THE END OF KRAS, AND OTHER CANCERS? A NEW WAY FORWARD

Almost one third of all cancers involve mutations in the Kras gene, and for these patients prognosis is poor as there are no effective therapies to date for Kras-driven oncogenesis. In a feature article in Drug Discovery Today, King’s College’s Livio Mallucci and NYU London’s Valerie Wells discuss the current therapeutic strategies and their limitations, and highlight a new way forward using the recombinant form of a physiological protein molecule, beta-GBP, which is therapeutically effective against Kras-driven tumors.

The efficacy of beta-GBP, an immuno-molecule, as a single agent, avoids the complexity of current combination therapies and overcomes the issues of drug resistance and toxicity experienced with chemotherapeutics.

The beta-GBP molecule functions by activating alternative routes to programmed cell death not only in Kras-driven tumors, but also in other cancer cells, while leaving normal cells unharmed.

Translation of beta-GBP to the clinic will open a new therapeutic opportunity, a breakthrough for the treatment of cancers resistant to all current treatments.

Read the full article on Drug Discovery Today: http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/j.drudis.2013.11.018

THE SECRET LISTENERS: EAVESDROPPING ON HISTORY


This book is a record of an extraordinary event conducted by Pascal Theatre Company and funded by the Heritage Lottery Fund. The project is based on a secret history of the men who listened in to German prisoners of war housed in various mansions all over this country.

German and Austrian refugees, mainly Jewish, were commissioned by Whitehall to listen into the conversations of the prisoners to gain intelligence that could speed the end of the War. The listeners signed the Official Secrets Act and, only in the last ten years, has the record of their work been acknowledged. It shocked many to learn that the listeners, and therefore the British government, did know about the German army’s involvement in the Holocaust and the atrocities that were part of daily life during 1933-1945. The work of the listeners is now seen as crucial in the defeat of the Nazis as it was combined with intelligence gathered in Bletchley Park.

The project centred on Trent Park mansion, a beautiful house in secluded grounds in north London where German generals were imprisoned. On a weekend in summer 2013, students, volunteers and the general public, took part in a site-specific homage to the work conducted by the listeners. They experienced, listened to and witnessed fragments of what had gone on in this house during WW2.

This was the start of an eighteen month initiative that trained volunteer interviewers to seek out refugees and record their stories. As the UK has such a long refugee history, this project sought to capture the lives of others who came here before, during and after the war. Volunteer interviewers also recorded Trent Park locals to detail how this particular history and geography had impacted on them.

As well as the legacy of the book The Secret Listeners, the result is a film and diverse archive of sound recordings housed at the British Library. The highlight of this collection is the interview with Fritz Lustig who was a secret listener at two houses in Britain during WW2.

The partners were The Jewish Military Museum, The Wiener Library and The Jewish Museum as well as Middlesex University which was then housed at Trent Park. Middlesex University was also major contributor to this programme.
FACULTY NEWS - BENEDICT O’LOONEY

Benedict O’Looney, Recycling Architecture & Seeing London’s Architecture, is working on conserving and reopening the derelict interior spaces of a Victorian Railway station—a ‘Second Empire’ landmark—in the heart of Peckham.

In 1962 the southern platforms of this big inner-city station were rebuilt, and the spaces containing a huge, old waiting room, cast-iron stair to the street and platform masters offices were bricked and boarded up, closed off to the public.

Damage to the roof of the station in the 1970s and years of water ingress has degraded these once grand interiors, built by the London Brighton and South Coast Railway in the 1860s. Benedict O’Looney Architects/Peckham Society have campaigned to raise funds with the local council and Railway Heritage Trust, and voluntarily drawn and detailed a series of conservation projects. This work has led to a series of small ‘bite size’ regeneration projects that the local community council could handle—opening up and repairing bricked-up windows, and refurbishing the Old Waiting Room for community events.

“For the Peckham Society and Peckham Vision this conservation project has been a strong symbol of our belief that, behind boarded up windows and derelict upper stories, our town centre has a wealth of historic architecture stretching back more than 300 years,” says Benedict.

Since 2009, when the Old Waiting Room opened up, the Peckham Society and Peckham Vision events, architecture school critiques and other public meetings have been held in this valuable, partly-restored space. This community-led scheme has been a source of interest and pride for the whole Peckham Community.

