THE MAURITIAN ACADEMIC DIASPORA

QUARTERLY

NEWSLETTER

WINTER 2018

Message

Dear Friends and Colleagues,

Earlier this year, we celebrated a momentous milestone – the 50th Anniversary of our country's Independence. The Golden Jubilee was celebrated with great pride by all Mauritians without distinction, including members of the Mauritian Academic Diaspora who met in Mauritius in February 2018 during the International Conference of the Academic Diaspora around the theme "Mauritian Diaspora: Showcasing International Success", organised by the UoM.

The Conference has enabled the start of valuable collaborations between UoM Academics and members of the Mauritian Academic Diaspora. This newsletter is a first initiative of this newly established network and which provides an insight into the research achievements of the Mauritian academic community based globally. Happy reading!

Anu Bissoonauth-Bedford

Newsletter Co-ordinator

Dr Anu Bissoonauth-Bedford

Faculty of Law, Humanities & the Arts, University of Wollongong, Australia, email: anu@uow.edu.au

Anu was awarded a New Columbo Plan grant (\$100K over 3 years from 2018-2020) from the Australian government to support research and mobility in the Pacific region. She is collaborating with colleagues on an interdisciplinary study program for students majoring in French with Politics, History, Law & Sciences to go on exchange at the University of New Caledonia. Her latest publication titled "Language practices and attitudes of Australian children of Indian descent in a primary education setting' was published in the International Journal of Multilingualism vol 15, Issue 1 pp 54-71. Building on from ICMAD, Anu carried out her 2018 fieldwork in Mauritian schools to investigate the changing patterns of language use and language choice in younger generations of Mauritians. She co- organised a research day with Professor Issur from UoM's French department in September 2018. They are now working on an online publication of papers from the colloquium 'Lame dan lame? Main dans la Main? Hand in Hand?' forthcoming in 2019.

Dr Purnima Gunness

(Postdoctoral Research Fellow, QAAFI | Centre for Nutrition & Food Sciences, University of Queensland, Australia, email: nimagunness@uq.edu.au)

Nima's range of activities include

- 1) On-going research projects:
 - Mechanisms behind lipid-reducing properties of cereals and fruits soluble dietary fibres
 - Identify nutritional mechanisms underpinning epidemiological health benefits of whole fruit, vegetables and nuts
- Scientific seminars: topic "Strategies towards lowering/preventing obesity & cardiovascular disease"
 - Thursday 31st May 2018: Leeds University, UK, visiting Prof Alan Mackie
 - Thursday 7th June 2018: Chalmers University of Technology, Sweden, visiting Prof Rikard Landberg & Prof Marie Alminger
 - Friday 8th June 2018: Research Institute of Sweden (RISE), visiting Dr Patricia Lopez-Sanchez

- 3) Conference: Dietary Fibres 2018 conference, Rotterdam, The Netherlands; 4-6th June 2018
 - Presentation title: Oat β -glucan lowers blood cholesterol by restricting its intestinal absorption and decreasing bile acids levels
- 4) Papers in pipeline:
 - Effects of pectin and mango pulp on triglycerides, cholesterol and bile acids using pigs as a model for humans
 - Depletion and bridging flocculation of canola oil droplets in the presence of soluble dietary fibres
 - Mixing methods, emulsifier and molecular weight dependence of barley β -glucan effects on emulsification and in vitro lipolysis of canola oil

Dr Kreshna Gopal

(Computer Science, StataCorp USA) (email: kgopal@stata.com)

Kreshna has been busy with:

Working on two papers related to long-term rainfall (and reservoir water level) prediction in Mauritius:

- a. Using statistical and artificial intelligence techniques to predict aggregate rainfall based on large-scale circulation patterns like El Niño Southern Oscillation and Indian Ocean Dipole.
- b. Drought definitions, classification, and indices: the case of Mauritius.

He has applied for a US Department of State grant under the Alumni Engagement Innovation Fund (AEIF) program for the creation of a society for research and innovation in Mauritius. Good luck to Kreshna!

