Communication is Everything
New PR Officer at Bagadilico

A new PR Officer has taken the reins at the one-man Bagadilico communications office. My name is Jens Persson and my aim is to communicate the frontline research taking place in the Bagadilico labs and offices scattered around BMC. Simply put, to translate the exciting developments unfolding inside these walls into popular science. In order to achieve this goal I’m heavily dependent on my own communication with YOU - the scientists and researchers at Bagadilico. So I hope that you will let me in when I come knockin’. I also wish that you are not afraid to come to me with your own ideas on what could or should be communicated to the general public, the scientific community, to students, patients or to the media. I’m sure I will meet some of you during the many activities going on in September. Read more about them in this newsletter!

For future reference… If you ever see me wandering aimlessly through the maze of BMC walkways you are welcome to stop me and point me in the right direction. My complete lack of sense of direction and the brain that comes with it will lend itself to any clinical trial trying to cure this life long affliction.

BUSY SEPTEMBER!

As we move into September the summer lull will be replaced with a number of exciting entries in the calendar. The academic year kicks off with a series of new Bagadilico events...

New Career Program
First off is the start of the Bagadilico Career Program, beginning on September 7th. This is a chance for young students and researchers to acquire the necessary tools to further their careers - to “break the code” on how to take the next step in the world of academia. Through workshops in leadership, communication and writing they will be better equipped to meet future challenges within the scientific community.

Read more about the Career Program on the next page

The Very First Huntington Café
After the successes of the Parkinson Cafés it is now time for a long awaited Huntington Café. It will be held on Tuesday 14th September. The event is an opportunity for everyone interested in Huntington’s disease to hear the latest news on clinical practice and research, and to talk directly to scientists and clinicians with expertise on Huntington’s Disease.

Link - More information on the Huntington Café

Summer School 2010 in Mallorca
At the end of September a fleet of Bagadilico research leaders fly out to Mallorca for ‘Summer School 2010’. The school is an opportunity for young scientists to get a broader picture of the research field connected to basal ganglia disorders. It is also a chance to meet like-minded young researchers and build networks for the future. The program for the Summer School reflects Bagadilico’s translational philosophy of linking basic research to clinical research.

Link - Anders Björklund talks about the Summer School

‘Brain Fun’ returns at Kulturkalaset
This spring’s much appreciated ‘Brain Fun’ activity for kids is making a celebrated return at the annual festive event in Lund – “Kulturkalaset”. Jennifer Steiner is once again the dynamo behind the event. The children will get a rare opportunity to partake in hands-on neuroscience-related activities and learn about their senses, reflexes, and brains.

If you have an interest in volunteering - we are happy to have you!
On September 7th the new Bagadilico ‘Career Program’ kicks off. It is part of an effort to prepare young researchers to meet future challenges in the scientific community.

Elin Bommenel, part of the Cultural Research Team, has conducted a survey among young Bagadilico researchers about the resources lacking in career development. The survey has informed the planning and layout of the new ‘Career Program’.

- We found that a lot of the knowledge required by young scientists to further their careers is tacit knowledge – skills that not even senior researchers can put into words. Things such as how to take criticism, how to build networks, when to be a team player and when not to be.

The program is designed to help young students and researchers to ‘break the code’ on how to take the next step in their academic careers. Through four different workshops aspiring researchers will immerse themselves in the arts of leadership skills, scientific writing and communication.

- A lot of students drop out because they don’t understand how to move on to the next level. Perhaps they feel that they are alone in solving a problem when in fact there is a lot of help to be found in their surrounding environment. Some people leave because they simply feel a lack of security.

The Career Program is also a long-term investment for Bagadilico. Holding on to talented young scientists is of key importance for any research environment. This is an opportunity to do just that – as well as strengthening Bagadilico’s future ability to attract students and researchers from all over the world.

Elin Bommenel is certain that initiatives such as the new Career Program create a lasting value for Bagadilico as a competitive research environment.

- It costs ten times as much to educate a new co-worker from scratch than to keep and develop an existing one. It’s simple economics – hold on to the talent that you have, and make sure that they keep developing.

The first Workshop...

The first of the four workshops will be held on 7-8 September. Guest lecturer is Dr. Rhiannon Sanders, an expert in leadership and presentation techniques.

Link - ‘Career Program’ Site