Their latest achievement was to re-fenestrate the station’s forecourt, revealing a remarkable cast iron and stone stair that had not been seen by the local community for 50 years (pictured). This project has initiated a commission for the restoration of the station’s north wing as a potential restaurant or café.

In the latter part of 2013 Benedict’s practice was ‘Commended’ by both the English Heritage Angels Award Scheme and the National Railway Heritage Awards for their work.

The Peckham Rye Station was designed by the Victorian architect Charles Henry Driver, who also designed some of London’s great pumping stations.

FACULTY NEWS - EMILY MIDORIKAWA AND EMMA SWEENEY

Emily Midorikawa, Writing, and Emma Sweeney, NYUL’s Writing Tutor, are marking the New Year with the launch of their website, Something Rhymed.

Each month, they will be profiling a different pair of famous writer friends, and challenging themselves to complete an activity based on a prominent feature of their relationship.

They will be posting regular updates on their progress, and invite faculty to get involved by letting them know of any literary friends they could profile, or by participating and completing the activities alongside them.

Anyone who might be interested in contributing (including students) can find more information at their website, http://www.somethingrhymed.com.
The NYU London Literary Club held its end of semester Reading Night in December 2013. Each semester the club, led by Creative Writing lecturer Eve Grubin, offers students the chance to do creative writing exercises and to workshop their own fiction, poetry, scripts and creative non-fiction in an informal, supportive and creative environment.

Five very talented NYUL students read their work at the event, which also featured readings from NYUL Writing lecturer Emily Midorikawa and guest poet Todd Swift. Todd is the author of eight collections of poetry. He was Oxfam Great Britain’s Poet-in-residence from 2004 - 2012 and runs the literary blog Eyewear, which is archived by the British Library.

Some of the students’ work can be seen on Todd Swift’s blog at http://toddswift.blogspot.co.uk/2013/12/nyul-reading-poems.html.

The Literary Club is up and running for the Spring 2014 semester and the next Reading Night will take place in May. Before then, Eve Grubin will be reading in the Pelmeni Reading Series on 20 March and in the Poetry in the House Readings Series at Lauderdale House on 26 March.

**FACULTY NEWS**


**Clive Bloom**, *Gothic Literature and Cultural Foundations*, gave a major lecture on his latest publication, *Victoria’s Madmen*, at the V&A Museum on 15 January.

**Eve Grubin**, *Creative Writing*, had a poem (“The Great Ov-en Debate”) in the autumn issue of *Poetry Review*. Wendy Cope shortlisted her poem “Wind” for the 2013 Bridport Poetry Competition. Birkbeck College’s Writers’ Hub featured Eve and her poems in November. She was a guest speaker in Dr David Caplan’s Jewish American Literature Class at Ohio Wesleyan University on 9 December; she answered questions about her book Morning Prayer and her essay “The Veil as a Conduit to the Internal,” which appeared in the book *The Veil: Women Writers on Its History, Lore and Politics*.

**Patricia Lennox**, *Fashion’s Fictions*, was Guest Speaker at the Shakespeare Film Festival in October, at the Shakespeare Birthplace Trust in Stratford upon Avon. There she spoke about Akira Kurosawa’s film *Ran*—an adaptation of King Lear.

**Daya Thussu**, *Culture, Media and Globalization*, released a new book—*Communicating India’s Soft Power: Buddha to Bollywood*—published by Palgrave/Macmillan in New York in their Global Public Diplomacy series. It is the first book-length study of India’s soft power.
MEET OUR NEW FACULTY FOR SPRING 2014

Alice Cicolini, *Global Fashion Industry: Britain*, is a designer, creative commissioner and producer, curator of several international touring exhibitions on design, and a published author, including a book on contemporary British dandyism, *The New English Dandy*, for Thames & Hudson. She is a Research Associate at Central St Martins, where she graduated in 2009 with a Masters in Jewellery Design. Formerly Director of Arts & Culture for the British Council in India, she remains closely involved with Indian craft and design as a founding director of IKKIS. She recently founded Fashion Plate, a fashion press, and regularly curates and writes on fashion, design and forecasting. Alice has exhibited at Rock Vaults, the V&A, Somerset House Vaults, Sotheby's and Asia House in London, and at Nature Morte and Bungalow 8 in India. Her work has been sold at Harvey Nichols, Selfridges, Liberty and Matches, and is currently stocked at Fortnum & Mason. She has designed for Peter Ting, Designers Guild, 20ltd and most recently, Winterson.