Professeure Eileen Lokha

(School of Languages, Linguistics, Literatures and Cultures, University of Calgary, Canada; courriel: elohka@ucalgary.ca).

Eileen directrice générale sortante – et intérimaire- a organisé le 32^e congrès mondial du Conseil International d'Etudes Francophones à La Rochelle (CIEF 4-10 juin 2018). Plus de 300 universitaires provenant de plus de 40 pays dont l'île Maurice ont participé à ce congrès.

Eileen a dirigé et édité les 'Nouvelles Études Francophones 32.2', comprenant deux dossiers dont un avec Kumari Issur, UoM, sur l'éco-critique dans la littérature indocéane et l'autre avec Pamela Sing, University of Alberta sur les arts culinaires dans les littératures francophones.

D'autres parutions sont :

- « Senteurs de l'ailleurs: mémoire culinaire chez Kim Thúy » in Nouvelles Études Francophones, University of Nebraska Press, Vol. 32, No. 2, Autumn 2017.
- « L'Île Maurice des cartes postales et des romans : une approche écocritique », in Nouvelles Études Francophones, University of Nebraska Press, Vol. 32, No. 2, Autumn 2017.
- « Mémoire et texte : écrire pour dire, pour cacher et/ou pour comprendre ? » in Écritures de l'exil, Presses de l'université Laval, 2017.

Eileen a pris sa retraite à partir de juin 2018! Nous lui souhaitons 'bon vent'!

N'oubliez pas de lire l'article qui lui a été consacré pendant la semaine ICMAD dans *Le Mauricien* sur un destin et parcours exceptionnels et hors du commun! (https://www.lexpress.mu/article/326960/eileen-lohkadire-richesse-maurice-en-multigenre)

Professor Kapildeo Lotun

(Cardiology, University of Arizona, USA; email: klotun@shc.arizona.edu)

Kapil has published five joint articles (see list below) in the field of cardiology, since the ICMAD conference in February 2018. He was also a guest editor and publisher of a mini thematic review on Cardiac arrest in the Current Cardiology Review journal. He chaired a symposium on Cardiac arrest at the Society of Coronary angiography and Intervention meeting in San Diego in April 2018.

Role of Cardiac Catheterization Lab Post Resuscitation in Patients with ST Elevation Myocardial Infarction. (Reddy S, Lee KS, Kern K, Lotun, K.)

Curr Cardiol Rev. 2018 May 16. doi: 10.2174/1573403X14666180517080828. [Epub ahead of print]

PMID: 29769006 [PubMed - as supplied by publisher]

2. <u>Drug-eluting stents versus bare-metal stents in saphenous vein grafts: a double-blind, randomised trial.</u> (Brilakis ES, Edson R, Bhatt DL, Goldman S, Holmes DR Jr, Rao SV, Shunk K, Rangan BV, Mavromatis K, Ramanathan K, Bavry AA, Garcia S, Latif F, Armstrong E, Jneid H, Conner TA, Wagner T, Karacsonyi J, Uyeda L, Ventura B, Alsleben A, Lu Y, Shih MC, Banerjee S; DIVA Trial Investigators & Collaborators (K.Lotun et al.)

Lancet. 2018 May 11. pii: S0140-6736(18)30801-8. doi: 10.1016/S0140-6736(18)30801-8. [Epub ahead of print]

PMID: 29759512 [PubMed - as supplied by publisher]

3. Coronary Catheterization Laboratory Role for Post-Resuscitation Care Without ST Elevation Myocardial Infarction. (Kumar K, Lotun, K)

Curr Cardiol Rev. 2018 May 7. doi: 10.2174/1573403X14666180507154107. [Epub ahead of print]

PMID: 29737261 [PubMed - as supplied by publisher]

 Refractory Out of Hospital Cardiac Arrest. (Shanmugasundaram M, Lotun K.)

