Email: thomas.richards@biology.ox.ac.uk

Web: https://protists.co.uk

Qualifications

D. Phil. University of Oxford and the Natural History Museum, London

(BBSRC Studentship) Awarded: 2006

Title: Horizontal Gene Transfer and the Evolution of Eukaryotes
Supervisors: Prof. T. Martin Embley FRS (University of Newcastle)

Prof. Tom Cavalier-Smith FRS (University of Oxford)

M.Sc. University of Oxford (BBSRC studentship) Awarded: 2001
B.Sc. University College, London Awarded: 1999

Appointments

2020-26 Professor of Evolutionary Genomics (University of Oxford)

2019-26 Tutorial Fellow Merton College Oxford

2015-19 Professor of Evolutionary Genomics (University of Exeter)

2014-23 Royal Society University Research Fellow 2013-15 Senior Research Fellow (University of Exeter)

2010-13 80% FTE, Group Leader (Natural History Museum, London)

20% FTE Senior Research Fellow (University of Exeter)

2009-10 Senior Research Fellow (University of Exeter)2007-9 Early Career Fellow, The Leverhulme Trust

2005-7 DEFRA Postdoctoral Fellow

Personal Awards

2023-24 Wissenschaftskolleg Zu Berlin Fellowship, Germany
 2019-24 Royal Society University Research Fellowship, Renewal
 2018 Hutner Award (International Society of Protistology)

2016/17 Miller Visiting Professorship, University of California Berkeley
2015 Elected as Fellow of the American Academy of Microbiology

2014 Philip Leverhulme Award, Biology

2014 Royal Society University Research Fellowship

2012 European Molecular Biology Organisation (EMBO), Young Investigator Program

Award

2012 Canadian Institute for Advanced research, Fellow of the Integrated Microbial

Biodiversity program

2012 Berkeley Award, British Mycology Society

2009 President's Medal for Cell Biology, Society for Experimental Biology

2007 The Leverhulme Trust Early Career Fellowship

2000 NASA Planetary Biology Internship, Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute, USA

Awards for People and Work under My Supervision

EMBO Long Term Fellowship; Varsha Mathur (€125,000)
 Marie Curie Fellowship; Luis Javier Galindo (€213,000)

2019 Merton College, Oxford, Junior Research Fellowship; Nick Irwin (£90,000) 2017 Royal Society Newton Fellowship; Elisabet Alacid-Fernandez (£113,000)

| 2015 | Marie Curie Fellowship; Estelle Kilas (€183,454) |
|-------------------------|---|
| 2013 | EMBO Long Term Fellowship; Jeremy Wideman (£70,000) |
| 2012 | Royal Society Newton Fellowship; Adam Monier (£82,875) |
| 2011 | EMBO Long Term Fellowship; Aurélie Chambouvet (£50,000) |
| 2011 | Marie Curie Fellowship; Aurélie Chambouvet (€209,033) |
| External Responsibiliti | es and Commissions of Trust |
| 2023- | Editorial advisory board member, Current Biology |
| 2023- | Biodiversity Cell Atlas, Committee Member |
| 2022- | Darwin Tree of Life, Steering Group Member |
| 2022-24 | Royal Society Secondment to Food Standard Agency, UK Government, to support the '2023 Genetic Technology (Precision Breeding) Act' Responsibilities: |
| | Consultation on elements of primary legislation (passed into law March 2023) Part of the team developing secondary legislation General council and authors of briefs on novel food innovations (e.g. cultured meat technologies). |
| 2021 | Consultant for Tree of Life Redisplay, Diversity of Life Gallery, Central Aisle, Oxford Natural History Museum Oxford |
| 2021 | Cosignatory/Applicant Culture Collections Algae Protist (CCAP – National Scientific Infrastructure - funded by NERC) community needs statement for facility renewal to NERC |
| 2021- | PARC PARC Disease-Task-Team (Dept. Interior, U.S. Geological-Survey), attending online-meetings and assisting with writing mitigation/monitoring wildlife-disease factsheets |
| 2020-25 | Scientific Advisory Board, NERC Culture Collections Algae Protist (CCAP – National Scientific Infrastructure - funded by NERC) |
| 2021- | Ad hoc reviewer and panel member for The Research Council of Norway |
| 2020- | Ad hoc reviewer and panel member for Wellcome Trust grant review panel |
| 2020- | Board of Visitors (similar to governing body member and trustee) at the Oxford Natural History Museum Oxford |
| 2019- | Governing Body Member and Trustee, Merton College Oxford |
| 2019-23 | Member of the Board of Trustee, BBSRC Earlham Institute |
| 2017-20 | Steering group member for the University of Exeter's Translational Research Exchange |
| 2016- | Associate Editor, Environmental Microbiology |
| 2012-2015 | Elected as council member to The Linnean Society, London |
| 2011-2015 | Associate Editor, Ecology and Evolution |
| 2010-2014 | Associate Editor, BMC Evolutionary Biology |
| 2009-2012 | Chair of SynTax and administrator for UK Grant Review Panel |
| | Joint research initiative funding systematics and taxonomy, supported by the BBSRC, NERC, DEFRA, Linnean Society and Systematics Association, awarding £300,000 annually |
| 2008-11 | Chair of The Linnean Society / Systematics Association Systematic Research Fund |
| 2008-11 | Elected as council member to the Society for General Microbiology |
| | |

