

Hi Everyone,

First bit of news you will already have heard, sadly after 3 great years of building a new UK community the OoaC Tech Network funding has officially ended. But never fear, your ECR group are here to stay, keeping you informed, entertained, running events and keeping the community alive. And if that doesn't cheer you up, this week is [National Doughnut Week!!](#) Read on for Organ on a Chip and ECR news.

Yours Invariably,
Paul, Luana, Matthew and Nomty



ECR Newsletter May 2022

ECR events:



The ECR Grant Prix..... It's back!!

After the success of last year's grant workshop, we are doing it all over again, with a new improved recipe and extra sprinkles. Join us to learn about how to pitch your ideas and work in teams to compete for fictional research funding with your Organ on a Chip ideas.

Stop whatever you are doing and put the date in your diary now!
29th -30th September 2022

Registration opening soon!



The ECR Summer Poster competition event

You must know the time and date by heart now. But in case you don't, it's 3 -5pm on the **22nd July**

Registration deadline is the 1st of July. But why wait? Register [here](#) now!

Poster submission deadline is 18th July. PDFs of old posters new posters, whatever!

Researcher Spotlight: Every month get to know a new Network ECR



This month, we have our very own [Luana Osorio](#) of Brunel University

What is your organ?

I am developing scaffolds that aim to replicate in vivo breast tissue conditions to help understand the pathophysiology of Breast cancer.

What is your chip?

I am developing standardised scaffolds to seed co-cultures of epithelial, endothelial, and connective breast

tissues that will be implemented in a Breast-on-a-Chip device.

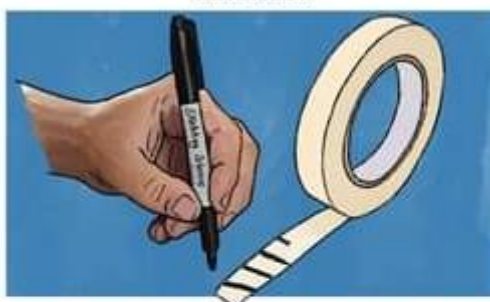
Why?

Breast cancer is the world most prevalent cancer with 685000 deaths globally in 2020. Endocrine Disrupting Chemicals (EDCs) have been found to disrupt various pathways that regulate cell proliferation. Nevertheless, what type of EDC and how they lead to tumour formation is poorly understood. Moreover, females are often underrepresented in animal and human trials affecting the data on what therapeutic agents are benign or effective. Organ-on-a-Chip provides the opportunity to study the effect that these extrinsic factors have on breast cancer behaviour and will allow testing of new therapeutic alternatives.

Tips on chips: Share your microfluidic tips. Email [Paul](#) or post on the [ECR forum](#).



When you don't have time for the autoclave



Sorry, no tips received this month... do you have any? Shout out on [the forum](#) or send us an [email](#)

Question of the month:



Last month:

Pranav Vasanthi asked "How do I deal with all these bubbles?"

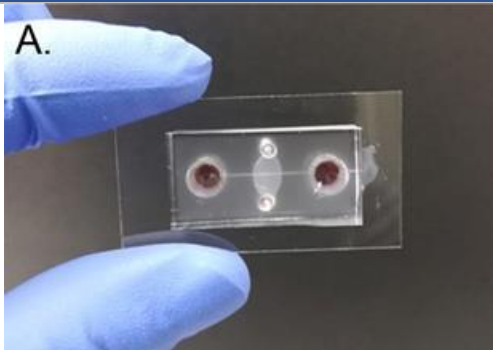
Two suggestions: Bubble traps, or throw your device in a vacuum desiccator to de-gas before using. Hopefully one of these might help.

This month:

Dealing with imposter syndrome? Any suggestions?

Get on the [FORUM](#) and join the discussion.

Chip of the month:



Bile Duct-on-a-Chip

Click [here](#) for the paper and how to make your very own

Coming up:

The logo for the Microphysiological Systems World Summit. It features the text "MICROPHYSIOLOGICAL SYSTEMS" in green, "WORLD SUMMIT" in green, and "May 30th - June 3rd, 2022" in black. The text is centered within a circular graphic that resembles a stylized globe or a network of connections.

This month!! It's the MPS World Summit.

Get on down to New Orleans for the lowdown on MPS.

What: Only a mega new international conference on MPS and OoaC

When: May 30th - June 3rd

Where: swing on over to New Orleans. Or, worried about your carbon footprint? Well you can also stay at home and watch on your computer (it is cheaper after all)

Register: [Here](#)

There are also hosting hands on [training workshops](#)



Coming up at the Crick: Stemness, Regeneration and Immunity: from development to therapy

Sign up [here](#)

When: 20-21st June

Where: The Crick in London, or online if you prefer living a virtual life now

Quick final abstract submissions are this **Friday 13th** if you are feeling lucky and want to give a flash talk.



Tell us what you have been up to!

Share your achievements, papers, awards or whatever you like with the community. We would love to hear from you.

Post on the [ECR FORUM](#) or email the [ECR group](#).

Opportunities:

Apply for the [Next generation EUROoCS travel AWARDS](#) for EUROoCS 2022.

Deadline 15 May 2022

For your ears:

Learn during those long hours in the lab and beat the boredom of pipetting with our picks from this month.



Got rejected for a grant recently?

Would it help to know that peer review scores on grants essentially have no correlation with the actual impact of the science?

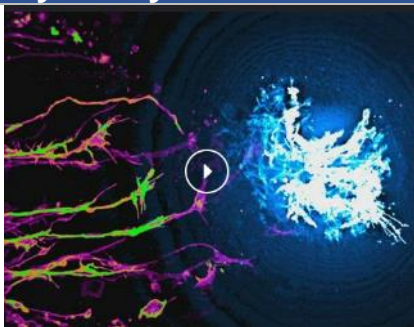
No... probably not.

Would giving out grants by a lottery system be better?

Probably not.

But [THIS](#) episode of Revisionist History, entitled the Powerball Revolution is an interesting listen anyway

For your eyes:



SNSF Scientific Image Competition have some pretty cool images and videos from past competitions [here](#)

And just for fun..



Does trying to label your tubes with a dry, lab marker that smudges if you so much as look at it really bug you?.. well you are not the only one:

Reddit user u/564111 has gone to the trouble of experimentally defining the perfect lab marker so you don't have to.

For one less problem in you lab life [click here](#)
In case you just can't wait for the page to load.. let me tell you now: Pilot #MFN-15N-B is the pen you are looking for.



Bad Joke of the Month

**WHAT DO YOU CALL AN
ACID WITH AN ATTITUDE?**

gimme ur lunch



A-mean-oh acid.



Punny Papers

**To Infinity and Bi/ond: Microchips Underpin
Dutch Goal to Make Drug Development More
Inclusive**

A Dutch organ-on-chip start-up aims to improve medical treatments by providing innovative hardware solutions that reflect humans' natural diversity.

Jonathan D. Grinstead

Published Online: 4 Mar 2022 | <https://doi.org/10.1089/genedge.4.1.24>

Have your say!

Got any news or info you'd like added to the newsletter? Or would you like to organise an event for the Organ on Chip ECR group? Ping the ECR group an email at : paul.holloway@rdm.ox.ac.uk
Or get on the **NEW FORUM**.