**JUST A MINUTE…**

Christel Thunell, Bagadilico’s public relations officer, who also works as a journalist at various newspapers. Christel, I heard a rumour that you’re leaving us. Is this true?

– Well, Christel, I’m glad you brought that up. It is true. I have resigned from my job here. The way it looks now, I will stay until March 5th.

But Christel, what is the reason for this?

– Well, Christel, I’m glad you asked me that question. The reason is that it has proven impossible to combine my role here as a public relations person with my other role as a journalist. I am only hired half time by Bagadilico, and so I try to fill the other half with work in journalism.

I recently applied for a job I was very interested in, and was the strongest candidate for, but the employer hesitated to hire me because of my job here, as it makes me biased to the university. The same problem has occurred before, so now I see myself forced to choose between the two paths, and I choose journalism.

What will you take with you from here?

– Good friends. I might still sneak into the Survivors’ Sauna Club from time to time. Working here has been so much fun and I have learned a lot.

**NEWS IN BRIEF**

**33 million kronor for developing a more realistic animal model**

A problem with currently used animal models for Parkinson’s disease is that they don’t re-create all the cellular changes characteristic of the disease.

Anders Björklund and Deniz Kirik have, together with partners at Karolinska Institutet, now received a 33 million Swedish kronor grant from SSF, Swedish Foundation for Strategic Research, for developing an animal model for Parkinson’s disease that mimics the disease process.

Read more by clicking here.

**255 000 kronor for smart electrode**

Martin Lundblad has developed an electrode that measures the concentration of dopamine in the brain up to 200 times per second. Now, he has received a total of 255 000 Swedish kronor from four different foundations for his project.

Read more by clicking here.

**Translation method of questionnaires affects clinical study outcomes**

Patient-reported health outcome questionnaires are used in most clinical studies and are translated from language to language. A new study by Bagadilico PI. Peter Hagell et al comparing the effects of using different translation methods fails to provide support for commonly recommended methods.

Read more by clicking here.

**Join “Brain Fun”, get to play with kids, and brains!**

For Brain Awareness Week in March, we are planning a fun half-day for the children in a local primary school, with interactive learning about the brain. As we are planning hands-on activities at set up booths, we need YOU to help us! The event will most likely take place at a trilingual school, so you can be Swedish, English or French speaking.

Jennifer Steiner has previously coordinated Brain Blast events in the US. If you want to join the show and share your love of the brain, please contact Christel Thunell (christel.thunell@med.lu.se) or Jennifer Steiner (jennifer.steiner@med.lu.se).

**New on the job!**

Congratulations Tomas Deierborg, who has been appointed Associate Professor (docent) in Neuroscience.

Welcome Yongxia Zhou, new research fellow in Åsa Petersén’s group. Yongxia Zhou will participate in a project about imaging and neuroendocrine analysis in Huntington’s disease. The project is carried out in collaboration with Håkan Widner and has recently received a 180 000 kronor grant from the foundation Söderström-Königska.

Welcome Max Liljefors, new Bagadilico member. Max Liljefors is Associate Professor in Art History and Visual Studies. In Bagadilico he will study data visualization through technologies such as PET and MRI in the laboratory context, as well as the cultural impact of the produced images in the surrounding society.

**Career program for young researchers**

Within Bagadilico, we are working on putting together a career program for our young researchers.

The program will, among other things, include mentors and career days.

The career program is meant to start in late spring. Cecilia Lundberg, Martha Escobar and Elin Bommenel are coordinating the program.
Employee of the month: Carl Grenvall

“Knowledge is my hobby”

Want to analyze the fat and protein content of your milk? Check if the sushi you’re having for lunch is fresh? Or sort out the dopaminergic cells from a stem cell culture? Talk to Carl Grenvall. He’s your man.

Yeast, milk, blood, chromosomes, neurones. Carl Grenvall, known as Calle, is just a particle-sorting machine. He is a Ph.D. student at the Faculty of Engineering (LTH), in the lab of Professor Thomas Laurell, who brings nanobiotechnology into Bagadilico.

Calle works with acoustophoresis, a way of separating particles using sound waves. Hopefully, this will be a way of obtaining pure cultures of dopamine-producing cells for transplantation into Parkinson patients.

Using this technique, Calle has helped developing a method for analyzing dairy products (for example, protein and fat content) for a Danish company. The method is now patented. And last year he spent five weeks in Tokyo working out a method for finding out the bacteria content of food products, for example the fish used to make sushi.

– They work on acoustophoresis in other places around the world, but they haven’t gotten as far with the applications as we have, says Calle.

The solution Carl wants to investigate is injected into a microscopic channel on a silicon chip. Ultrasonic sound waves are led into the chip, start resonating and create a standing wave in the solution. The heavier particles, cells, for example, then end up at the node of the standing wave, and lighter particles, for example fat, end up at the antinodes. The different particles can then be led out via different channels.

– At the frequencies that we use it doesn’t seem to do any harm at all.

Calle did his degree in computer science, but he was always interested in the applications within Biology and Medicine and has thought a lot about becoming a medical doctor.

– I don’t really know why I studied computer science. I like computer games, he laughs.

He is a big fan of travelling – trips like the one to Japan was one of the reasons why he took this job. And Asia is his favourite destination: Korea, Japan, Hong Kong and Thailand.

– Warm climate, cheap things, nice people and good food. And beautiful nature, and good diving, Calle explains.

The Facts of Calle

Age: 30.


Family: Sambo of nine years.

