



i2LResearch EXPRESS

i2LResearch Ltd's Newsletter, October 2010

Message from the CEO

Dear Sponsors,

It has been a very busy summer and we are thus a little late with our 'summer' newsletter this year. This is good news, I think, and it allows me to send you our thanks for all that work. Please keep it coming!

You will be aware by now that **i2LResearch** is never idle, and there are some developments within the company that I hope will be of interest to you. As most of you will already be aware, the Cardiff office is now GLP Compliant for efficacy studies, with the Czech office to follow suit shortly. We have been pushed towards this by sponsor pressure, and I would like to thank those responsible as it has turned out to be a good business decision! We believe that we are the first European laboratory to offer GLP for this type of work, and we intend to make the whole group GLP over the coming year.

The other significant development since I last wrote has been the opening of i2L-South in Girona, Spain. We have a highly competent Manager, David Casellas, who is featured below, and he is supported by Silvia Abril. i2L-South has already carried out some field trials (see below), and is currently embarking on a package of roach and ant field trials. I am confident of rapid growth at i2L-South and we have the bonus that Girona is such a beautiful place to work and visit!



Meanwhile, i2LNorthEast in Newcastle, England, and i2L-East in Ceske Budejovice, Czech Republic, are thriving and growing. The Cardiff office has also been very busy, and we have a new Senior Study Director, Dr Neil Price, who is also featured below. As well as helping to handle our growing business, Neil will step in to the shoes of Helena Heaven, who will be going on maternity leave from late October.

Other developments are that we have been updating and re-configuring our web site, and we hope that that this will go live very shortly. I hope that by the time that you receive this Newsletter, I will have either had the chance to meet some of you, or be about to meet you, at PestWorld, CropWorld, or PestTech. The busy conference season is upon us!

i2L-South - New Office in Spain

Following a successful collaboration between Dr Crisanto Gomez at the University of Girona, Spain, and **i2LResearch**, i2L-South, a new Branch Office, was launched in June 2010. Managed by David Casellas (please see an article about David below), and located within the Science & Technology Park of the University of Girona, i2L-South has immediately shown its worth, having completed field studies on Argentine ants and on the Asian tiger mosquito, *Aedes albopictus*. David comments 'I have been very pleased with how rapidly i2L-South has developed, and I welcome this excellent opportunity to expand the capabilities of i2LResearch Ltd into the important Mediterranean area'. i2L-South is now embarking on a large package of German and Oriental cockroach field studies, with more Argentine ant work due to start next year. David, assisted by Silvia Abril,

confidently anticipates a busy winter and spring and rapid expansion of i2L-South in 2011.



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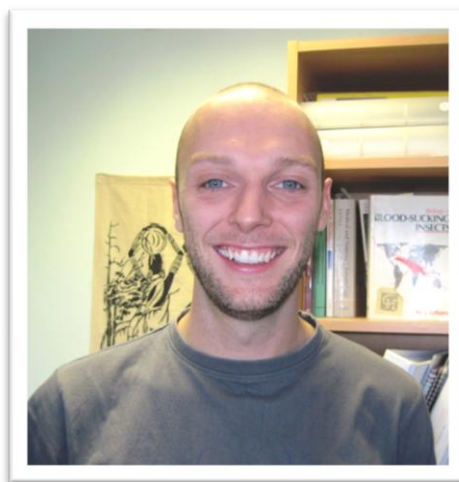
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Introducing new members of the i2LResearch team

Neil Price started as Senior Study Director at **i2LResearch** in the Spring of this year, having previously worked as a postdoctoral researcher at Cardiff University and as a Senior Ecologist for an ecological consultancy. Neil's PhD studies were on the neurophysiological effects of essential oil constituents in insects and molluscs and he also has an MSc in Environmental Biology. He has a broad range of knowledge of insect ecology and physiology, making him a valuable addition to the team. Since starting at **i2LResearch**, Neil has been involved in both field and laboratory GLP and GEP efficacy studies. In his spare time, Neil enjoys playing football, running and moth-trapping. *Editor: Congratulations to Neil for his time of 1h 42 minutes in the recent Cardiff Half Marathon!*



David Casellas studied as an undergraduate and as a graduate at the University of Girona, his PhD being on the biology of the Argentine ant in Spain. He joined **i2LResearch** this year as Manager of our branch office, i2L-South. David comments 'Some of my friends think that I'm hyperactive as I'm always doing something whether it be reading books, doing sport, walking, taking photos, writing my blog, cooking or cultivating my vegetable garden'. He says that he enjoys the simple things like a good espresso coffee or a glass of red wine but the two big passions in his life are his two young children and coaching basketball.

i2LNorthEast goes from strength to strength!

It is now approaching 6 years since i2LNorthEast was established; the first Branch Office of **i2LResearch**. Initially the office focussed almost entirely on mollusc trials and whilst we continue to perform an ever increasing amount of slug and snail work, we have also since expanded and diversified in a number of different directions. A fast growing area of our activities focuses on herbicide and fungicide studies. We have forged some close links with local businesses and as a result of this now have access to excellent sites for:

- 🍷 Weeds on non-agricultural land;
- 🍷 Weeds in amenity grassland;
- 🍷 Weeds in tree and shrub nurseries;
- 🍷 Weeds in outdoor fruit vegetables;
- 🍷 Weeds in leafy vegetables;
- 🍷 Weeds in strawberry;
- 🍷 Weeds in grassland sites used for silage.

In addition, our glasshouse facility is under near continual demand for insecticide and fungicide trials, and we are also carrying out natural enemy and bumble bee studies under glass. With excellent links to local farmers for larger scale field trials, and a team of 6 people, the office has certainly fulfilled and surpassed our early expectations.

