15th International Chromosome Conference (ICC XV)

Brunel University, West London, September 2004

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An invitation to come to London!

On behalf of the Vice Chancellor, we would like to announce that the **15th International Chromosome Conference (ICC XV)** will be held at Brunel University in West London on 5th–10th September 2004. We extend an invitation to all scientists interested in chromosome research to join us for an invigorating and exciting week of top quality science and social interaction.

Where is Brunel University?

Brunel University is a large self-contained campus to the west of London. It is known locally for its landscaped gardens, “brutalist” architecture and excellent hospitality. It is the nearest University to Heathrow Airport being just 10–15 minutes drive away. It has over 12,000 students and over 850 academic staff and was named after the celebrated Victorian engineer, Isambard Kingdom Brunel.

What goes on there?

The University has 25 Departments including Performing Arts, Law, Information Systems, Design, Mechanical Engineering, Sports Science, a thriving Business School and the Brunel Institute for Bioengineering. The Department of Biological Sciences accommodates the Brunel Institute for Cancer Genetics and Pharmacogenomics, the world leading Environmental Toxicology Group and the hosts of ICC XV – the Cell and Chromosome Biology Group (CCBG). The CCBG has a wide range of research interests including genome organisation in three and four dimensions, nuclear structure and function, chromosomes and infertility in humans and endangered animals, functional genomics in domestic animals, karyotype evolution, the structure and function of telomeres, cellular ageing and DNA repair. Since its inception two years ago CCBG has raised over £2 million in funding and has extensive microscopy capability.

What will the conference involve?

In memory of Isambard Kingdom Brunel we plan to have one plenary session on “state-of-the-art” chromosome engineering. Our concurrent sessions will include speakers on the latest research in aneuploidy, chromosome

evolution, genome organisation, sex chromosomes, tumour cytogenetics, meiosis, centromeres, telomeres, epigenetics and new methodologies. We are particularly anxious to attract our colleagues from North America, the East and Australasia to ensure that this will be a truly international conference. The campus has several large lecture halls including the latest projection equipment. There are a large number of meeting rooms for delegates’ use and all daytime catering will be provided on site. Accommodation will be also available on campus.

The social programme

We are planning a number of events to give this meeting a traditional English edge and to take advantage of our proximity to central London. Delegates will be able to visit a West End Show, the Tate Modern art gallery and the Science Museum. We will also have a FISH and chip supper, real ale tasting and a Medieval Banquet as the conference dinner. Moreover, the University is the home to the world renowned Ballet Rambert who will be performing for us. There are also a number of English pubs in the area in which delegates can relax.

And finally ...

Chromosome biology is wide, varied and at the cutting edge of many lines of research. The opportunity for scientists in the field to get together and exchange ideas comes around far too infrequently. We hope that this meeting will be an opportunity to renew acquaintances and inspire new and exciting innovation.

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