This week Micro-News includes profiles of Mike Holmes and Racheal Carnahan. As a new item, we pose the question ‘Have you Noticed?’ to test your powers of observation and general knowledge of the Microbiology Building. In ‘Did You Know?’ Bruce Todd advises us about the imminent introduction of a swipe card entry system for after-hours entry to the Microbiology Building. Other important messages come from the workshop (Greg) and Safety Officer (Glen). In a less serious vein, champion News-Hound, Rachel, and her collaborators offer us some further entertaining snippets of life on the 6th Floor. It is good to have such a large variety of contributions to our newsletter. Hopefully we can maintain a blend of Micro-News items that will be of interest, amusement and information. All contributions are very welcome, so please try to spare a few moments every so often to jot down a few lines to share informally with your departmental friends and colleagues.

Have you noticed?

- John Tagg

Micro-News Flashes

* Call for Volunteers
We are looking for six volunteers for a special BLIS-colonisation trial. If you are already carrying the BLIS-ful bacteria you will not be able to participate this time. The only potentially awkward part of this experiment is the requirement to refrain from tooth brushing over two week-end periods. Please see John Tagg for further details.

* Maria has sent a post card from The Bushman's Centre, Pukekura, South Westland. Maria seems to have in mind a Lottery Grant proposal to allow her to stay on and do some research on the giant sandflies that this area is renowned for.

Meetings this Week

Journal Club 12.10 pm Wednesday
8th floor
Alex Jovicic and Gerald Tannock

Post grad colloquia 4.15 pm Friday
8th floor
Richard Webby

Did you Know?

After hours entry to the building will soon be by a swipe card. The system will be installed this month (sept.) You will need to register with Maria by the end of this week, Friday 9th, to get a card. Before you get a card you will need to hand in your existing key. Students will pay a fee for the card refundable on handing it in at the end of the year (same as the system for the key). Eventually entry to all buildings on campus will be by card and you should not think Microbiology is being singled out for some kind of "big brother is watching" treatment. be accessed if there has been a problem.

We are also investigating a video security system for the main foyer. This will be integrated with an existing system operated by the security guards. These are proving very successful on other parts of the campus and will further our aim to provide a safe environment for both staff and students, especially at night.

- Bruce Todd
E-Journal in Microbiology?

Springer-Verlag are trying to assess the general attitude of microbiologists toward introduction of a peer-reviewed on-line electronic journal - "Microbiology OnLine" - for microbiological publications, to assess the status of your computer and network connection, and to involve you as a potential reader/author/referee/editor as early as possible in deciding the features desired for such a new medium. Basic features of Microbiology OnLine will be:

- Rapid publication yet full review because of completely electronic handling of manuscripts
- Subscription rates allowing individual subscriptions and widespread readership
- Full support of high quality graphics and half-tones - Browsing of articles in subject areas, and in addition, following any reference to other e-journal articles or subject links
- Powerful searching capabilities
- Integration of text, audio/video material, software, and other data

The questionnaire is in the JK-Lab Out folder in the Microbiology Zone as a Teachtext file. Cut and Paste it into your Eudora mail; fill in the blanks and mail it to: E-mail: czeschlik@springer.de

Staff Profile - Racheal Carnahan

I was born and raised right here in Dunedin. I first started working when I was 17 at H. E. Gardner & Sons Ltd (engineering firm) as Receptionist for the first 2 years, then being promoted to Senior Clerk for the next 2.5 years. At this point I decided I needed a change and more of a challenge and that's how I ended up here.

Last year I went to Sydney to stay with one of my sisters, being the perfect tourist oohing and ahhing at tall buildings, roller coasters and shopping centres, wanting to go everywhere and see everything. I then went on by train (never again next time I'll fly) to Adelaide to stay with my mum. When I got home I was planning my next holiday already. So now I'm saving so I can go see more (well as soon as I stop spending, I'll be saving).

I have four sisters (one in Queenstown, one in Benhar and the other two in Dunedin) and one brother in Wanganui. I also have two nieces in Benhar which I try to visit as often as possible and spoil rotten.

I'm interested in aerobics and weights, reading, movies, dining out and going out on the town with friends till all hours of the morning.

Racheal must surely be one of our most versatile members of staff. Somehow she manages to split her time and attention between Bio1 115 and Department of Microbiology duties. The latter include provision of both secretarial and accounting assistance for Maria and Julie. On top of all that Racheal has also been doing a marvellous job helping me with the production of Micro-News.