Just to top it all off, i2LNorthEast has recently acquired a suite of controlled environment chambers. It is our aim over the coming weeks to create a new laboratory space dedicated entirely to slug breeding and controlled behavioural trials. Catherine Whaley, Director of i2LNorthEast, comments 'With no sign of a slow down in new orders, I expect our expansion to continue in the foreseeable future'.



i2LResearch Quality Assurance – Lisa Heely introduces herself

Head lice in the Czech Republic, slugs in Newcastle and bed bugs in Cardiff – the QA role at **i2LResearch** has proved to be both diverse and interesting. When I first spoke to Peter McEwen regarding the possibility of **i2LResearch** joining the UK Good Laboratory Practice Compliance Monitoring Programme, I had no idea that two years later I would be travelling to the Czech Republic to audit a head louse study!



After graduating from the University of London with a PhD in neurobiology, I worked as a laboratory assistant and QA officer for two contract facilities before joining an agrochemical company, Uniroyal Chemical Ltd (now Chemtura), as a QA Specialist. At Uniroyal I was responsible for the implementation and management of the QA programme in the UK and the Netherlands and also provided auditing support to my Canadian and North American colleagues. During my six years with Uniroyal I gained a wide range of experience (and built up an impressive number of air miles!) auditing a variety of laboratory and field studies in Europe, South America and Kenya. In addition, I was also involved with auditing the company's manufacturing plants in Italy and Amsterdam for ISO 9000 compliance. Uniroyal's field studies base was the first facility to be inspected by the Pesticide Safety Directorate and to become an officially recognised efficacy testing organisation. Whilst at Uniroyal I was an active member of the British Association of Research Quality Assurance (BARQA) gaining a distinction in the Diploma of Credit in Research Quality Assurance and chairing the Field Studies Committee for two years.

I left Uniroyal to become Head of Quality Assurance for Ecotox, a contract facility that specialised in laboratory and field ecotoxicology studies. Ecotox carried out large, complex multi-site field studies in the UK, France and Italy. I stayed with Ecotox for nine years before becoming a Quality Assurance consultant.

i2LResearch goes GLP

i2LResearch was already an Officially Recognised Efficacy Testing Organisation (ORETO) when the decision was taken to apply for membership of the GLP Compliance Programme. This decision was made in response to the United States Environmental Protection Agency's requirement that efficacy studies on public health pesticides should be conducted in compliance with GLP. As members of ORETO, **i2LResearch** already had in place many of the systems necessary for GLP compliance. The Cardiff facility was inspected in November 2009 and was admitted into the UK GLP Compliance Programme. Since then the **i2LResearch** team at Cardiff has successfully carried out a number of GLP studies including space sprays and direct sprays on a range of flying insects and crawling arthropods, a bumblebee toxicity study and a direct spray trial on head lice. These are interesting times at **i2LResearch** with respect to GLP as increasingly Sponsors are requesting that their studies are GLP compliant. The intention is to introduce GLP compliance across the company so that a wide range of GLP studies can be offered in the UK, Czech Republic and Spain.

Mosquito field trials at i2L-East

Pavel Foltan, Honza Okrouhlik and Kristyna Rusinkova from **i2LResearch's** Czech Republic branch office, i2L-East, ran a mosquito field trial during the Summer with the help of a number of University student volunteers. Despite a sudden squall which threatened to blow our trial chambers off their tethers and into the neighbouring country, the trial was a great success. A happy i2L-East team can be seen here with some of their very able helpers.



Our IT solutions provider, Aytel Systems Ltd

Due to the rapid expansion of the **i2LResearch** business over recent years, there arose an urgent need for a strategic review of our IT infrastructure. We soon realised that it was not going to be an easy task, so we engaged the services of an independent consultant, to carry out a thorough review of our existing IT. Welsh Assembly Government support for this review is gratefully acknowledged.

Following a tender process, Aytel Systems Ltd was selected, as they were the only supplier that could offer a total IT solution, covering all aspects of our requirements at an affordable price.

With this new partnership in place, we now have a fully hosted IT solution, where we can connect from any location around the world and access all our documents and emails. Together with this implementation we are now working towards implementation of a VoIP system for cost effective communication to all our remote sites and the ability to work from home when necessary.

Aytel Systems manages the monitoring of our server, network, Anti-Virus protection and handles daily offsite backups, which give us total piece of mind.



Pests in the news - Don't let the bed bugs bite!

According to a recent survey of pest control companies around the world by the University of Kentucky and the United States' National Pest Management Association, the bed bug problem appears to be on the increase everywhere raising fears of a global bed bug pandemic. A study led by the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine last year reported that the number of complaints about bed bugs in the London grew annually by an average of 28.5% between 2000-2006 and there are signs that the problem is growing apace.

Bed bugs made big news in September when Nike's flagship store in New York had to be temporarily closed due to an infestation of bedbugs. And pop singer Lauren Hildebrandt told the press details of how she had been traumatized after being bitten by the insects while staying at a luxury New York hotel.

Some hotels in the UK have been using the services of a trained Jack Russell terrier which was trained in the USA to sniff out the odours emanating from bed bug infestations. Meanwhile, several groups, including a group in the Centre for Sustainable Pest and Disease

Management at Rothamsted Research, UK, are working to isolate the semiochemicals used by bed bugs. The hope is that by using these compounds in traps, it will be possible to more efficiently monitor for the occurrence of bed bug infestations.



i2LResearch Express Editor & Designer: Graham Small

Further information on the services mentioned in this newsletter and on all our other services can be obtained from our website: www.i2lresearch.com

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