Register Now

BSP SPRING MEETING; LIVERPOOL, 2-5 APRIL

In April 2024, the British Society for Parasitology Spring Meeting comes to Liverpool, a city that has long been a home to parasitology and to a vibrant community of researchers dedicated to combatting parasitic diseases in the UK and worldwide.

Scientific sessions will span the complete parasitological spectrum. From discovering the basic principles of parasite biology, including the latest trends in parasite research, to applied parasitology for controlling disease. In addition, the BSP Spring Meeting will renew its association with British Ecological Society, which will present two sessions on 'Parasite wildlife ecology' and 'Complex ecology data analysis'.

At lunchtimes, special guest speakers will lead conversations on professional parasitology, how best to implement successful equality and inclusion and career development practices. Plus, pre-registered delegates also have the opportunity to attend two genome database training workshops with accreditation. Sign up now: <https://tinyurl.com/4hmfrf5r>



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sppirit.network@gmail.com



Credit: Andy Fotheringham

"What I love about parasitology is the community within the field."

SIMONE ALTMANN
WCAIR, DUNDEE



Dundee

HERMINTHOLOGY PROFILES RESEARCHERS

Herminthology, started by Nichola Calvani, aims to promote the work of women parasitologists and share some context behind the work they do. They've profiled over 100 women to date, and recently featured researchers at the University of Dundee including Juliana da Silva Pachecho, Susan Wylie and Mattie Pawlowic. You can read more about them and their work at <https://www.herminthology.com/> and on Instagram.



More from Dundee

RECENT PAPERS

New research published by Susan Wylie's group, described RES-Seq, a barcoded library of drug resistant *Leishmania*. Tulloch, L. B., Carvalho, S. et al. (2023).

David Horn's group published an update on competition among variants, which contributes to antigenic variation dynamics in trypanosomes. Escrivani, D. O. et al. (2023).

EXHIBITION BY WCAIR

The Wellcome Centre for Anti-Infectives Research (WCAIR) announced a brand-new exhibition at Verdant Works called 'Tackling TB – Dundee scientists fighting the killer cough'.

The exhibition will explore the past, present, and future of Tuberculosis, and research from Dundee's own Drug-discovery unit will also be featured. Visit <https://rb.gy/9dszjm> for more information.

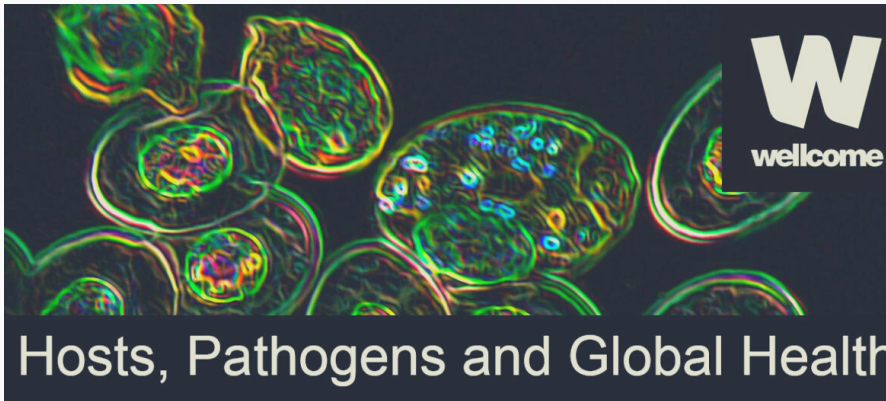


Credit: Wikimedia Commons

Edinburgh

PHD PROGRAMMES NOW RECRUITING

There are currently openings for the October 2024 intake in two Wellcome Trust PhD programs: the 'Host, Pathogens, and Global Health Programme' and the 'One Health Models of Disease Programme.' Both programs offer four years of funding and present opportunities to work in parasitology labs. For additional details, please refer to the Edinburgh Infectious Disease (EID) page at <https://rb.gy/b8fm8j>.



Hosts, Pathogens and Global Health

More from Edinburgh

WELCOME TO GEORGIA PERONA-WRIGHT

The University of Edinburgh's School of Biological Sciences congratulates Georgia Perona-Wright on her appointment as Professor of Infection Immunology.

Scheduled to join Edinburgh in January 2024, Professor Perona-Wright will continue her research, focusing on immune responses to infection. Her work particularly emphasises understanding the delicate balance required to control pathogens without causing harm to the host. In anticipation of her move, Georgia expressed excitement about becoming part of a vibrant research community that offers fresh perspectives and, of course, the scenic views from Blackford Hill.