- John Tagg

Quote of the Week

From the tea room white board-

"I'd rather have a bottle in front of me than a frontal lobotomy"  
-Anon.
Recent Publications


Besides making a fundamental contribution to the study of the iridoviruses, this is a good example of how a supervisor was able to twist an arm by E-mail to get a former Ph.D. student to finally publish from his Ph.D. work. Ph.D. students who may intend to disappear over the horizon, BEWARE !!

-James Kalmakoff.


This paper describes the sequence analysis of a 1.55kb region of the NZ-2 strain of orf virus. This analysis revealed an open reading frame, B2L, coding for a 42 kDa protein (p42K) which has a 42% amino acid sequence identity to the major envelope antigen, p37K, of vaccinia virus. RIP and lymphocyte transformation assays showed that the orf virus p42K protein is one of a limited number of proteins to which sheep mount a strong antibody response and which stimulate lymphocytes derived from sheep naturally infected with NZ-2.

- T. Maguire.

Sixth Floor News

Richard has been getting in touch with his paternal instincts caring for mothers and their newborn.

Bart has been charitably feeding starving ants. One good turn deserves another - the neighbours cat has been providing free fertiliser for his seed plots.

Why did the dizzy blonde male put breadcrumbs in the toilet?... to feed the toilet duck! this joke kindly provided by Rachael S.

John has a suggestion for the next photocopy competition, the subject being peoples glutamus maximus - we expect him to be the first contender, that is if he doesn't get pushed out of the way by Richard!

Submissions can be handed into Dr John for screening.

Lynette has dyed her hair - has anyone noticed? We would like to write much more about her but she has threatened us with "physical violence and savage beatings and thrashings". We might enjoy that though Lynette!

Ross when asked if he had a contribution to make said, "No!" He probably doesn't have time for anything else - he's too busy reading the numerous E-mails he receives.

Stef K is shifting house in Cromwell.

Chris is missing Brian.

Rachel Elliot put everyone else's birthday in except her own- we would like to take this opportunity to wish her a happy birthday for last Monday (the 29th) and we enjoyed her shout last Friday (we hope)

Chris has had a wonderful relaxing week skiing and saunaring- things must have got easier since we went through 4th year!

If anyone would like to provide any informative and stimulating information please refer it to Felicity ferret aka Rach(a)el.

Have You Noticed?

There are 6 portraits of Microbiologists on the walls of the 4th Floor Seminar Room. Can you name all of them in the correct order from left to right as you face the front of the room? Give yourself one point for each correct name and another point for each one, if it is in the correct order. How many of these people were Heads of Department at Otago? (One point for each correct answer and one point off for each incorrect answer). Finally (within 5 years) over which period did each serve as Head of Department? (Give yourself another point for each correct estimate).

[For a clue, take a look at the photo on the next page].

Over the next few weeks Micro-News will incorporate brief biographies of each of our past Heads of Department.
I was born on December 6 1941 (the night of Pearl Harbour and the Russian counter-attack at Stalingrad), at Tettenhall, a village near the edge of the 70-mile-diameter industrial complex known as the ‘Black Country’ in central England. I won a scholarship for the sons of war-widows to a very minor public school, catering to children of scrap-iron merchants and war profiteers and left at 16 to take a job as a brick-layer’s mate building a power station in Barcelona (this being as far away from Tettenhall as I could get at the time).

After misunderstandings with the Spanish Authorities I retreated tactfully to a village high in the Catalonian Pyrenees where the prime occupation was transporting French cigarettes and contraceptives across the Spanish border. Some months later I was traced from England and learned that my practice A-levels had come up lucky.

After a year as a hospital porter, I was fired for overturning a trolley by the lift shaft on the top floor (it carried the day’s milk supply for the hospital). I then spent 6 happy years getting my license-to-kill at Liverpool Medical School - at this time we could hire the Beatles for £50 a gig. After 2nd MB I took a year off to do my first bit of research, looking for evidence of certain characteristic β-haptoglobins in the blood of the inhabitants of remote fishing communities in the outer Canary Islands. Here I developed my abiding hatred of camels.

After my registration year in 1966, during which I was Prof Pat Molloy’s houseman, I joined the British Antarctic Survey. I spent three of the next seven years at the dog-driving base of Stonington Island on the Antarctic Peninsula and the rest between the Common Cold Unit at Salisbury, Flying-Doctor in the Falkland Islands and the Clinical Research Centre at Harrow. This was all under the direction of David Tyrrell, FRS and Bar, who inherited the mantle of Sir Christopher Andrewes, daddy of English virology.