Curr Cardiol Rev. 2018 May 7. doi: 10.2174/1573403X14666180507155622. [Epub ahead of print]

PMID: 29737259 [PubMed - as supplied by publisher]

5. <u>Drug coated balloon in peripheral artery disease.</u> (Shanmugasundaram M, Murugapandian S, Truong HT, Lotun K, Banerjee S.)

Cardiovasc Revasc Med. 2018 Apr 21. pii: S1553-8389(18)30147-7. doi: 10.1016/j.carrev.2018.04.017. [Epub ahead of print] Review.

PMID: 29730237 [PubMed – as supplied by publisher]

Professor Vikass Monebhurrun

(Dept of Electromagnetics, CentraleSupélec, France; email: vikass.monebhurrun@centralesupelec.fr)

Vikass disseminated results from his research in a variety of international conferences.

He chaired IEEE SIGHT Indian Ocean (http://sight.ieee.org) and received 10 k\$ from IEEE Antennas & Propagation Society (APS) to undertake the ACTION (Agriculture, Climate & Technology in Indian Ocean Network) project which involves several researchers from the University of Mauritius and Université de La Réunion. The objective is to develop and implement interconnected weather stations to help farmers improve their crops (e.g. optimize irrigation, harvest, etc.) as well as to provide an early warning system (e.g. cyclone, flood, etc.).

The IEEE RADIO international conference (www.radiosociety.org/radio2018) was held at the Hilton Resort & Spa in Mauritius 15-18 October 2018.

Professor Satish Gautam Namah

(Ecole Nationale Supérieure de Mécanique et des Microtechniques de Besançon, France; email: gautam.namah@ens2m.fr)

Satish is planning to collaborate with a local team at the University of Mauritius on the Metro Express project on traffic flux modelling. The 26 km light rail system will link Curepipe to Port-Louis, help to reduce congestion and is expected to run in 2021. We look forward to hearing about how the collaboration is coming together in the next newsletter!

Dr Sanjaye Ramgoolam

(Physics, Queen Mary University, London; email: s.ramgoolam@qmul.ac.uk)

Sanjaye's article entitled 'Linguistic Matrix Theory' (jointly with Dr Kartsaklis and Dr Sadrzadeh, Dept of Computer Science) was accepted for publication (March 2018) in the Annales de l'Institut Henri Poincaré D. This paper develops an interdisciplinary interface between theoretical physics and computational linguistics. Sanjaye also gave a talk in May 2018 titled 'Branes, Dominoes and words' on the Mathematics of string theory, at the 'Supersymmetric Quantum Field theories in the non-perturbative regime' international conference at the Galileo Institute for Theoretical Physics in Florence.

Associate Professor Vikash Ramiah

(Finance, University of South Australia, Australia; email: Vikash.Ramiah@unisa.edu.au)

Vik's article on 'The Sectoral Effects of Brexit on the British Economy: Early Evidence from the Reaction of the Stock Market, Applied Economics, vol. 49 (26), pp. 2508-2514 (jointly with Huy Nguyen Anh Pham and Imad Moosa) is among the ten most read paper in Applied Economics. His team is working on their next publication entitled 'The Financial Effects of Trumpism. Economic Modelling' (Forthcoming). Vik's interview with Natasha Hancock (freelance writer for CommSec) on 'Understand your clients better with these 4 behavioural finance concepts' got media coverage.

Professor Anba Soopramanien

(Spinal Injuries & Rehabilitation Medicine, University of Bournemouth, UK; email: asoopramanien@btconnect.com)

Since February 2018, Anba's focus was on organising an International Conference NEURAM 2018 at the HENNESSY PARK HOTEL, Ebene, Mauritius on Spinal Cord Injury, held from 16-17 May 2018. It was opened by H.E. the President of the Republic of Mauritius.

More than 100 delegates attended and the conference received wide media coverage including from MBCTV on 20.05.18.

http://www.mbcradio.tv/article/le-journal-t%C3%A9I%C3%A9vis%C3%A9-mai-20-2018.

