

4:2:6 Cellular Neurophysiology

Platform Leader: Professor John Furness

Platform Manager: Dr Martin Stebbing

The Cellular Neurophysiology platform is now operational on all sites and is being utilised effectively by all platform research teams and by external users. The construction work on level 2 of the Triradiate Building (Anatomy and Cell Biology, Medical School, University of Melbourne) has been completed and the new laboratories were launched in April by The Hon Peter McGauran MP, Commonwealth Minister for Science.

The platform currently provides services to the NSV Pain and Epilepsy research programs, scientists within the platform laboratories and external users from university departments, research institutes and industry. Industry clients include Neuprotect Ltd, a start-up part owned by Neurosciences Victoria Ltd. A further contract is being negotiated with Fujisawa (Japan) and work has been conducted under University of Melbourne contracts with AstraZeneca Pharmaceuticals and Pfizer Pharmaceuticals. Discussions are being held with two other possible commercial users.

Access is arranged through the Platform Manager or directly with Facility Managers at Anatomy and Cell Biology (University of Melbourne), Physiology (University of Melbourne) or Physiology (Monash University). Access enquiries can also be lodged online at www.nnf.com.au/access. A new protocol for billing users was developed in the 2003-04 period. This protocol establishes a billing procedure that includes amortisation and it was successfully implemented early in the financial year. The platform is now fully operational and is generating access revenues.

Thanks to Platform Manager, Dr Martin Stebbing, and the Platform Management Committee:

- ❖ Professor John Furness – Department of Anatomy and Cell Biology, University of Melbourne
- ❖ Dr Helena Parkington – Department of Physiology, Monash University
- ❖ Dr Chris Reid – University of Melbourne
- ❖ Dr Chen Chen – Prince Henry's Institute of Medical Research, Monash Medical Centre
- ❖ Professor David Williams – Department of Physiology, Monash University
- ❖ Dr John Harvey – University of Melbourne
- ❖ Dr Ernie Jennings – University of Melbourne
- ❖ Dr Steve Petrou – Howard Florey Institute
- ❖ Dr Martin Stebbing – Department of Anatomy and Cell Biology, University of Melbourne
- ❖ Dr Rozanne Blok – Neurosciences Victoria Ltd
- ❖ Mr Kim Sampson – Neurosciences Victoria Ltd

Currently the platform is negotiating the establishment of a multi-photon confocal system for combined imaging in live cells and electrophysiological recording.

In the 2004-05 financial year the platform will be actively working towards a situation of self-sustainability, through the implementation of a functional business model and further marketing of the services available. The platform has produced an information brochure to provide advice to potential users of the platform. It has also set up a website at <http://www.anatomy.unimelb.edu/cnp> and has a page on the NNF website at www.nnf.com.au/cellneuro.

For more information on the Cellular Neurophysiology platform please go to www.nnf.com.au/cellneuro