2007-11 Elected as council member of the Systematics Association and trustee of the

associated Charitable Association (I was also Grants and Awards Officer)

2005- Peer reviewer for: BBSRC, NERC, NSF, NSERC, ANR, ERC, NASA postdoctoral

fellowship program, Trends in Genetics, Environmental Microbiology, Journal of Eukaryotic Microbiology, ISME Journal, Molecular Ecology, BMC Evolutionary Biology, BMC Genomics, Aquatic Biology, Molecular Biology and Evolution, Eukaryotic Cell, PLoS Genetics, Heredity, PNAS, Current Biology, Nature

Microbiology, and Nature

Memberships of Professional Bodies

2015 Fellow of the American Academy of Microbiology

2012 Fellow of the Linnean Society

2008 Member of the British Mycology Society
 2008 Member of Society of General Microbiology
 2005 Member of the Systematics Association

Invited Presentations

> 50, selection highlighted here:

| Nov. 2022 | Company of Biologists Workshop, Genotype to phenotype: bridging comparative genomics and cell biology. Sussex, UK. |
|------------|--|
| Oct. 2022 | Quest for orthologues meeting, Sitges, Spain |
| Sept. 2022 | Plenary Lecture, EMBO meeting of Comparative Genomics, San Feliu de Guixols (Costa Brava), Spain |
| Aug. 2018 | Hutner Award Lecture, International Society of Protistology, UBC, Vancouver, Canada |
| Nov. 2017 | 2017 Sir Julian Huxley Lecturer, The Systematics Association, The Linnean Society, London |
| March 2017 | Joint Genome Institute, Users Meeting, California, USA |
| March 2017 | Departmental Lecture, Plant & Microbial Biology, University of California Berkeley, California, USA |
| June 2016 | Gordon Research Seminar, Marine Microbes, Girona, Spain |
| June 2016 | Gordon Research Conference, Cellular & Molecular Fungal Biology, New Hampshire, USA |
| Dec. 2015 | Public Bioscience Lecture, University of York, UK |
| Nov. 2014 | Current Trends in Biomedicine Workshop: Comparative and Functional Genomics of fungal pathogens, Baeza, Spain |
| Oct. 2013 | European Molecular Biology Organization (EMBO), Bangalore, India Ambassadorial trip |
| Oct. 2013 | EMBO meeting of Comparative Genomics, San Feliu de Guixols (Costa Brava), Spain |
| Sep. 2013 | Berkeley Lecture, British Society of Mycology, Cardiff, Wales, UK |
| July 2013 | International Congress of Protistology, Vancouver, British Colombia, Canada |
| May 2013 | Society of Molecular Biology and Evolution, University of California Davis, USA |
| July 2012 | American Mycology Society Annual Meeting, Yale, Connecticut, USA |
| June 2012 | American Society of Microbiology, 112 th General Meeting, San Francisco, USA |
| Feb. 2012 | Plenary Talk, Status workshop, Robert Koch Institute, Berlin |