The Conference was also preceded by a two-day workshop with live demonstrations on the management of spinal cord injury, held at the University of Mauritius, the CORE Building Ebene. The website provides all lectures and demonstrations from the workshop as well as the conference lectures: www.neuram.org, after updating.

Associate Professor Bhama Peerun Steiger

(Ecole de travail social et de la santé, Lausanne – Suisse ; email : bhama.steiger@eesp.ch)

Bhama has been busy with lectures on the teaching front. In research, she is currently working on 2 interdisciplinary studies and coordinating an innovative project on integration of refugees and giving them access to tertiary education as detailed below:

- https://www.eesp.ch/laress/catalogue-desrecherches/detail/research/vaud-integrationvulnerabilities-responses-vivre-7309/?L=0&cHash=6861041c24dea4029f1806a192a4aa e3
- https://www.eesp.ch/laress/catalogue-desrecherches/detail/research/ma-bonne-contraception-lasante-sexuelle-et-reproductivve-des-jeunes-fillesdomestiques-de-ouagadougou-7275/?L=0&cHash=9edd33716124f96483291d2e090b32 64

Professor Kian Fan Chung

(Respiratory Medicine, Imperial College London; email: f.chunq@imperial.ac.uk).

Kian has been contributing to our respiratory health from a global perspective! His impressive international collaborations since February include:

- National Environmental Research Council/MRC collaboration with Indian Research Council on Atmospheric Pollution and Human Health in an Indian Megacity: Delhi Air Pollution: Health and Effects (DAPHNE). Setting up of protocols started in June 2018.
- National Health and Family Planning Commission
 of the People's Republic of China "Three Fame
 Foundation" grant awarded to the Respiratory &
 Critical Care Division at the University of Hong
 Kong-Shenzhen Hospital & NHLI, Imperial College
 London. Upgrading clinical and research facilities to
 international standards.
- 3. Lee Kong Chiang Medical School/ National Technological University, Singapore: Setting up of a National Lung Centre in Singapore. Inaugural talk at the Singapore International Research Collaboration Meeting held on 20 March 2018.

Papers published since Feb 2018 include:

- 600. Sinharay R, Gong J, Barratt B, Ohman-Strickland P, Ernst S, Kelly F, Zhang JJ, Collins P, Cullinan P, **Chung KF**. Respiratory and cardiovascular responses to walking down a traffic-polluted road compared with walking in a traffic-free area in participants aged 60 years and older with chronic lung or heart disease and age-matched healthy controls: a randomised, crossover study. Lancet. 2018; 391: 339-349
- 601. Michaeloudes C, Kuo CH, Haji G, Finch DK, Halayko AJ, Kirkham P, **Chung KF**, Adcock IM; COPDMAP. Metabolic repatterning in COPD airway smooth muscle cells. Eur Respir J. 2017 Nov 30;50(5). pii: 1700202. doi: 10.1183/13993003.00202-2017. Print 2017 Nov.
- 602. Lo CY, Michaeloudes C, Bhavsar PK, Huang CD, Chang PJ, Wang CH, Kuo HP, **Chung KF**. Reduced suppressive effect of β 2-adrenoceptor agonist on fibrocyte function in severe asthma. Respir Res. 2017 Nov 21;18(1):194. doi: 10.1186/s12931-017-0678-7.
- 603. Lo CY, Huang HY, He JR, Huang TT, Heh CC, Sheng TF, Chung KF, Kuo HP, Wang CH. Increased matrix metalloproteinase-9 to tissue inhibitor of metalloproteinase-1 ratio in smokers with airway hyperresponsiveness and accelerated lung function decline. Int J Chron Obstruct Pulmon Dis. 2018 Apr 11;13:1135-1144.
- 604. Weng CM, Wang CH, Lee MJ, He JR, Huang HY, Chao MW, **Chung KF**, Kuo HP. Aryl Hydrocarbon Receptor activation by diesel exhaust particles mediates epithelium-derived cytokines expression in severe allergic asthma. Allergy. 2018 Apr 19. doi: 10.1111/all.13462.