For further details, please visit the Perona Lab website at www.peronalab.uk or Twitter: @PeronaLab.

"HPGH IS A
WELL-
SUPPORTED
PROGRAMME
WITH
CUTTING-EDGE
SCIENCE."

ALIZ OWALABI
HPGH ALUMNI



Credit: Carnegie Trust



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Since 2003,
Movember
has funded
1,300 men's
health
projects
around the
world

Moredun

RESEARCHERS RAISE FUNDS FOR MENS HEALTH

The 'Movember' initiative had its beginnings in Australia during the 1990s, aiming to bring attention to men's health issues. In this movement, individuals grow a mustache throughout November and collect donations to support the cause. This year, Moredun's 'Mo Bros' successfully raised £1600, thanks to the generosity of friends and family. Congratulations to all those who contributed!

For more details on how to donate or participate, please visit the Movember website: <https://uk.movember.com/>.



Also from Moredun

SUCCESSFUL VIVA

'Cassie McGregor has successfully defended her PhD titled "Exploring roundworm epidemiology resistance in farmed and wild ruminants". Congratulations, Dr McGregor! The next stage of Cassie's career sees her continuing her research into precision livestock farming at Moredun.

RECENT PAPERS

The McNeilly and Nussey groups (Moredun and Edinburgh) published a meta-analysis about co-infecting nematodes. Evans, M. J. et al. (2023).

A recent study characterising *Cryptosporidium parvum* in dairy cattle and calves, was published by researchers at Moredun. Bartley et al. (2023).





Glasgow

IDEAL 2.0 PARTNERSHIP LAUNCHED IN NAIROBI

Andy Waters, Director of the Wellcome Centre for Integrative Parasitology (WCIP), recently participated in the launch of IDeAL 2.0 in Nairobi. This initiative aims to facilitate the development of the next generation of African research leaders, and builds on the success of the original IDeAL initiative which supported 127 PhD projects and over 60 postdoctoral researchers.

IDeAL 2.0 is funded by the Wellcome Trust and FCDO, through the Science for Africa Foundation, and partners with WCIP. For more information, please visit <https://ideal.kemri-wellcome.org/>.



IDeAL has
already
supported
950
researchers
through
different
programmes

More from Glasgow

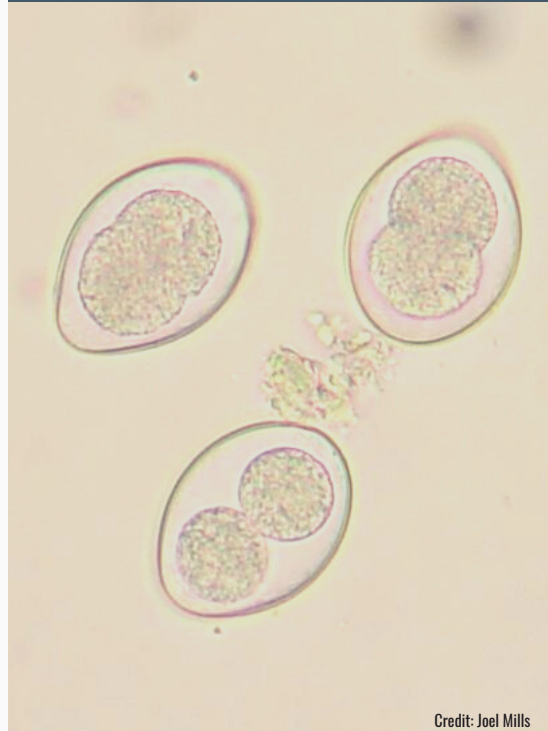
RECENT PAPERS

A collaborative project from researchers in Glasgow and Edinburgh explored the impact of trypanosome infections on the murine meninges. Quintana, J. F. et al. (2023).

Poppy Lamberton's group in Glasgow produced an opinion piece aimed at defining schistosomiasis hotspots. Lim R. M. et al. (2023).

COCCIDIAN DAY

Coccidian Day, scheduled for December 18-19, will be hosted at the Advanced Research Centre (ARC), University of Glasgow. The conference will be a platform for Coccidia researchers to share their findings, engage in discussions, and build their professional networks. Abstract submissions have concluded, but registration for attendees remains open: <https://shorturl.at/jkF57>.



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