| | EMBO meeting of Comparative Genomics, San Feliu de Guixols (Costa Brava), Spain | | |
|--|--|--|--|
| | Gordon Conference, Marine Microbes, New Hampshire, USA | | |
| Feb. 2010 | American Society of Limnology and Oceanography: Ocean Sciences Meeting, Portland, Oregon, USA | | |
| July 2009 | Presidents' Medal Lecture, Society of Experimental Biology, Glasgow, UK | | |
| March 2009 | Plenary talk, 25th Fungal Genetics Conference, Asilomar, USA | | |
| Meetings Organized | | | |
| | Chair/Organizer: The Mechanics of Endosymbiosis, EMBO/EMBL Symposia, Heidelberg, Germany | | |
| | Chair/Organizer: Single Cell Ecology. Royal Society Hooke Symposium, London/Buckinghamshire, UK | | |
| Feb. 2018 | Chair/Organizer: Using genomic comparisons to understand cellular complexity in | | |
| | our ancestors, Royal Society International Scientific Seminar, Buckinghamshire, UK | | |
| Oct. 2018 | Chair/Organizer: EMBO meeting of Comparative Genomics, San Feliu de Guixols (Costa Brava), Spain | | |
| Sep. 2016 | Session Chair/Organizer: Fungal genome biology and evolution, British Mycology Society. Exeter, UK | | |
| 2014-2018 | Organizing committee: EMBO meeting of Comparative Genomics, San Feliu de Guixols (Costa Brava), Spain | | |
| Sept. 2011 | Chair/Organizer: Horizontal gene flow & evolution, Society of General Microbiology, York, UK | | |
| March 2010 | Chair/Organizer: Microbiology of Oceans, Society of General Microbiology, Edinburgh, UK | | |
| Dec. 2009 | Chair/Organizer: Young Systematists' Forum, Systematics Association, Natural History Museum, London, UK | | |
| Sept. 2009 | Chair/Organizer: Darwin's tree of life, Society of General Microbiology, Edinburgh, UK | | |
| Research Visits and Exp | peditions | | |
| October 2018 | Sampling expedition to Panamanian Rain Forests | | |
| | Project: developing and testing new tools for disease assessment in captured and wild endangered frog populations (Funded by Royal Society / GCRF challenge grant) | | |
| April 2015-19 | Sampling expedition to Curaçao, Dutch Antilles | | |
| | Project: Sampling diseased soft corals (Funded by CIFAR program grant and NERC OMICS grant) | | |
| Sept. 2011 | Research visit to Dr A. Worden, Monterey Bay Aquarium Research Institute, USA | | |
| | Project: Molecular Adaptations in Deep Sea Fungi | | |
| | Expedition: deep-sea sampling using remote operated vehicles (Funded by a Royal Society Small Grant). | | |
| SeptOct. 2009 | Research visit to Dr F. Not, Station Biologique de Roscoff, France | | |
| | Project: novel algae in European oceans (Funded by the British Council). | | |
| July-Aug. 2005 | Sample collection expedition to Peruvian: deserts, mountains and rainforest | | |
| Education, media and public outreach activities (examples) | | | |

| June 2022 | 'Tadpole Doctor' stand at the Royal Society Sumer Science Exhibition |
|------------|---|
| June 2021 | 'Tadpole Doctor' featured in the Guardian and BBC Radio 4 Inside Science. See http://tadpole-doctor.co.uk for relevant links |
| Sep. 2020 | Tadpole-Doctor.co.uk, Royal Society Public Engagement Fund (£6,000), working with multiple stakeholders (e.g. Schools, Zoos, Aquaria, and NGOs) to understand the distribution of tadpole pathogens in the UK and imported aquarium animals |
| Aug. 2015 | Tadpole infection work featured with quotes across several news outlets including New York Times and the Guardian |
| July 2015 | Lecture to School forum 'Britain Needs Biosciences' on 'Microbial Eyes' |
| May 2011 | Interview for BBC Radio 4 <i>Material World,</i> BBC Science news webpage, National Public Radio USA, Nature Pod Cast on our identification of 'Novel Fungi' |
| Sept. 2009 | Feature on Horizontal Gene Transfer in plants for education outreach journal Scope |
| 2009 | I took part in the British Council's Science for Schools Initiative in Brittany, France |
| Annually | Our laboratory regularly hosts school-age and undergraduate work experience students |
| | |