Edward Denison, *Seeing London's Architecture*, is an architectural historian, writer and photographer. He has worked for over ten years as an independent consultant and an academic specialising in architectural heritage in the UK, as well as sites in Africa and Asia. He studied architectural history at the Bartlett, University College London (UCL) and his PhD was awarded a Commendation in the RIBA President’s Award for Outstanding PhD Thesis 2012. He teaches and lectures at the Bartlett and has published numerous publications including: *China’s Missing Moderns - The Architecture of Luke Him Sau* (Wiley, 2014); *The Life of the British Home: An Architectural History* (Wiley, 2012); *30-Second Architecture* (Ivy Press, 2013); McMorran & Whitby (RIBA, 2009); *Modernism in China - Architectural Visions and Revolutions* (Wiley, 2008); *Building Shanghai - The Story of China's Gateway* (Wiley, 2006); and Asmara - *Africa's Secret Modernist City* (Merrell, 2003).

Janet Dickinson, *Social Foundations II*, specializes in the history of early modern England and Europe, with particular interests in cultural and political history. Her first book, *Court Politics and the Earl of Essex* was published in 2011 by Pickering and Chatto and she has also contributed to a number of works on Elizabethan and early modern European history. Current projects include work on the Tudor nobility and the last years of Elizabeth I’s life as well as court history in general. She has held lectureships at a number of English universities and spends her summers teaching programmes for several American universities in association with the University of Oxford.

P.J. Henry, *Special Topics: Prejudice and Stereotyping*, is an associate professor of psychology at New York University’s campus in Abu Dhabi. He received his Ph.D. in 2001 from the University of California, Los Angeles (UCLA), and has since held research and teaching positions at the American University of Beirut, Yale, UCSB, and DePaul University. He also spent a year and a half as an Alexander von Humboldt fellow at the University of Bielefeld, Germany. His main research area is on the social psychology of prejudice. He is currently developing a theory of stigma compensation, which concerns the various unconscious and indirect strategies used by devalued people in society as a way to manage their lower social value. He has also studied extensively the various forms that prejudice can manifest itself, including the language used to help justify prejudice and oppression of others.

Jan Knoerich, *International Political Economy*, is a Lecturer at King’s College London. His teaching and research covers international and Chinese political economy, research methods and Chinese international investments. His main research examines the globalisation of Chinese enterprises from business, development and political economy perspectives. Dr. Knoerich has conducted extensive academic fieldwork in China, Indonesia and other countries, has published in peer-reviewed academic journals and books such as the *Journal of International Management, Economics Letters and Chinese International Investments* (Palgrave MacMillan, 2012), and has made contributions to a variety of United Nations publications. Dr Knoerich holds a PhD in Economics from the School of Oriental and African Studies (SOAS), University of London. Prior to his arrival in London, he was a lecturer at the University of Oxford and spent several years working on international investment and development issues for the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) in Geneva.

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MEET OUR NEW FACULTY FOR SPRING 2014

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Dan Labriola, *Metaphysics*, is an associate lecturer at Birkbeck College, University of London. He specialises in and has published on Ancient Greek Philosophy, particularly Plato. He recently completed his PhD in Philosophy at the University of St Andrews. Prior to that, he obtained his BA in Philosophy at the University of California, Berkeley. In addition to his specialization, he has a serious interest in contemporary issues in Ethics and Metaphysics.

Karen Lloyd, *Health and Society*, is a displaced New Yorker and NYU alumnus, having studied for her M.A. at the Gallatin School of Individualized Study. She is now completing her PhD in Medical Sociology at the University of California, San Francisco. Her research interests are in HIV Treatment as Prevention and other technological/biomedical approaches to HIV prevention, as well as in the Sociology of Birth, particularly home and natural birth, and in qualitative research methods. She has lived/ worked/studied in the U.S., South Africa and India, and now lives permanently in the UK with her husband and daughter.

Lisa Weber, *Where the City Meets the Sea: Studies in Coastal Urban Environments*, has a PhD in Marine Sciences, in addition to a first class degree and an MSc equivalent in Physical Geography. Most recently she worked as a postdoctoral researcher at the National Oceanography Centre in Southampton. Her entire education at University and subsequent jobs has revolved around environmental and marine issues. Her research is focused on the biogeochemical cycles of nutrients in marine ecosystem models, which is an important aspect of the global carbon cycle and climate change research.