In 1972 I married, we had a son and then in 1974 we submitted our MD and PhD theses a day before leaving for California. There, for two years, I ran the duplicate Moon-Lab facility for NASA, working on Viking until they abandoned the manned Mars shot, when I applied for the job here. My interview with Prof John Miles took place at midnight on the 12th floor of the Oklahoma City Hilton and began stylishly when he suggested a night-cap, opened a bottle of single malt and chucked the cork out of the window.

Following an extended holiday with old mates homesteading in Northern Alberta on the edge of the Arctic Circle, we came to Otago in 1976 and here we have raised our family in a big, shabby old villa up the NE valley. My research interests and training are in clinical immunovirology, particularly at a mucosal level and for the past 8 years I have become focussed on Chronic Fatigue Syndrome or Tapanui ‘Flu, trying to find out if it has an infectious aetiology.
Magical Microbiological Moments
My (never before revealed) most embarrassing microbiological moment occurred during my first week as a Post-doctoral student in the University of Minnesota Laboratories of Lewis Wannamaker ("King of the Streptococci"). My objective was to grow lots of group A streptococcal cells in a 10 litre glass carboy vessel. My big mistake was to drop and smash the container just outside the 'king's' office as I was manfully carrying it from the incubator back to the lab. The corridor, secretarial suite and Dr Wannamaker’s office were soon awash with an estimated 10,000,000,000,000 streptococcal chains. Did I panic?

- John Tagg

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ACCIDENT</th>
<th>No.</th>
<th>FAULT</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Corrosives in eye</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>No safety glasses</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cuts to hands</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>Broken pipettes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Anaerobe contaminated needle punctures</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Falls</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>Wet floor</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fume intoxication</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>Poor fume hose technique</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Back strain</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>Underestimation of age!</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Do you know where your lab medical kit is.
Check it now. Is it complete? If not see Julie.

-Glen Buchan

FROM THE WORKSHOP
If you think there is a problem with your pipettor, give it to the workshop, do not open it up and try to fix it yourself. We have recently had a spate of pipettor’s whose O-rings have gone missing after being opened up by inquisitive persons. These O-rings can cost up to $30 each so please leave it to us.

-Greg

News Hounds
8th Floor - Racheal Carnahan
7th Floor - Terry Maguire and Els Maas
6th Floor - Rachel Elliot
5th Floor - John Tagg
4th Floor - Glenn Buchan & Barbara Clark
3rd Floor - Megan Spencer
3rd years - Matt Bismark & Kristyn Mitchell
Ground Floor - Judith Bateup

"So, until next week—adios, amoebas."
The Back Page

SUGGESTED EXAM FORMAT FOR BTNY 222

You are required to answer questions to a total of 60 marks.

For example 4 essays at 15 marks each

\[ 4 \times 15 = 60 \]

or 1 extended essay at 20 marks, plus 8 short answer questions at 5 marks each

\[ 20 + (5 \times 8) = 60 \]

or 1 extended essay at 20 marks, plus 1 essay at 15 marks, plus 5 short answer questions at 5 marks each

\[ 20 + 15 (5 + 5) = 60 \]

An extended essay must be clearly marked with the words EXTENDED ESSAY, otherwise it will be marked out of 15.

Section A: Essay topics
1. Write an essay on thingies
2. Compare and contrast doodleflaps and thingummybobs
3. Describe Starbarkfast's model of planetary hyperspace
4. Using named examples, describe the sex-life of undergraduates
5. Give a detailed account of how you would cut a lemon in half
6. Write a letter to Zaphod Beeblebrox explaining the impact of recent discoveries in molecular genetics on his theories of pentapedaly.

Section B: Short answer questions (worth 5 marks each)
7. Draw annotated diagrams showing how your navel relates to your ear
8. Give a short definition of five of the following:
   a) Grunting  e) Flightless birds
   b) Eating     f) Escalators
   c) Double beds g) Genetics lecturers
   d) Water beds h) 2nd cousins

9. Answer five of the following:
   a) Pair dancing involves a minimum of how many dancers?
   b) A game of rugby requires at least how many teams?
   c) Name three things you might find in your pocket.
   d) etc. for eight choices

10. List five differences between a cat and a dog.
11. Briefly explain the difficulties in travelling round the world if the flat earth hypothesis is true.
12. List the advantages and disadvantages of getting up in time for 8 a.m. lectures.
13. Write down three things that might increase your chances of passing the course (give a brief explanation of each).
14. What is a lecturer? What is a student? Give an example of each. Is it possible to be both?
15. Why is cutlery useful at mealtimes?