Teaching and Project Supervision

| 2020- | Director, 'Evolution of Secretion' two-week intensive molecular cell biology course |
|-----------|---|
| 2013-2020 | Visiting Lecturer, University College, London |
| 2006- | I teach a range of subjects/lectures across the University undergraduate syllabus |
| 2007- | Supervision of over twenty Postdoctoral Fellows/Scientists |
| 2007- | Supervision to completion of nine PhD students |
| 2003-06 | University of Oxford M.Sc. Integrative Bioscience (Molecular Biology Course Codirector) |

External Examination. PhD dissertations examined at the Universities of: Oxford, Exeter, Sheffield, University College London, Maynooth Ireland, Uppsala Sweden, Barcelona Spain (x 3), Dalhousie Canada, and Oslo Norway.

Institutional Responsibility.

- I have acted as departmental academic lead for evolutionary biology, line managing nine academic staff including fellowship application, "tenure" progression and promotion.
- I was the lead organiser for Exeter Campus' Bioscience UK Universities Research Excellence Framework UoA5 submission (the mechanism by which the UK government competitively assign research funding to universities).
- As associate Director of Research at Exeter I had formal mentorship for seven junior faculty members (i.e. conducting personal development reviews). I have sat on the Departmental Research Committee and the Living Systems Institute at Exeter management committee.

Mentorship. I have mentored numerous individuals to award of independent research fellowships (for example three Royal Society University Research Fellowships and one CNRS fellowship position).

Grants Awarded

| Grant type | Title (further information, PI status and direct funding to our lab) | End date |
|---------------------------------|--|-----------|
| Moore Foundation, program grant | Understanding symbiotic interaction networks in the lab and the field. Combining single cell transcriptome and | June 2027 |

| | sRNA sequencing with RNAi experiments to understand what drives long term symbiotic interactions (Pi, funding \$2,075,625). | |
|--|--|------------|
| BBSRC Responsive Mode Grant | The architecture and evolution of host control in a microbial symbiosis. In collaboration with Professors Brockhurst & Cameron at the University of Manchester. We will use reverse genetics and evolution experiments to understand how host control systems function in a stable endosymbiosis (Co-Pi, funding £583,868.70). | Sept. 2026 |
| Leverhulme Project Grant | The evolutionary diversification of a sub-cellular fungal eye. In collaboration with Prof Higgins in the Department of Biochemistry we will study the structure and proteome composition of microbial eyes in single celled fungi (PI, funding = £263,885). | Sept. 2027 |
| Wellcome Trust, Discretionary Award | Darwin Tree of Life Project (phase 2). Large consortium grant led by the Sanger Institute with the aim of sequencing large representation of all eukaryotic species in the UK. I am responsible for the UK protist culture collection sequencing (Co/Associate-PI, funding = £178,235). | Nov. 2024 |
| NERC Responsive Mode Grant | Host-parasite coadaptation in a warming world. (Co -PI). | Feb. 2026 |
| Royal Society URF Enhancement award | The role of PDS1 as membrane translocon component for RNA substrates. (Personal fellowship enhancement funding $= £169,000$). | Dec. 2023 |
| NSF center Grant | NSF Center for Mechanisms of Evolution. (Associate Investigator and exchange host, \$12,500,000, no direct funding). | Sept. 2025 |
| EMBO long-term Postdoctoral Fellowship Grant, awarded to Varsha Mathur | The evolution of parasitism in the pseudofungi. Using comparative genomics of diverse stramenopiles to understand the evolution of parasitic traits in the Pseudofungi (Supervisor of fellowship, €120,000). | Sept. 2023 |
| Royal Society Partnership Grant | Bringing microscopy and pond ecology to St Patricks School Liverpool. (Supporting academic, funding = £3,000 to the school). | Sept. 2026 |
| Royal Society Public Engagement Fund Grant 2020 | Tadpole Doctor. Using public engagement to identify the spread of protist pathogens of tadpoles in the UK (PI, funding = £6,100). | Sept. 2023 |
| Moore & Simons Foundation, Origin of the Eukaryotic Cell program. | Resolving archaeal contributions to the first eukaryotic common ancestor: Developing tools for accessing the genomes of uncultivated archaea (Co -PI, funding = \$41,000). | Oct. 2024 |
| Sanger Institute, Moore Foundation, Aquatic Systems Symbiosis Genome Sequencing Initiative | Ciliate and symbiont genome sequencing initiative. Large-scale genome sequencing initiative to sequence ciliate protist genomes and their endosymbionts (project partner lab, no direct funding). | Aug. 2023 |