UPCOMING EVENTS

We welcome updates from faculty regarding upcoming events. Please email details to academics@nyu.ac.uk

NYUL TO HOST SYMPOSIUM ON DAVID MITCHELL

NYUL will host a one-day symposium on author David Mitchell (*Ghostwritten*, *Cloud Atlas*, *The Thousand Autumns of Jacob de Zoet*) on Friday, 9 May, 2014. Organized by NYUL’s Liberal Studies Coordinator, Courtney Hopf, and Wendy Knepper of Brunel University, this event seeks to expand our understanding of Mitchell’s work by considering all aspects of his literary and cultural output, including fiction, cinematic adaptation, opera, and the relation between text and image. Additionally, plans for the publication of revised and expanded papers will be circulated at the event.

With the publication of *Ghostwritten* (1999), David Mitchell quickly established himself as a leading British and world author. Having achieved both popular and critical success, Mitchell’s oeuvre is celebrated for its distinctive vision of cosmopolitanism, remediation of genre(s), and relationship to postmodern, posthuman, and post-colonial discourses.

Scholars from a variety of disciplines and academic perspectives are expected to be attracted to this event, and allocate additional spaces will be allocated for students and NYUL staff who would like to attend. If you are interested in attending (or would like to submit an abstract!), please contact Courtney at ch126@nyu.edu. More details will be provided closer to the time.
THE LONDON SYMPOSIUM 2014

NYUL is delighted to announce its association with THE LONDON SYMPOSIUM 2014, which will take place on Friday-Saturday 7-8 November 2014 in the NYU London Academic Centre. This ‘triple-decker’ event, brings together in parallel three of the annual conferences organised by Academic Conferences London. Discounted registration rates will be available for NYUL Faculty and students. Please see relevant websites or contact Phillip Drummond (phillip@academicconferenceslondon.com).

1. LONDONICITY 2014


2. UNDERSTANDING BRITAIN 2014


3. VISIONS OF IDENTITY


The London Symposium seeks 20-minute Papers and three-Paper Panels for all three events. Proposals are invited via the Proposal Form on the websites named above. Proposals (strictly 180-200 words plus a short CV of not more than 100 words) are considered on a rolling basis by sympathetic Peer Review, with a two-week turnaround. Proposal Deadline: 31 August 2014. Completed Papers are not required in advance, but are invited following the event to be considered for publication in the resulting Conference Readers, published as fully edited, ISBN-registered ebooks.

For free downloads of the first five Conference Readers published by The London Symposium, please see: www.thelondonfilmandmediaconference.com. A sixth ebook, The Pleasures of the Spectacle, comprising nearly 60 essays, is currently in production.

FILM AND MEDIA 2014, also organised by Academic Conferences London, takes place on 26-28 June 2014 at the Institute of Education Conference Centre, 20 Bedford Way, London WC1H 0AL.


UPCOMING TALKING POINTS LECTURES AND SYMPOSIUM

Modern Turkey, the Middle East & the Ottoman Empire
Monday 3rd March 1.10 PM, Room G05 Academic Centre
Speaker: Dr Stefano Taglia, Islam and the West

This talk will look at the historical sources of current debates in the Middle East and Turkey, specifically the roots of the turmoil in the Arab Middle East (as well as parts of the Balkans) and the nature of the conversations on the meaning of culture and the place of religion in Turkey.

The Referendum on Scottish Independence
Tuesday 25th March 1.10 PM, Room 106 Academic Centre
Speaker: Dr Scott Kelly, British Politics

This talk will look at the background and current debated relating to Scotland’s historic referendum on independence from the United Kingdom, which will take place on Thursday 18 September 2014. What are the political implications of a yes vote?

NYU LONDON SYMPOSIUM
Considering the motion: This House Believes That The Human Rights Agenda Generates Unfairness
Monday 28th April 6.20pm, Beveridge Hall, Senate House

The confirmed speaker for this Symposium, part of the Global Orientations: British Culture class is Adam Wagner, a barrister at 1 Crown Office Row chambers and founder and editor of the UK Human Rights Blog (http://ukhumanrightsblog.com/). Please look out for an email with confirmation of the second speaker and further details closer to the event.