

# LIFE SCIENCES

In the Life science section of this year's volume of the *Annals*, we received, as before, numerous submissions for publications, yet, due to space limitations, we could only retain four papers. And as in the previous volume, we had a difficult time when trying to narrow down on these final four papers. Luckily for us, one of the contributions submitted covered aspects in both Life Sciences and Chemistry, and we were thus able to place it in the Interdisciplinary section of the *Annals*.

Again, we chose to take into account both scientific excellence and diversity from the wide range within the Life sciences alone, and, therefore, our choice is a subjective one. We hope that the diversity of this year's Life Science section reflects the diversity of the MCFA-fellowships and, more importantly, that this selection encourages current fellows to consider submitting their manuscripts for the upcoming issues of the *Annals*. We are still a long way from covering all areas in the Life sciences alone.

The scientific journey begins with an elegant study on molecular interactions between plants and viruses (Marano *et al.*), expands on to cell physiology and the influences of food consumption on growth in Crustaceans (Mente and Houlihan), and continues with a very unique behavioural study on the mating strategies in marine mammals (van Parijs). The last article in the Life science section then addresses the effects of an antigen-driven cell specific response in humans that suffer from a rare inflammatory auto-immune disease (Stott and Berek). It identifies crucial steps in the development of this disease that may be common to other auto-immune conditions and suggest that this knowledge might help to elucidate common treatment techniques.

The fifth contribution (by Garcia-Canas *et al.*) introduces a new promising technique that combines PCR (Polymerase Chain Reaction) and CGE (Capillary Gel Electrophoresis) to detect genetically-modified DNA. This paper, which takes advantage of a combination of most recent techniques in molecular biology and chemistry, will be presented in the Interdisciplinary section of the *Annals*.

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