| Marie Curie Fellowship Grant, awarded to Luis Javier Galindo | FungEye. Characterization of the architecture, composition and evolution of a novel light perception organelle in an emerging model fungus (Supervisor of fellowship, €213,000). | Aug. 2023 |
|---|--|---|
| Moore Foundation, Aquatic Systems Symbiosis Initiative | Develop new genetic manipulations systems in endosymbiotic algae to track interaction dynamics in host ciliates. (PI, funding = \$290,000). | May 2023 |
| Wellcome Trust, Discretionary Award I | Darwin Tree of Life Project (phase 1). Large consortium grant led by the Sanger Institute with the aim of sequencing large representation of all eukaryotic species in the UK. I am responsible along with the Earlham Institute for UK protist sequencing (Co/Associate-PI, funding = £480,000). | July 2022 |
| Royal Society University Research Fellowship Renewal | Dissecting a nascent phototrophic endosymbiotic interaction. (£494,500 personal salary and research award for 3 years). | Jan. 2024 |
| ERC Consolidator Grant | CELL-in-CELL. Understanding host cellular systems that drive an endosymbiotic interaction. Developing systems biology approaches for understanding the cellular systems that control and allow endosymbiotic interactions (PI, funding = $\leq 2,600,000$). | June 2024, extendable to summer 2025 |
| NERC & STFC 'omics workshop grant | Workshop for 'omics methodology development: use of secretome enriched meta-transcriptome sequencing for understanding interactions in diseased corals. Working together in an international community we will develop new methods for understanding how corals interact with their disease microbiome through the diversity of secreted proteins (PI, funding = £57,593). | Dec. 2019 |
| Royal Society / GCRF challenge grant | Assessing protist pathogen threats to endangered ecological keystone frog species of Panama. Developing field diagnostics for tracking protists infections of frogs (PI, funding = £82,100). | July 2019 |
| Newton Fellowship Grant, awarded to Elisabet Alacid- Fernandez | 'Omics' and environmental approaches to study host- parasite interactions in dinoflagellate blooms. Using multiple 'omics tools to understand complex heterotrophic interactions in the ocean. (Supervisor of fellowship, £113,000). | Mar. 2019 |
| Moore Foundation, Marine Microbe initiative, program grant | Transporter function and kinetics in uncultivated marine microbes. Developing protein functional analysis methods for studying nutrient transporters of uncultivated microbes (PI, Funding = \$1015,000). | June 2022 |
| NERC grant | Calibrating eDNA tools for biodiversity monitoring in the ocean. Developing eDNA techniques to understand ecosystem function and community diversity (Co-PI, Funding = £ 238,948). | Jan.2020 |
| Marie Curie International Training Network Grant | SINGEK: Promoting SINgle cell genomics to explore the ecology and evolution of hidden microEuKaryotes. Developing cross European expertise to study microbial eukaryotes directly from the environment using single cell | Jan. 2020 |

