

FRESH

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FRESH NEWS STRAIGHT FROM THE SOURCE

Announcements

Riddet Institute Graduates

Congratulations go to all of our talented graduates from across the country. Through 2017, we had over 15 students from PGDip to PhD submit their theses. Currently, there are around 60 students who are continuing their studies with the Riddet Institute into 2018. We look forward to your graduations in future.



Above: Drs. Natascha Strobinger, Eva Maier, Lakshmi Acharya and Anant Dave after their graduation from Massey University in November 2017 (Left to right: Drs. Henare & Strobinger, Prof Moughan, Drs. Maier, Acharya, Dave & Loveday)

Riddet Institute LinkedIn

The Riddet Institute is now on LinkedIn. Check out our company page here: <https://www.linkedin.com/company/riddet-institute/> and feel free to join and like, comment and share posts.

Additionally, we would love to share your news and events on social media as well as through this newsletter. Please email Hannah Hutchinson at h.hutchinson1@massey.ac.nz with your good news.

Student Colloquium 2017

The 8th Annual Riddet Institute Student Colloquium was held in Auckland on Sunday 5th November 2017, immediately preceding the Delivery of Functionality Conference. It was the perfect opportunity for our PhD students, along with supervisors, investigators, affiliated researchers and the Scientific Advisory Panel, to come together to network, collaborate and share their research. The focus of the Colloquium was the student presentations but we were fortunate to have a number of other speakers including some of our Investigators. Our overseas keynote speaker was Prof Rafael Jiménez-Flores (Ohio State University, USA), who gave an excellent presentation on “Connections and collaboration in modern science”. His outlook on networking within science was stimulating and thought-provoking.

Special thanks goes to Dr Tim Angeli for his superb presentation on “What it means to be a Riddet Institute PhD student”. Tim was a Riddet Institute PhD student and previous winner of the Best Student Presenter Award at the Riddet Institute Student Colloquium in 2011. Since he graduated in 2014 he has worked at the Auckland Bioengineering Institute and was recently promoted to Senior Research Fellow. A video recording of his presentation will shortly be available on the Institute website.

The format of the student presentations at this Colloquium was a Three Minute Thesis where each student had three minutes to describe the aim and potential outcome of their research. 48 of our PhD students gave presentations. The quality was extremely high this year and we congratulate all of our students for their hard work and commitment. Congratulations go to Nick Smith (Massey University & AgResearch), the winner of the Best Student Presenter Award for 2017. His presentation on a mathematical approach to bacterial cross-feeding in the human gut was clear and well delivered. Special mention goes to runners up Sarah Priour (Massey University, AgResearch & Fonterra) and Olivia Ogilvie (The University of Auckland & Plant and Food Research) for their presentations entitled “Protect our probiotic, protect our future” and “Controlling the texture and bioactivity of gluten with structure” respectively. Their presentations, along with those of other selected students, are available to view via the Riddet Institute website.



Abby Thompson moves to FoodHQ

Dr Abby Thompson has recently resigned as Director of Riddet Innovation to take up the position of CEO of FoodHQ, a partnership organisation that acts as an industry gateway to food and beverage innovation. The Riddet Institute is one of the six FoodHQ science partners, so Abby will continue to have a close association with the Institute and we will continue to work with her on a number of innovation projects. This is an exciting

move for Abby and we wish her all the best in her new role.

Abby can be contacted at abby.thompson@foodhq.com



foodHQ

University of Auckland Promotions

In the December 2017 round of University of Auckland promotions, a Riddet Institute Associate Investigator and a PhD alumni climbed the ranks. Leo Cheng (AI) has been promoted from Associate Professor to Professor and Dr Tim Angeli (previous Riddet Institute PhD, graduated 2014) has been promoted to Senior Research Fellow.

Dr Devastotra Poddar in Inaugural Dean's List Lectures

Previous Riddet Institute PhD student Dr Devastotra Poddar (graduated 2016) was part of the Massey University Dean's List Inaugural Lecture Series. On 30th November 2017 he shared his research on "Stability of the probiotic *Lactobacillus paracasei* CRL 431 under different environmental conditions".

Delivery of Functionality Conference 2017

From 5th-8th November 2017 most Riddet Institute students, as well as a large number of investigators and researchers, attended the 2017 DOF Conference in Auckland. It was a great opportunity for international scientists of varying disciplines to come together to network and discuss new scientific developments in complex food systems and their applications.

The next DOF Conference will be from 8th-10th July 2019 in Porto, Portugal.



Derek Haisman Retires

Dr Derek Haisman, who has worked with the Riddet Institute since its formation as the Riddet Centre in 2003, decided in December 2017 that at the age of 90 it was time to retire. Prof Paul Moughan (Riddet Institute Co-Director and PI) invited Derek to join the Riddet Institute and share his invaluable expertise and knowledge. Over the years he has lent his vast wealth of knowledge and analytical skills to a wide variety of projects including the development of new food products and technologies.



Derek has certainly had a long and interesting career. Starting in the UK with Washington Chemical Co. (the company which made milk of magnesia), he proceeded to work with Procter & Gamble, Chipping Camden (inventing mushy peas), and with Unilever furthering the shelf life of fruit and vegetables and soup using one of the first Malvern particle sizers, resulting in the creation of Cup-a-Soup. After coming to New Zealand to help resolve some pea processing issues, Derek took up a job at the Food Technology Research Centre and thus joined Massey University. Throughout his career at Massey, Derek enjoyed working with staff and students alike and the diversity of his projects.

