

The Buzz

Autumn 2023

BIOLOGY PHD SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

Meet other PhD students
in our new seminars with
Fika

Introducing
your PhD reps!



READ NOW

Why a newsletter? The Biology PhD school has recently been re-launched to bring together Ph.D. students across three Departments ICM, IOB, and IEG. We aim to create a community among PhD students where they can thrive and grow. In order to do this, we need to be able to communicate with you effectively. Thus, the idea of having a monthly newsletter was born. Throughout the year, we hope to be a continuous presence. If you would like to be featured or have any ideas for the upcoming editions please feel free to contact us.

Who is behind the buzz?

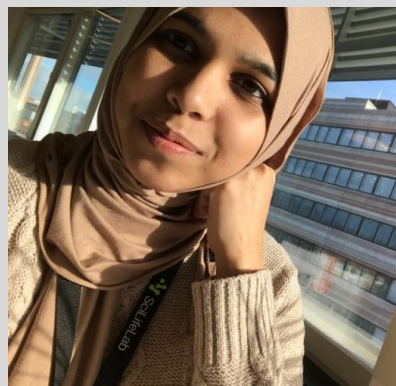
ICM

Rachel Dwane



I'm a 2nd year PhD student interested in bacterial contact-dependent interactions e.g., T6SS. When not in the lab, I enjoy grabbing a coffee with friends or cuddling my cat, Bacardi. I hope that the Biology Ph.D. school will help to forge a sense of community among the Ph.D. students in the three departments, so if you have any ideas on how we can do this, feel free to reach out!

Rooma Mansoor



My Ph.D. position stands to discover the functional evolution of non-coding RNAs. It revolves around a model organism that exhibits an intriguing lifecycle, initiating as a unicellular organism and achieves multicellularity upon starvation, an ideal being to explore ncRNA evolution. As an individual, I like to explore nature, cycling with friends, baking and outdoor food. I wish to contribute to the fundamental development of PhD students through Biology Ph.D. school. Cheers!

IEG

Ellinor Jakobsson



I'm halfway through my PhD in limnology at IEG where I'm trying to understand how lake ecosystems function during winter. More specifically I explore what drives primary production in winter and spring. Besides drilling holes in lake ice, I enjoy gardening, hiking and kayaking.

Interested in joining us? We are currently looking for a temporary IEG Rep!

IOB

Fatih Özel



Hi there! I started my PhD in February 2021, and I am working on an interdisciplinary PhD project on gender dysphoria. Besides my research, I enjoy spending time with friends, running in forests, and cooking vegetarian/vegan dishes.

Michela Di Criscio



An Italian molecular biologist PhD student specializing in environmental toxicology, with a passion for nucleic acids and Epigenetics. I work on DNA and RNA methylation pattern alterations linked to Endocrine Disrupting Chemicals exposure with a focus on neurodevelopment and transcriptional effects.

Mario Vallejo-Marin, Biology PhD School Director



I am a Professor in Ecological Botany at IEG. I am from Mexico, and arrived in Uppsala via Scotland where I was a permanent Faculty member at the University of Stirling. I study plant evolution and bee pollination, and enjoy hiking, photography, and travelling. I am excited to work with our Biology students in the re-launched PhD School. Please get in touch or drop by my office at EBC if you want to chat about how to build our Biology student community!

About the Biology PhD School

As one of the world's leading science institutions, Uppsala University attracts biology researchers and students from all around the world. The Biology PhD School is an umbrella initiative to unite all PhD students across the three research departments in Biology to improve student life and education. Find out more here:

<https://www.biologi.uu.se/phd/?languageId=1>

Biology PhD School Seminar, 20th October

Kicking off the semester, we have a new seminar series designed for PhD to showcase their research in a fun and exciting way. We also want this to be an opportunity for the three departments to interact while showcasing fantastic research. This seminar series will happen three times an academic year, with ICM hosting first. The first seminar will be held on the **20th October** at 14:15 in room A1:106 at BMC. Those willing to present a short 15 min presentation will be rewarded with credits. If you would like to present, please feel free to contact us! After the presentations, there will be time to interact with each other and enjoy some yummy fika. In order to have enough fika please sign up using the link:

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSdXttzqai4opNOu07YyhRYd49E7pFgBBmae3cEGJwwsRzDixA/viewform?usp=sf_link by **October 13th**.

IEG day

Don't miss out on the yearly tradition where you'll learn more about research from your peers, how to best communicate your science, or simply a perfect opportunity for networking! The **27th of October** will be a day for all IEG employees and students to join in fruitful discussions at Hotel Gillet in the city center.

Upcoming Workshops

Behind the scenes, we are working hard to organize courses and workshops for the upcoming semester. Who knows better what courses would benefit you but YOU! So, we would like to hear what courses/workshops you would like to have offered by the Biology PhD School. Add your suggestions to the below file (link):

https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1u2sNhm5ZhNICa3DieAJouWvJsQ2acD_cX6V6qksTRn

Upcoming PhD Defenses

ICM

Malin Luking

On the **11th October** at 09:00, Malin will defend her PhD entitled “Molecular Mechanisms of Protein-DNA Recognition” at BMC. Her opponent will be Professor Victor Munoz from the University of California.

Marina Mota-Merlo

On the **17th of October** at 13:00 in C8:317 Marina will have her half-time on “Molecular Evolutionary Studies of Dynamic Genomic Regions in Lactic Acid Bacteria Adapted to Honeybees”.

IEG

Jake Leyr

On the **6th October** at 13:15 in Ekmansalen, Jake will defend his thesis on “Musculoskeletal Development in Jawed Vertebrates: Gene function, cis-regulation, and 3D phenotypes in zebrafish”.

Josefin Nilsson

On **October 19th** at 13:00 Josefin will defend her PhD entitled “Nitrogen Removal in Created Wetlands *Considerations – Challenges – Possibilities*”.

Polina Lizunkova

On the **27th of October** Polina will defend her thesis.

Grants

Doctoral student exchange with University of California, Berkeley Institute of European Studies (IES)

Uppsala University and the University of California aspire to establish various types of exchanges in research and education. As a step towards achieving this ambition, the two free of IES's regular tuition fee.

Information about the exchange agreement and how to apply: <https://mp.uu.se/web/info/stod/internationalisering/utlandsmojligheter/doktorandutbyte-med-berkeley>

Applications are now open for 2024. The closing date for applications is **29 November 2023**.