sequencing approaches (Co-PI, Funding = €546,575). Marie Curie Fellowship Significant or trivial: Fungi in Polar ecosystems (F-POLE). Sep. 2018 Using environmental 'omic'-based approaches to Grant, awarded to **Estelle Kilias** investigate the diversity, abundance and role of fungi in the marine environment (Supervisor of fellowship, €183,454.80). Philip Leverhulme Personal Award for research development. Develop new Nov. 2017 award tools to link genomic data with phenotype analysis of individual microbes and how they interact in communities (PI, funding = £100,000).**Royal Society** Dissecting a nascent phototrophic endosymbiotic Dec. 2023 **University Research** interaction. Using transcriptomics, proteomics and reverse **Fellowship** genetics to investigate cellular functions tied to early interactions in Paramecium bursaria photosynthetic endosymbiosis (personal fellowship funding = £448,000). CSP: Revealing the ecological function of uncultured Oct. 2018 Department of Energy (DOE) Joint Genome fungal dark matter in freshwater ecosystems using single **Institute Community** cell genomics. Community sequencing program to conduct single cell genome sequencing of 'chytrid' fungi from Sequencing Program natural environmental samples (Co-PI). **Comparative genomics of diatoms and Bolidophyceae:** Feb. 2017 **EMBO Long Term** Fellowship, awarded insight into the evolution of one of Earth's most to Jeremy Wideman **productive phototrophs.** Taking a single cell genome sequencing approach, we explored the genome diversity of marine protists and algae (Supervisor of fellowship, funding *=* €100,000). June 2017 Department of Energy **TDP: Life on the Darkside.** *Technology Development* (DOE) Joint Genome Program partnership to develop methods for targeted Institute, Technology isolation and sequencing of eukaryotic single cell isolates **Development Program** from the marine environment (Co-PI). Leverhulme Project Ancestral gene repertoires at the dawn & diversification Nov. 2017 Grant of the Eukaryotes. Using ancestral gene compliment reconstruction, we will identify the gene complement of the Last Eukaryotic Common Ancestor (PI, funding = £212,986). Did horizontal gene transfer 'rewire' ocean microbial Newton Fellowship, Mar. 2016 awarded to Adam metabolic networks? Aim of this project is to look at the Monier impact of gene transfer on the metabolic network encoded by microbial eukaryotes in the marine environment (Supervisor of fellowship, funding = £82,875). EMBO young **Evolution of endosymbiosis.** Using transcriptomics, Jan. 2016 investigator fellowship proteomics and reverse genetics to investigate cellular functions tied to early interactions in Paramecium bursaria photosynthetic endosymbiosis (PI, funding = €70,000). Life on the dark side: complex trophic interactions of Moore Foundation, Apr. 2016 Marine Microbe marine microbial eukaryotes. Using meta-transcriptomics initiative, program and single cell isolation and genome sequencing we will investigate the role and interactions of eukaryotic microbes grant