- 605. Botelho D, Leo BF, Massa C, Sarkar S, Tetley T, **Chung KF**, Chen S, Ryan MP, Porter A, Atochina-Vasserman EN, Zhang J, Schwander S, Gow AJ. Exposure to Silver Nanospheres Leads to Altered Respiratory Mechanics and Delayed Immune Response in an in Vivo Murine Model. Front Pharmacol. 2018 Mar 26:9:213.
- 606. Sun Z, Li F, Zhou X, **Chung KF**, Wang W, Wang J. Stem cell therapies for chronic obstructive pulmonary disease: current status of pre-clinical studies and clinical trials. J Thorac Dis. 2018 Feb;10(2):1084-1098.
- 607. Hui CK, Xu B, **Chung KF**, Partridge MR. Green respiratory health care: Time for us all to act. Respirology. 2018 May;23(5):452-454.
- 608. Qiu R, Xie J, **Chung KF**, Li N, Yang Z, He M, Li J, Chen R, Zhong N, Zhang Q. Asthma Phenotypes Defined From Parameters Obtained During Recovery From a Hospital-Treated Exacerbation. J Allergy Clin Immunol Pract. 2018 Mar 1. pii: S2213-2198(18)30104-1.
- 609. Loymans RJB, Debray TPA, Honkoop PJ, Termeer EH, Snoeck-Stroband JB, Schermer TRJ, Assendelft WJJ, Timp M, Chung KF, Sousa AR, Sont JK, Sterk PJ, Reddel HK, Ter Riet G. Exacerbations in Adults with Asthma: A Systematic Review and External Validation of Prediction Models. J Allergy Clin Immunol Pract. 2018 Feb 15. pii: S2213-2198(18)30096-5.
- 610. **Chung KF**. Diagnosis and Management of Severe Asthma. Semin Respir Crit Care Med. 2018 Feb;39(1):91-99. doi: 10.1055/s-0037-1607391. Epub 2018 Feb 10.
- 611. Krauskopf J, Caiment F, van Veldhoven K, Chadeau-Hyam M, Sinharay R, **Chung KF**, Cullinan P, Collins P, Barratt B, Kelly FJ, Vermeulen R, Vineis P, de Kok TM, Kleinjans JC. The human circulating miRNome reflects multiple organ disease risks in association with short-term exposure to traffic-related air pollution. Environ Int. 2018 Apr;113:26-34. doi: 10.1016/j.envint.2018.01.014.
- 612. Liu S, Grigoryan H, Edmands WMB, Dagnino S, Sinharay R, Cullinan P, Collins P, **Chung KF**, Barratt B, Kelly FJ, Vineis P, Rappaport SM. Cys34 Adductomes Differ between Patients with Chronic Lung or Heart Disease and Healthy Controls in Central London. Environ Sci Technol. 2018 Feb 20;52(4):2307-2313.
- 613. Turan N, Edwards MJ, Bates S, Shaw D, Chung KF, Loza MJ, James A, Van Oosterhout A; U-BIOPRED Study Group. IL-6 pathway upregulation in subgroup of severe asthma is associated with neutrophilia and poor lung function. Clin Exp Allergy. 2018 Apr;48(4):475-478.
- 614. **Chung KF**. Interferon y (IFNy): A Driver of Cough Hypersensitivity Pathways in Chronic Cough? Am J Respir Crit Care Med. 2018 May 14. doi: 10.1164/rccm.201804-0740ED. [Epub ahead of print] No abstract available.
- 615. Buckley A, Marczylo T, Seiffert J, Römer I, Warren J, Hodgson A, Chung KF, Gant TW, Smith R, Leonard MO. The small airway epithelium as a target for the adverse pulmonary effects of silver nanoparticle inhalation.

Nanotoxicology. 2018 May 11:1-15. doi: 10.1080/17435390.2018.1465140. [Epub ahead of print]

616. Perry MM, Tildy B, Papi A, Casolari P, Caramori G, Rempel KL, Halayko AJ, Adcock I, **Chung KF.** The antiproliferative and anti-inflammatory response of COPD airway smooth muscle cells to hydrogen sulfide. Respir Res. 2018 May 9;19(1):85. doi: 10.1186/s12931-018-0788-x.