This you didn’t know about Calle: “I probably have the biggest collection of striped, dotted, any kind of patterned, socks in town. I can’t stand boring, plain socks. Marimekko patterns are my favourite.”

Want to see how acoustophoresis works? Watch a video by clicking here.
Because of the heavy snowfall, more than half of the visitors to the Parkinson café on the 27th of January couldn’t make it.

All the better that the café was broadcasted live on the internet and also can be watched afterwards.

This time, the theme for the café was gene therapy. Neuroscientist Cecilia Lundberg, Associate Professor at Lund University and vice coordinator for Bagadilico, started with a lecture on what gene therapy is. After that, Carl Rosenblad, medical doctor at the Neurological clinic at Lund University Hospital, gave a talk on gene therapy strategies in Parkinson’s disease.

After coffee and blueberry muffins the question and answers session was opened. One of the visitors asked Carl Rosenblad:

– In five years when we meet here, what will you say about gene therapy?

The answer:

– By then, we have gotten a lot further in the testing of the gene therapy technique. The question is whether anything has reached the clinic. There will be a bottleneck in the handling of this medicine, as it requires specialist knowledge, so to the greater extent, we will have the same medicines as we do today. I would like to give the hope that gene therapy will be there, but it won’t be the general treatment, said Carl Rosenblad.

Of the 37 people that were going to attend, only 17 showed up. But many followed the café via internet. Sara Riggage and David Löhr from the Swedish Parkinson Association, who managed the web broadcast, counted to 25 connected computers, and at many of these there was more than one person. In Sundsvall, for example, a dozen people watched on a big screen in a conference room.

Those who had registered for the webcast could also send in their questions via a chat. One of the questions was:

– Why don’t all patients treated with L-dopa for a long time get dyskinesias?

– It isn’t known. It has to do with the genes-environment interaction. We are so different, so our reactions to the stress that it means to have big fluctuations in dopamine levels are also different, said Cecilia Lundberg, who thinks that the treatment against Parkinson’s disease will be individualized in the future.

– I think we will turn to individual treatment, where you get a little of everything and custom-make it for each individual patient’s conditions. You may need a pump in your stomach and a dash of gene therapy.

She also has another vision for the future:

– I think there will be clinical trials with gene therapy for Parkinson’s disease here in Lund. This isn’t science fiction anymore, said Cecilia Lundberg.

The videos from the Parkinson café can be viewed on http://www.livestream.com/parkinson. Scroll down a bit and you will find the clips called “Frågestund Lund” and “Föredrag Lund” (everything is in Swedish). Unfortunately, Carl Rosenblad’s lecture was lost, but Cecilia Lundberg’s lecture and the Q&A and answers session are there.
Mostly positive from the Bagadilico’s Scientific Advisory Board, SAB, visited us on January 11-12 and gave overall positive criticism. The SAB was excited about several of the results generated by Bagadilico. However, the SAB expressed concern over some things, for example the lack of a biobank and the number of work packages.

– We are impressed with much of the science, we like the idea of the translational aspect of the program and the many exciting individual projects, said Professor Christopher Ross of the SAB.
– We are also impressed with the productivity of many of the projects and think you have done a good job with dealing with gender issues, said Professor Beverly Davidson.

Professor Herbert Gottweis thought the cultural part of the program was very innovative. He also found the communication strategy very impressive.
– You are using new tools, like the Parkinson café and web 2.0 tools, which allow interaction. This is exactly what the current expectations are from the society right now: not just getting a message, but being able to interact, he said.

Lack of biobank
The SAB was, however, concerned over the lack of a biobank with brain and DNA samples from patients. They also thought that the six work packages were too many.
– Putting them together might actually lead to a better organization, thought Professor Marc Peschanski, who instead suggested three work packages: basic, translational and clinical research, which essentially would mean fusing pairs of work packages together.

The SAB also thought the program should focus more on developing common technologies between the groups, and setting aside some money for investments in pilot projects that might be financially risky. They also thought more scientific meetings might be worthwhile.
– Perhaps something like every Monday at noon,
including pizza so that everyone will attend, and the Ph.D. students and postdocs could present so that they get to meet each other, said Professor Beverly Davidson. Bagadilico’s coordinator Professor Patrik Brundin was satisfied with the visit.

– We can be proud of Bagadilico, and with the SAB input we may make it even more successful in the future, he said.

Evaluation report

The feedback from SAB will be included in the first evaluation report that Bagadilico is about to submit to Vetenskapsrådet (Swedish Research Council). This report will provide background for an interview with the Bagadilico coordinators and grant manager in Stockholm in April.

The objective of the SAB visit was to evaluate what has been achieved within the program so far and the strategies for the coming three-year period.

The visit started with a site visit on January 11, where the SAB members were shown the facilities and labs.

In the afternoon, work package leaders gave their presentations and finally the SAB gave their feedback and concluding remarks. The Faculty of Medicine Dean Bo Ahrén also participated.

**Scientific Advisory Board**

**Professor Beverly Davidson**, Professor of Medicine, Neurology and Physiology & Biophysics, University of Iowa, USA.

**Professor Herbert Gottweis**, Professor of Political Science, University of Vienna, Austria.

**Professor Marc Peschanski**, head of the Institute for Stem cell Therapy and Exploration of Monogenic diseases (I-STEM), INSERM, France.

**Professor Werner Poewe**, Professor of Neurology, Innsbruck Medical University, Austria.

**Professor Christopher Ross**, Professor of Psychiatry, Neurology and Neuroscience, Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine, Baltimore, USA.