Career Fellowship

in marine ecosystems (Co-PI, funding = \$422,909). **EMBO Long Term Emerging Protist Parasites of Frogs: Genome and cellular** Aug. 2015 Fellowship, awarded biology of a previously unrecognized parasitic group. to Aurelie Using transcriptome and genome sequencing methods Chambouvet combined with cell biology with the aim of identifying host pathogen interactions (Supervisor of fellowship, funding = *€50,000*). Marie Curie "PARAFROGS" Emerging Protist Parasites of Frogs: Global Aug. 2014 Fellowship, awarded Prevalence and Host/Parasite Interaction. Using to Aurelie molecular methods to identify the global prevalence and Chambouvet host range of this parasite group (Supervisor of fellowship, funding = $\leq 209,033.40$). Global evolutionary complexity of freshwater alveolates: SynTax Jan. 2012 (NERC/BBSRC/DEFRA) a new threat to frogs? Using environmental DNA methods to explore the diversity and host specificity of novel group of alveolates that infect frogs (PI, funding = £26,500). **Royal Society Small** Investigating active eukaryotic microbial communities in Jan. 2012 deep-sea environments. In collaboration with Monterey Grant Bay Aquarium Research Institute, USA, we have developed and are pilot testing a novel approach to sampling community RNA from deep-sea sediments for metatranscriptome sequencing (PI, funding = £14,780). FP6 Biodiversa ERA-Biodiversity of Marine EuKaryotes (BioMarKs). European Jan. 2013 net collaboration using 454 diversity tag sequencing to investigate the complexity of marine protist and fungal communities (Co-I, funding = €265,000). **BBSRC New** The diversity and phylogeny of molecular motor proteins Oct. 2012 **Investigator Grant** and fungal cell evolution. Integrating next generation genome sequencing technologies, we use comparative genomics to investigate major events in fungal and eukaryotic cell evolution (PI, funding = £402,281). Tracking the diversity and abundance of phototrophic life **British Academy** Dec. 2010 Franco-British in the oceans. Collaboration with Fabrice Not to research alliance investigate the evolutionary diversity of marine algae using next generation sequencing methodology (PI, funding = grant: £4,000 & €5,000). **NERC Grant** Diversity, identity and ecological role of a novel fungal Nov. 2010 **super clade.** Using environmental DNA we identified the phylogenetic position and cell biology of a new highly diverse microbial group branching with the fungi (PI, funding = £143,846). BBSRC/NERC CoSyst Molecular diversity of microbial eukaryotes using a large-Dec. 2010 grant scale parallel tag sequencing strategy. This project developed the 454-tag sequencing for investigating the diversity of microbial eukaryotes (PI, funding = £19,608). Leverhulme Early Comparative genomics and eukaryote cell evolution. (PI, Dec.-2009

funding = £60,000).

Publications

Refereed Journal Articles (*corresponding author – bold for member of our team)