617. Schofield JPR, Burg D, Brandsma J, Staykova D, Folisi C, Bansal A, Nicholas B, Xian Y, Rowe A, Corfield J, Wilson S, Ward J, Lutter R, Fleming L, Shaw DE, Bakke PS, Caruso M, Dahlén SE, Fowler SJ, Hashimoto S, Horvath I, Howarth P, Krug N, Montuschi P, Sanak M, Sandstrom T, Singer F, Sun K, Pandis I, Auffray C, Sousa AR, Adcock IM, **Chung KF**, Sterk PJ, Djukanovic R, Skipp PJ. Large-scale label-free quantitative mapping of the sputum proteome. J Proteome Res. 2018 May 8. doi: 10.1021/acs.jproteome.8b00018. [Epub ahead of print]

618. Takahashi K, Pavlidis S, Ng Kee Kwong F, Hoda U, Rossios C, Sun K, Loza M, Baribaud F, Chanez P, Fowler SJ, Horvath I, Montuschi P, Singer F, Musial J, Dahlen B, Dahlen SE, Krug N, Sandstrom T, Shaw DE, Lutter R, Bakke P, Fleming LJ, Howarth PH, Caruso M, Sousa AR, Corfield J, Auffray C, De Meulder B, Lefaudeux D, Djukanovic R, Sterk PJ, Guo Y, Adcock IM, **Chung KF**; , on behalf of the U-BIOPRED study group. Sputum proteomics and airway cell transcripts of current and exsmokers with severe asthma in U-BIOPRED: an exploratory analysis. Eur Respir J. 2018 May 3;51(5). pii: 1702173. doi: 10.1183/13993003.02173-2017.

619. De Meulder B, Lefaudeux D, Bansal AT, Mazein A, Chaiboonchoe A, Ahmed H, Balaur I, Saqi M, Pellet J, Ballereau S, Lemonnier N, Sun K, Pandis I, Yang X, Batuwitage M, Kretsos K, van Eyll J, Bedding A, Davison T, Dodson P, Larminie C, Postle A, Corfield J, Djukanovic R, **Chung KF**, Adcock IM, Guo YK, Sterk PJ, Manta A, Rowe A, Baribaud F, Auffray C; U-BIOPRED Study Group and the eTRIKS Consortium. A computational framework for complex disease stratification from multiple large-scale datasets. BMC Syst Biol. 2018 May 29;12(1):60. doi: 10.1186/s12918-018-0556-z.

620. Chung KF. Tralokinumab unsuccessful for management of severe, uncontrolled asthma. Lancet Respir Med. 2018 May 18. pii: S2213-2600(18)30194-2. doi: 10.1016/S2213-2600(18)30194-2. [Epub ahead of print] No abstract available.

621. Chotirmall SH, Dahlén SE, Carlsten C, Wong WSF, **Chung KF**, Gosens R, Knight DA; Singapore International Respiratory Consortium. International research collaboration: The way forward. Respirology. 2018 May 17. doi: 10.1111/resp.13327. [Epub ahead of print] No abstract available.

622. Guo C, Buckley A, Marczylo T, Seiffert J, Römer I, Warren J, Hodgson A, **Chung KF**, Gant TW, Smith R, Leonard MO. The small airway epithelium as a target for the adverse pulmonary effects of silver nanoparticle inhalation. Nanotoxicology. 2018 May 11:1-15.

623. Turan N, Edwards MJ, Bates S, Shaw D, **Chung KF**, Loza MJ, James A, Van Oosterhout A; U-BIOPRED Study Group. IL-6 pathway upregulation in subgroup of severe asthma is associated with neutrophilia and poor lung function. Clin Exp Allergy. 2018 Apr;48(4):475-478. doi: 10.1111/cea.13085. Epub 2018 Feb 19. No abstract available.

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