

Welcome to the November issue of Anastomosis. In this issue, we bring you the latest news from our members and keep you updated on upcoming deadlines. We also highlight some interesting news articles from the past month.

Mark your diary!

The winter meeting of the Anatomical Society will be held at the **Royal Veterinary College** in London on **December 17th-19th, 2012**. The theme of the meeting is 'Comparative Anatomy and Medicine.' To register and view the meeting programme go to: <http://www.anatsocmeeting.co.uk/ibis/Winter-2012/home>

The summer meeting of the Anatomical Society will be held at the **Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland** in Dublin on **July 4th-5th, 2013**. The theme of this meeting will be 'Form and Function in Regenerative Medicine.'

The **Royal Society** will be holding a Metabolism & Endocrinology meeting in **London** on **December 11th-13th, 2012**.

The **British Neuroscience Association** will host the Festival of Neuroscience in London on **April 7th-10th, 2013**.

Anatomical Society: Research

The Society is currently collecting information and reviewing examples of anatomical research performed in various institutions in the UK and Ireland. Get more information on what your colleagues in Swansea, Cardiff, Edinburgh, London, Lancaster, Dublin and Cork are working on by going to: <http://www.anatsoc.org.uk/Research.aspx>.

Journal of Anatomy: Disc degeneration phenotypes

In this special issue of the **Journal of Anatomy** looking at Spine Function, Michael Adams and Patricia Dolan propose that disc degeneration may be divided into two distinct categories, end-plate driven degeneration versus annulus driven degeneration. End-plate driven degeneration is associated with the thoracic and upper lumbar spine, has a high heritability, a moderate association with pain and generally occurs before 30 years. Annulus-driven degeneration is linked to the lumbar spine, has lower heritability, a strong association with pain and is rarely seen before 30 years of age. Read more at: <http://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1111/j.1469-7580.2012.01551.x/abstract>

Aging Cell: Prolonging the female reproductive lifespan

Omega-3 fatty acids may provide an effective solution for delaying ovarian aging and improving oocyte quality at advanced maternal age. In this issue of Aging Cell Nehra and colleagues discuss how lifelong consumption of an omega-3 rich diet prolongs murine reproductive function into advanced maternal age, while a diet rich in omega-6 fatty acids is associated with poor reproductive success at advanced maternal age. Read more on this research at: <http://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1111/accel.12006/abstract>

Great apes go through a mid-life crisis

Although Alexander Weiss, a psychologist at the University of Edinburgh, says we won't see chimpanzee's buying bright red shiny cars, a recent study published in PNAS suggests that great apes may, just like humans, go through a 'mid-life crisis'. Read more at: <http://www.pnas.org/content/early/2012/11/14/1212592109>

This issue

Mark your diary

Society Research

News of Journal papers

Research funding opportunities

Synoptics

Calendar

17–19 December 2012 –London.
Winter Meeting of Anatomical Society at the Royal Veterinary College

11 – 13 December 2012 – London.
Royal Society Metabolism & Endocrinology Meeting

Departmental Seminar Awards 2012-13

University of Bradford, UK
University of Bristol, UK
University of Leicester, UK
University of Sheffield, UK
Tulane University, USA
University College Cork, Ireland

Royal Society Funding Opportunities

Brian Mercer Feasibility Awards
£30000 (Open for Applications)

Leverhulme Trust Senior Research Fellowship (Closing: 9th January 2013)

Dorothy Hodgkin Fellowship (Closing: 10th January 2013)

Leverhulme – Royal Society Africa Award (Closing: 6th February 2013)

Synoptics – Perspectives of a Ph.D. student

Rachael Quinn is in the third year of her Ph.D. at the University of Liverpool working within the Institute of Translational Medicine researching the communication between endothelial cells and smooth muscle cells of the human coronary vasculature. Rachael's days currently consist of a variety of experiments and an "awful lot of journal-reading" as she faces the daunting task of organising her data and writing her thesis. Rachael reflects on her first day and the differences between undergraduate and postgraduate study. "Gone were the days of sitting in comfortable lecture halls being spoon-filled the necessary information, now it was quite clear the hard-graft was really about to start. For the first few months ploughing through the sheer volume of literature was a challenge in itself. Not long after my start as a postgraduate student came my introduction to cell culture, an environment that makes you neurotic about your lab and undergraduates clambering all over your equipment gives you cold sweats in the night. When I look back at how I have changed over the last two and half years the difference is striking". Rachael is now confident in her own ideas and regularly holds her own in research meetings. In addition to her research Rachael also demonstrates anatomy to undergraduate anatomy and medical students and says that "nothing quite compares to that moment a student suddenly understands the concept of the peritoneum, even if it has taken a lot of gesticulating and odd diagrams of tennis balls and balloons!"

Vacancies

The Centre for Anatomy and Human Identification in the College of Life Sciences is seeking to appoint a **Principal Anatomist** who will have overall responsibility for the provision of anatomy teaching and all anatomy-related research at the **University of Dundee**. The closing date for applications is **4th January 2013**.

The **Centre for Trophoblast Research** at the University of Cambridge is currently advertising two Next Generation Fellowships and two Ph.D. studentships to commence in October 2013. The closing date for applications is **14th December 2012**.

Further details on these positions may be found at:

www.anatsoc.org.uk/Vacancies.aspx

Send us your news!

If you have any news, events or announcements that you would like to see published in the newsletter, send us an email.

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electronically by email**

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Synoptics

A reflective and lively account of some aspect of the work that members of the society do. Write a 200-word description or submit brief responses using the questionnaire below (a short paragraph will be generated). Submit your writing or responses to the editors of the newsletter at rettarh@tulane.edu or jean.oconnor@ucd.ie.

1. What has your day been like today?
2. What are you thinking about now?
3. What are you working on now?
4. What course(s) are you currently teaching?
5. What research project are you currently working on?
6. Do you remember what your first day at your present job was like?
7. Where was the most recent conference / research meeting you attended held?
8. What was the last theatre/movie you last watched?
9. What is the current book you are reading or latest you have read (if any)?
10. What is your favourite drink or pastime?