



WARWICK

SCHOOL OF LIFE SCIENCES

February 2020

Study Life Sciences

Welcome to the latest edition of our newsletter for those thinking of studying Life Sciences at Warwick. We hope you enjoy finding out a little more about our School and its students and staff.

Full course details are on our web pages (warwick.ac.uk/uglifesci) and if you would like to visit the School then come along to an Open Day (warwick.ac.uk/uglifesci/events) or attend one of our Public Science Evenings (warwick.ac.uk/scienceonthe-hill). If you have any questions about studying with us then please do get in touch via ug.lifesciences@warwick.ac.uk.

Our New Neuroscience Degree

The School of Life Sciences is very excited about its new undergraduate [Neuroscience degree](#). Neuroscience has been a major strength at the University of Warwick since the early 2000s when the first wave of neuroscientists were appointed. **Prof Bruno Frenguelli**, one of the key academics behind the instigation and design of the new degree, explains "Neuroscience at Warwick has expanded to include colleagues in the Medical School, Psychology, Maths & Statistics, Chemistry and Engineering. Areas of particular neuroscience expertise at Warwick include the study of learning and memory, the control of respiration, mechanisms involved in taste sensation, circadian rhythms, natural defences to stroke and epileptic seizures, and the nature of the communication between the various cell types within the brain."



These studies are strengthened by close links to companies that have emerged from the School of Life Sciences that are developing novel medicines for conditions such as pain, new research tools to investigate the release of signalling molecules in the nervous system and elsewhere, and diagnostic tests for stroke. Prof Frenguelli is a director of one of these companies, [Sarissa Biomedical](#).



The degree will include modules covering the neurobiology of nervous system disorders, the effects of drugs of abuse on the brain and the cell biology of neurones. The associated practical classes will give hands-on experience of making electrophysiological recordings from the nervous system, as well as using computer simulations to understand the fundamentals of neurophysiology and neuropharmacology. By the end of the course Neuroscience students will be well-equipped to undertake further study leading to a research degree such as MRes or PhD, but equally will learn the analytical and transferrable skills to join any profession that recognises the value of an undergraduate science degree.

Prof Frenguelli says to our first group of Neuroscience offer holders "The new BSc and MBio in Neuroscience is an opportunity to join our vibrant community, to learn in detail about the nervous system, and to see how knowledge is translated into treatments for neurological and psychiatric conditions."

BioSoc Talent Show

The SLS Talent Show recently hosted by BioSoc saw nine contestants compete: **Katie Swan, Keethana Menon, Lee Ball, Matt Exley, Valeriaa Nadmitova, Aaron Kyereh-Mireku, Prof Kevin Moffat** and his band Alkevan, **Prof Lorenzo Frigero** and **Matthew Jolly**. Matthew Jolly showed off his unicycle tricks, being the only person not to do a musical performance.

£325 was raised from admissions fees as well as generous donations. The winner was Katie Swan with her rendition of 'Somewhere Over the Rainbow'. She chose to donate the total to her charity, the Meningitis Research Foundation who do work combating meningitis and septicaemia. Many thanks to our judges - **Dr Robert Spooner, Skyla White** (BioSoc Freshers Rep) and **Saraa Kaleem** (BioSoc President).



Gibbet Hill Green Action Team

Our University is committed to sustainability. The Green Action Team aims to raise awareness about sustainability across the Gibbet Hill campus and make positive impacts to environmental performance. The team consists of volunteers from Life Sciences and the Medical School and recent initiatives include a delicious variety of vegan dishes at Cafe Gibbet Hill for Veguary.



More information on Environmental Sustainability at Warwick warwick.ac.uk/about/environment

It's growing!

Our new state-of-the-art building for biomedical research is growing fast and is still on track to be finished in December. As well as providing space for our existing research in neurophysiology, antibiotic studies and embryo development, our students will benefit from a new 400-seat lecture theatre and new social and collaboration spaces.



Currently called the Interdisciplinary Biomedical Research Building (IBRB), a competition to find a new name is planned.



Put yourself out there! by Philippa Harris, 4th year MBio Biomedical Science

"As an aspiring surgeon, I have always had a special interest in the cardiovascular system. During my degree, I often engage with academics during and after human anatomy and physiology lectures. After building a rapport with such academics I would discuss complex cardiac cases and ECGs that I had come across during my part time role as a healthcare assistant in A&E. When the time came to decide upon a project for my MBio, I decided to ask around my department for cardiology related projects. I was delighted when Professor Kevin Moffat invited me to work on a project to help develop an Augmented Reality app for anatomy, pathophysiology and pharmacology of the heart! It was perfect!

To top it off, the project was a collaboration with Monash and so I decided to spend year four of my MBio in Australia. Melbourne is amazing, it is diverse, quirky and the food is incredible. Monash itself is an amazing university with world renowned facilities, I can't recommend it enough. There is a real community feeling at Monash, everyone is very friendly and welcoming. As with engagement with academics at Warwick, networking at Monash is just as important; upon meeting the professor of anatomy I was able to experience their virtual reality lab which included 'The Visible Human Project', digitised cross-sections of a whole human body. Following this, I observed a human brain dissection which was extraordinary, a real highlight for me thus far.

My advice to anyone wanting to embark on a cool and different project; don't be afraid to put yourself out there! Talk to your academics after lectures, engage with them about their research because they absolutely love talking about it - their subject topics are often their passion and you never know what amazing opportunities they may have for you..."

Research with Impact



Dr Orin Courteney is helping to tackle Leishmaniasis, a tropical disease which affects 300,000 people annually. The disease is fatal if not treated and disproportionately affects children. Dr Courteney's research involves using male pheromones to attract female sand flies towards insecticide-treated areas.

More information on this important research at warwick.ac.uk/newsandevents/pressreleases/how_sand_fly

Royal Society of Biology (RSB) Advanced Accreditation for another 5 years

We have retained advanced accreditation for our MBio degrees for another 5 years. This means that the RSB recognises our academic excellence in bioscience and that we educate and develop leaders and innovators of the future. Graduates from our MBio programmes will receive one year free membership to the RSB, the leading professional body for biological sciences in the UK.



Advanced Accredited Degree