- Milner, D.*, Jenkins, B. H., Irwin, N. A., Savory, F. R., Richards. T. A*. A viral-derived metabolic switch controls the fate of a nascent photosymbiosis. *In preparation*
- Irwin, N. A.*, Richards. T. A. Self-assembling viral histones unravel early nucleosome evolution. Submitted
- McGowan, J., Kilias, E. S., Alacid, E., Lipscombe, J., Jenkins, B.H., Gharbi, K., Kaithakottil, G. G., McTaggart, S., Warring, S. D., Richards, T. A., Hall, N., Swarbreck, D., Identification of a non-canonical ciliate nuclear genetic code where UAA and UAG code for different amino acids. bioRxiv. 2022:2022.12. 16.520718. (in press)
- **Galindo, L. J.**, **Richards, T. A.**, Nirody, J. A.*, Fungal zoospores show contrasting swimming patterns specific to phylum and cytology. *bioRxiv*. 2023:2023.01. 22.525074.
- Łapińska U., Glover, G., Kahveci, Z., Irwin, N. A., Milner, D. S., Santoro, A. E., Richards. T. A*. Pagliara, S*. Systematic comparison of unilamellar vesicles reveals that archaeal core lipid membranes are more permeable than bacterial membranes. *PLoS Biol.* 2023. doi.org/10.1371/journal.pbio.3002048
- Glover, G., Voliotis, M., Łapińska, U., Invergo, B. M., Soanes, D., O'Neill, P., Moore, K., Nikolic, N., Petrov, P. G., Milner, D. S., Roy. S., Hessom, K., Richards, T. A., Tsaneva-Atanasova, K., Pagliara, S.* Nutrient and salt depletion synergistically boosts glucose metabolism in individual *Escherichia coli* cells. *Com. Biol.*; 2022; 5(1):385.
- Picchianti, L., Sánchez de Medina Hernández, V., Zhan, N., Irwin, N. A., Groh, R., Stephani, M., Beveridge, R., Sawa-Makarska, J., Lendl, T., Grujic., Martens, S., Richards, T. A., Clausen, T., Ramundo, S., Karagöz, G. E., Dagdas, Y., Shuffled ATG8 interacting motifs form an ancestral bridge between UFMylation and autophagy. *The EMBO Journal*. 2023: e112053.
- Leonard, G., Galindo, L. J., Milner, D. S., Avelar, G. M., Gomes-Vieira, A. L., Gomes, S. L., Richards, T. A., A genome sequence assembly of the phototactic and optogenetic model fungus *Blastocladiella emersonii* reveals a diversified nucleotide-cyclase repertoire. *Genome Biology and Evolution*. 2022; 14(12):evac157.
- Alacid, E.*, Irwin, N. A., Smilansky, V., Milner, D. S., Kilias, E. S., Leonard, G., Richards, T. A.*, A diversified and segregated mRNA spliced-leader system in the parasitic Perkinsozoa. *Open Biology*. 2022; 12(8):220126.
- Lawniczak, M. K.*, Davey, R. P., Rajan J., Pereira-da-Conceicoa, L. L., Kilias, E., Hollingsworth, P. M., Barnes, I., Allwn, H., Blaxter, M. Burgin, J., Broad, G. R., Crowley, L. M., Gaya, E., Holroyd, N., Lewis, O. T., McTaggart, S., Mieszkowska, N., Minotto, A., Shaw, F., Richards, T. A., Sivess, A. A. S., Darwin Tree of Life Consortium. Specimen and sample metadata standards for biodiversity genomics: a proposal from the Darwin Tree of Life project. Wellcome Open Research. 2022; 7(187):187.
- Kellom, M.*, Pagliara, S., **Richards, T. A.,** Santoro, A. E., Exaggerated trans-membrane charge of ammonium transporters in nutrient-poor marine environments. *Open Biology*. 2022; **12**(7):220041.
- Irwin, N. A., Pittis, A. A., Richards, T. A., Keeling, P. J., Systematic evaluation of horizontal gene transfer between eukaryotes and viruses. *Nature Micro*. 2022; **7**(2):327-36.
- **Galindo, L. J., Milner, D. S.,** Gomes, S. L., **Richards, T. A.**, A light-sensing system in the common ancestor of the fungi. *Curr. Biol.*; 2022; **32**(14):3146-53. e3
- Jenkins B. H., Maguire F., Leonard G., Eaton J. D., West S., Housden B. E., Milner, D. S., Richards. T. A.*, Emergent RNA–RNA interactions can promote stability in a facultative phototrophic endosymbiosis. *Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. USA.* 2021; **118**(38): e2108874118.
- Zahonovam, K., Lax, G., Sinha, S. D., Leonard, G., Richards. T. A., Lukeš, J., Wideman, J. G.*, Single-cell genomics unveils a canonical origin of diverse mitochondrial genomes of euglenozoans. *BMC Biology*. 2021; 19(1): 1-14

- Milner, D. S., Wideman, J. G.*, Stairs, C. W., Dunn, C. D., Richards. T. A.*, A functional bacterial-derived restriction modification system in the mitochondrion of a heterotrophic protist. *PLoS Biol.*; 2021: **19**(4): e3001126
- Smilansky, V., Jirku, M., Milner, D. S., Ibáñez, R., Gratwicke, B., Nicholls, A., Lukeš, J., Chambouvet, A., Richards. T. A.*, Expanded geographic and host tadpole associations of the Severe Perkinsea Infection group., Roy. Soc. Biology Letters.; 2021: 17(6): 20210166
- Jenkins, B. H.*, Maguire, F., Leonard, G., Eaton, J. D., West, S., Housden, B. E., Milner, D. S., Richards. T. A.*, Characterisation of the RNA-interference pathway as a tool for genetics in the nascent phototrophic endosymbiosis, *Paramecium bursaria*, *Roy. Soc. Open Science.*; 2021: 8(4): 202140
 - o Included in the 'New Talent in Life Sciences' supplement.
- Smilansky, V.*, Chambouvet, A., Reeves, M., Richards. T. A., Milner, D. S.*, A novel duplex qPCR assay for stepwise detection of multiple Perkinsea protistan infections of amphibian tissues. *Roy. Soc. Open Science.*; 2021: 8(3): 202150
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