Derek has told us that he will enjoy his well-deserved retirement by spending time with his family and his garden. Congratulations!

Feed The World 2030 Power of Plants Hackathon win for Dr Loveday

On 2nd-3rd December 2017, Dr Simon Loveday (AI) attended the two-day *Feed the World 2030 Power of Plants Hackathon* in Christchurch hosted by Lincoln University and supported by the Foundation of Arable Research, AgMARDT, Callaghan Innovation, Plant and Food Research, Lincoln University and Creative HQ. The Hackathon was an opportunity for 80 participants, be they scientists or key players of New Zealand's agriculture sector, to come together and explore the potential of plant crops to attempt to tackle some of the food and nutrition issues facing not only our country, but the world at large.

The Hackathon started with concept pitches from people with an idea to explore, and teams self-selected around each idea. Dr Loveday pitched the idea of combining plant-based protein foods with other proteins to achieve optimal digestibility. His team, ProTeam brought together Anand Mohan of the University of Auckland, Nico Van Loon of the Cawthron Institute, and Anson Koothur and Kylie de Vries of Foodstuffs. After a day of refining and prototyping, the idea morphed into an app-based subscription meal planning service for aged care providers, with cross-sector appeal in sports nutrition, food service industries, and food kit suppliers.

At the end of the two-day event that pitted Dr Loveday's team against 11 others, ProTeam was awarded the "Best Overall Global Growth Award - The team with the most innovative business model that is primed for overseas growth and impact" for which the prize was a \$50 donation per person to a charity of their choice – their chosen charity was the Wellington City Mission (\$250 total donation).

Awards

Prof Elaine Rush AUT Excellence Award

Elaine (PI) was awarded the Vice-Chancellor's Award for Research Excellence in Postgraduate Research Supervision at Auckland University of Technology in November 2017.

Dipankar Bhattacharya Best Conference Paper Award

Dipankar (Riddet Institute PhD) won the Best Conference Paper Award at the 5th International Conference on Robotic Intelligence Technology and Applications, held in Korea from 13th-15th December 2017.

Prof Indra Oey awarded competitive research grant

A team including Prof Oey (PI), Mr Giteru (Riddet Institute PhD) and Dr Altermann (AI) was awarded a competitive research grant from University of Otago Strategic Funds for Cross-Divisional Toxicology Research on "Are cross linked edible films comprising zein proteins, chitosan and polyvinyl alcohol safe for consumption?"

Student Travel Awards & Overseas Placements

Student Travel Awards Successful Applicants:

Sarah Priour attended 6th International Conference and Exhibition on Probiotics, Functional and Baby Foods, UK,
Anika Hoogeveen attended Food Structures, Digestion and Health Conference 2017 (FSDH2017), Australia,
Sewuese Okubanjo attended FSDH2017,
Quanguan Lin attended FSDH2017,
Thomas Do attended FSDH2017,
Nan Luo attended FSDH2017,
Nicole Chen attended FSDH2017,
Dipankar Bhattacharya attended Robot Intelligence Technology and Applications, Korea.

Overseas Placement Successful Applicants:

Thomas Do with University of British Columbia, Canada for 4 months,
Geshani Somaratne with INRA Agrocampus Ovest, France for 5 months.

The Riddet Institute Partners



Upcoming Conferences

Riddet Institute Conference 2018 (Wellington)

10th-12th July

This conference is for all those involved in the Riddet Institute, including investigators, students and other affiliated researchers. In addition to project leaders, all students and postdocs will be expected to present their research at the conference as either an oral or poster presentation. Please ensure you put these dates in your diary!

12th Australian and New Zealand Sensory and Consumer Science Symposium (Australia)

5th-7th February

This symposium is designed to provide new inspiration and knowledge for sensory and consumer professionals. Prof Joanne Hort (PI) will be representing the Riddet Institute as the international keynote speaker.

See: <https://www.aifst.asn.au/other-event/12th-australian-and-new-zealand-sensory-and-consumer-science-symposium>

The International Scientific Association for Probiotics and Prebiotics (ISAPP) Annual Meeting 2018 (Singapore)

5th-6th June

The theme of the conference is "Key Scientific Drivers Behind Probiotic and Prebiotic Applications." The meeting offers great access to global experts and new research in the area of digestive health. This is the first time they have held a meeting outside of the US or Europe and the first time it has been an open meeting.

See: <https://isappscience.org/open-registration-isapp-conference-held-singapore-june-2018/>

Selected Student Publications

Nicole Chen (PhD): Book Chapter in Starch in Food

Congratulations to Nicole who had her research published in the second edition of *Starch in Food: Structure, Function and Applications*. Her research can be found in Chapter 7: "Chemical Modification of Starch" p283-324.

Eva Maier (graduated PhD): two articles from her PhD research published

Congratulations also to Dr Maier who has had her PhD research on *Faecalibacterium prausnitzii* published in two influential journals: *Cellular Microbiology*, 2018, 20(2) (IF 4.55) and *Nutrients*, 2017, 9(12) p1349 (IF 3.55).