

July-September  
2022

## Welcome

We have lots of new faces joining the IHA. Welcome to everyone!

Firstly, welcome to the new PhD students Sam Taylor, Elli Tsintzas, Yilin Zhang and Haoyu Wang.

Sam (Labbadia) completed his BSc in Biomedical Sciences and spent an Erasmus year in Barcelona. He has worked as a research assistant in Madrid and finally at UCL working on the ageing human immune system.

Elli (Niccoli) is originally from Nottingham, she studied Pharmacology at the University of Bath.

Yilin (Bähler) is from China where she did a BSc in Clinical Medicine.

She then moved to the University of Aberdeen for an MSc in Cardiovascular Science & Diabetes.

Haoyu (Bähler) studied Biochemistry in China before joining the IHA.

Welcome to all the new undergraduate and masters project students, we hope you enjoy your time in the lab!

## Upcoming Events

27<sup>th</sup> Oct 6pm. IHA Games Night. IHA Meeting Room

3<sup>rd</sup> Nov 4pm.

Neurodegeneration in Flies Virtual Series. Speaker: Dr

# IHA Newsletter

## Message from Jürg & David

One of the strengths of the IHA is the high level of social interaction between members of the different research groups within it. This is good both for scientific collaboration, and for making the IHA an enjoyable place to work. We encourage everyone at the IHA, especially younger members (including undergraduate volunteers), to get involved with social activities at the IHA, whether visits to the pub, Friday coffee mornings, or film or game nights such as those that Hannah Chapman has been organizing recently. After the lockdown during the pandemic, the social fabric of the IHA came apart to an extent, and it is good to see it regenerating again.

## Congratulations

Ashling Giblin won joint first prize in the final year category at the Annual GEE Postgraduate Symposium for her talk describing genetic modifiers of ALS/FTD using fruit flies and patient cells.

## Conferences

In September, Nazif Alic gave a talk at the British Society for Research on Ageing Annual Meeting at the University of Kent, and Kuei Ching Hsiung and Bruce Zhang from the Gems lab and Tatiana Svermova from the Alic lab presented posters there.



In July Kuei Ching Hsiung from the Gems lab presented his work on autophagy and ageing at the C. elegans Metabolism, Aging, Pathogenesis, and Stress meeting in Madison, Wisconsin.

David Gems gave two talks at the American Aging Association Annual Meeting, San Antonio, Texas.

Jürg Bähler and Jacky Hayles (Francis Crick Inst) organised this year's [British Yeast Group Meeting \(BYG2022\)](#) 'From Genomes to Cells', a Microbiology Society Focused Meeting. This meeting took place at UCL over three days in early September with a BBQ on a Thames boat on the 8<sup>th</sup> of September.

## Grants

Ashling Giblin received an ARUK pump-priming grant for a pilot project investigating Membrane Fluidity in Frontotemporal dementia (FTD) and Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis (ALS) using Drosophila models and patient iPSC derived neurons.

Nazif Alic was awarded a BBSRC grant to research the mechanisms whereby a reduction in ribosome biogenesis promotes longevity. It focuses on RNA polymerase I.

## Other News

Ashling Giblin is shortlisted for the [ARUK Researcher of the Year 2022](#) which will be awarded at a ceremony in November. The award recognises researchers making significant contributions to dementia research and the work of Alzheimer's Research UK.

Nazif Alic has written [a piece for Al-Jazeera](#) on the state of hospital care for older people in his hometown of Sarajevo.

Manish Jaiswal. [Details are on the website.](#) Zoom

16<sup>th</sup> Dec 5pm onwards. IHA Christmas Party. Location tbc

## Eppendorf Prize

The [Eppendorf Award for Young European Investigators](#) acknowledges outstanding contributions to biomedical research in Europe. The Award is presented in Partnership with *Nature*. The prize is €20,000 Applications close on the 15<sup>th</sup> Jan 2023

David Gems and Carina Kern published a critique of the concept of cellular senescence, entitled '[Is "cellular senescence" a misnomer?](#)' in the journal *GeroScience*.

## Volunteering Opportunities

D2D is an initiative aimed at giving school students exposure to young professionals from a variety of backgrounds with whom they can relate, and members from the IHA regularly volunteer as part of D2D. In the coming months leading to Christmas, there will be numerous opportunities to volunteer at schools in London. For more details and if you're interested in volunteering please contact [Carina Kern](#) (Gems lab) or visit the [website](#).

[Pint of Science](#) is a world-wide science festival bringing researchers and the public together in local pubs/cafés to discuss their scientific discoveries. All universities in London are involved and last year UCL organised 18 events at 6 pubs, over 3 nights with nearly 1000 attendees.

They are now recruiting students, postdocs and other early-career researchers to help organize the UCL events for 2023. Please [complete this form](#) by Thursday 27<sup>th</sup> November if you're interested. If you have any questions please [email](#) the UCL team.

## Also at the IHA



Hannah Chapman has organised our first IHA games and movie nights! Keep an eye on your emails from Hannah for upcoming dates and remember everyone is welcome. Thank you Hannah!

The popular IHA-run third year course *Biology of Ageing* kicked off again at the start of term, with the largest ever number of students taking it - 137. IHA scientists contributing lectures to this course include David Gems, Nazif Alic, Linda Partridge, John Labbadia and Lazaros Foukas, and Shaimaa Hassan, Dunxin Shen, Bruce Zhang, Mirjam Adams and Yilin Zhang are also helping by running tutorials.

Enric Urena Sala completed the [Thames Path Challenge](#), raising £852! "I enjoyed the path, the awesome views of the river and the countryside, and walking throughout the night was a really exciting experience. However, I suffered from blisters and muscle ache much earlier than I expected, and serious dizziness at 37km made me stop for a long time. Nevertheless, I thought about everyone who supported me and after completing the 100km, I felt so happy and grateful to everyone who donated to the Alzheimer's Society. Thank you so much to everyone in the IHA for their support!! The [JustGiving page](#) is still open so please feel free to add to the amazing total.



*Alic lab in summer 2022 as drawn by Zhaocheng, an MRes student. Thanks Zhaocheng!*