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March 2017 - Newsletter Num. 2



“Intelligent Assessment of Pharmaceuticals in the Environment”



iPiE interview with Alessia Giorgis PhD student of Environmental Sciences at University of York

What is your current role in iPiE?

My name is Alessia and I am a PhD student working on the uptake of ionizable pharmaceuticals into sediment-dwelling organisms from the **University of York**, UK, supervised by Alistair Boxall, Roman Ashauer and Laura Carter.

What did you do prior to joining iPiE?

After I graduated from the University of Trieste with a Master in Environmental Biology, I was a volunteer research assistant in ecotoxicology at the University of Eastern Piedmont, Italy, working on the metagenomic and transcriptomic of neonicotinoid insecticides into microbial communities.

Tell us a bit about the institution/company/organization you work for.

I work at the **Environment Department of the University of York** that is a leading centre for teaching and research on sustainable solutions to the world's environmental issues. It is a modern building with a dynamic and diverse national and international staff where all the people involved in world-leading research of global environmental importance are gathered. The research is highly interdisciplinary across the natural and social sciences, ranging from atmospheric chemistry to environmental economics and policy analysis. In fact, there are professors and researchers expert in ecology, ecotoxicology, economic, marine biology, geography, chemistry, bio-statistic to name a few, working as a team for a better and sustainable environment. Besides, the Department has strong links with many world class research institutes like the Stockholm

Environment Institute, the York Environmental Sustainability Institute, the York Institute for Tropical Ecosystems and the Centre for Human Paleoecology and Evolutionary Origins. The Department also offers a series of seminars, at least once a week, on very interesting environmental issues, which I think, provide a great platform and opportunity for PhD students like me, to meet reputable world experts and to heard about research areas that we might not otherwise have the opportunity to learn about. In this way, throughout the week, the ordinary work varies with productive and fruitful meetings and seminars and we never get bored!

What do you enjoy most in iPiE?

What I like the most in **iPiE** is the constant opportunity to meet and be in contact with so many talented researchers and scientists. This is genuinely the first time that I have the chance to be part of an extraordinary team of experts in the pharmaceuticals field, where we all come from different backgrounds but we all share the same dedication to science. The **iPiE** gives me the chance to discuss my project and being inspired by this amazing community comparing my opinion with senior researchers but also PhD students, at the beginning of their career, like me. Thanks to them, I keep collecting extremely valuable advice and insights, and I often find the energy to face difficult moments that are part of my work as PhD student.

What are your expectations from the iPiE project?

This project is offering me not only an incredible opportunity to develop and refine my skills, but also an invaluable training to understand the needs of the academia and pharmaceutical companies. From this experience, I'm expecting to become an expert on certain topic that I consider fundamental for my development as a researcher:

- what are the limited data of the fate and effects of medicines on wildlife after they are released in the environment;
- how can we improve methodologies **to prioritize new and existing APIs for a comprehensive environmental risk assessment.**

Being involved in a project like this and working on a particular aspect of monitoring pharmaceuticals in wildlife, is giving me an optimal training and deep knowledge for my future career both in the academic and private sector.

Project News

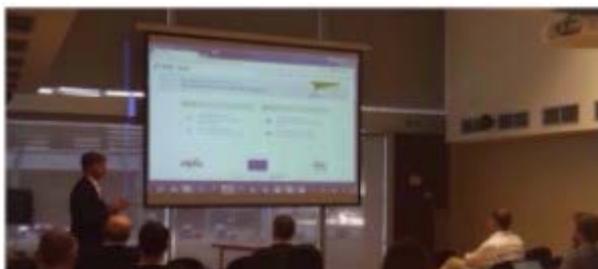
iPiE 4th Forum Meeting



Next **iPiE Forum Meeting** will be held in **Basel** (Switzerland) on the 5th and 6th April 2017 hosted by **Novartis** and cosponsored by **Roche**.

[Read more](#)

iPiE workshop



On the **8th** and **9th of February 2017**, Molecular Networks organized an **iPiE** WP6 workshop, entitled **“Interfacing prediction models to iPiEsys”** and addressed to the prediction models developers within the consortium.

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iPiE 3rd Forum Meeting



The **3rd iPiE Forum Meeting** was held in **Sitges (Barcelona)** on the **4th to the 6th October 2016**. The meeting counted with the presence of 45 participants from the **Consortium** and included a session with the members of the **Scientific Advisory Board**.

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Publications

ARTICLE (AZ): [Pharmaceutical Metabolism in Fish: Using a 3-D Hepatic In Vitro Model to Assess Clearance](#). Baron MG, Mintram KS, Owen SF, Hetheridge MJ, Moody JA, Purcell WM, Jackson SK, Jha AN. *PLoS One*. 2017; 12(1): e0168837

ARTICLE (UFZ): [Development of a general baseline toxicity QSAR model for the fish embryo acute toxicity test](#). Kluever N, Vogts C, Altenburger R, Escher BI, Scholz S. *Chemosphere* 2016;164:164-173

ARTICLE (FIMIM): [DisGeNET-RDF: Harnessing the Innovative Power of the Semantic Web to Explore the Genetic Basis of Diseases](#). Queralt-Rosinach N, Piñero J, Bravo A, Sanz F, Furlong LI. *Bioinformatics*, 2016; 32 (14): 2236-2238

A full list of publications is available on <http://i-pie.org/publications/>



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