

The meeting was a big success with participants from USA, Mexico, Germany, France, Spain, Greece, Bulgaria and of course from the UK. The first three days of the meeting (July 28-30) all the seminars were given plenty of time for discussion and the participants praised this informal mode of exchanging information, which provided the ability to get to know each other. As this was the first meeting of the sort, it enabled new collaborations and inspired many young researchers who might be feeling isolated in the very recent past. Below I summarize the featured presentations, which were open to (and attended by) members of SBCS:



FRIDAY 25 July, 12:00

Dr. Juan Riesgo Escovar: "A Tale of Two Genes in Drosophila Development"

Juan presented two mutants with defects in the development of the nervous system. He is Associate Professor at the Institute of Neurobiology, National Autonomous University of Mexico, in Queretaro.

MONDAY 28 July, 17:00

Dr. Manos Mavrikis: "Compartmentalization of the early Drosophila embryo as revealed by live imaging techniques"

Manos presented live imaging experiments of Drosophila embryos, with particular emphasis on membrane dynamics. He is a CNRS investigator at the University of Marseille, in France.

TUESDAY 29 July, 16:00

Dr. Salvatore Adinolfi: "Biochemistry of frataxin"

Salva discussed the biochemical function of frataxin, a protein involved in iron sulphur cluster biosynthesis and the human disease Friedreich's ataxia.

He holds a research position with MRC at the NIMR

WEDNESDAY 30 July, 17:00

Dr. Boris Dunkov: "History of research in insect iron metabolism"

Boris worked for many years in the laboratory of John Law, a famous entomologist who spent the last part of his career studying iron metabolism in insects. He is currently Assistant Professor at the Shumen University in Bulgaria.

**On THURSDAY 31 July, 15:00-19:00, we hosted an open evening session, with summary presentations from the major labs that participated to the meeting. This session was attended not only by members of SBCS, but also by researchers in the London area working with either the *Drosophila* model organism or on iron metabolism in other systems.**



**Comments from participants:**

Dr. Irene Miguel-Aliaga, from Cambridge

“Sorry I had to rush off but I had to be in central London at 7.30. Shame, as there were many interesting people I would have liked to talk more with. I sort of arranged with Josep to meet tomorrow in Cambridge to talk more about the future.”

Prof. Robert Evans, from Brunel

“I just wanted to thank you for all your hard work putting together this week's meeting at Queen Mary. I know you had a good team of young students helping you but I also know, from experience (!), that you will have had to do a lot of things yourself. Emmanouil Karteris organises our seminars so will be getting in touch with you about coming to give a seminar here at Brunel early next term.”

Dr. Boris Dunkov, from Bulgaria

“Once again, many thanks for the opportunity to be part of this first meeting and for your hospitality! I was pleased and overwhelmed to hear about all the new exciting iron research in *Drosophila* and to meet so many people! As we discussed, I called John Law and told him briefly about the meeting and the paper you want to submit to PNAS.”

Beinan Liu, from Cambridge

“I have recently sent Alexis some of my abeta flies, I have just sent him an email asking for some of his flies. Thanks again for organising the meeting, which gave us the opportunity to exchange flies months down the line”