

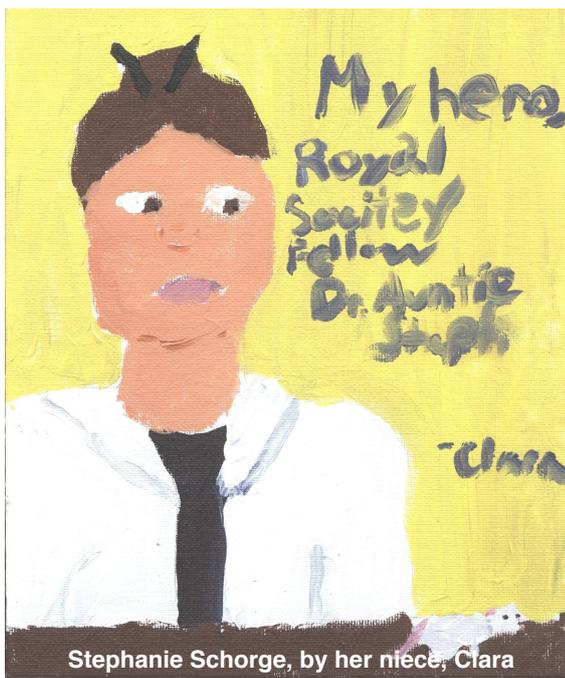
# Where Have All the (Pewterers') Fellows Gone?

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## Research and investigation into and study of the effects of (heavy) metals on the brain and nervous system

In 1974, the Worshipful Company of Pewterers set up the '500<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Trust', a charitable fund whose principal objects included: "research and investigation into and study of the effects of (heavy) metals on the brain and nervous system". The Company is very proud of its contribution to work in this field. The Trustees, appointed by the Company and the Institute of Neurology in Queen Square, sit down every third or fourth year, to look for and appoint a promising young research student to take the work of the Trust forward.

After Dr Stephanie Schorge, had finished her term as the ninth Pewterers' Fellow, she took time out from her research (and from her equally successful fund raising activities), to trace the careers and successes of her eight predecessors. She reports that Pewterers' Fellows are now spread around the world. They work in toxicology, business, drug development and even hospitality, but the one thing they agree on is their gratitude to the Worshipful Company for making their careers possible. They are:



heavy metal neurotoxicity, especially that of manganese. He has published more than thirty papers and is still running a research laboratory exploring nanotoxicology. Professor Lai is now Professor of Pharmacology & Toxicology College of Pharmacy, Associate Director, Idaho State University Biomedical Research Institute, and Visiting Scientist Magnetic Resonance Research Center, Yale University School of Medicine

3. 1982 to 1987: Dr Thomas K C Leung is an active researcher at Singapore's Institute of Molecular and Cell Biology with a focus on Rho GTPase signal transduction in the central and peripheral nervous systems, and a potential target of drugs treating cancer, and promoting neuronal regeneration.

4. 1987 to 1989: Dr Robert Kozma

spent some time transferring his expertise on heavy metals and stress effects to signalling in neural differentiation at Glaxo Group where he developed an interest in biomedical business development and started building business plans for early stage start-ups. He has now contributed to several biotechnology start-ups and is currently working at the Industry Development Group at A\*STAR.

1. 1974 to 1976: Dr James J Barlow finished a post doctoral position, and then went on to join the family business running the award winning Treglos Hotel in Cornwall(see: [www.tregloshotel.com/](http://www.tregloshotel.com/)). One hopes he uses Pewter Tankards in the bar!
2. 1976 to 1982: Dr James C K Lai has established an international reputation in

5. 1991 to 1993: Dr Timothy Bates is currently Chief Scientific Officer at New-Use Therapeutics Limited (where he is developing novel drugs for the treatment of cancer and a range of neurodegenerative diseases. Dr Bates is also Honorary Joint Science Director of NUCCAM. Recently Dr Bates achieved enthusiastic press coverage for discovering that capsaicin, an ingredient of jalapeno peppers, triggers cancer cell death (see <http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/health/6244715.stm>)

6. 1993 to 1995: Dr Simon Heales is now Professor and Deputy head of the Metabolic and Cellular Neurochemistry group at the Institutes of Neurology and Child Health. Professor Heales leads a group with a wide interest in identifying the biochemical mechanisms associated with those neurological conditions associated with patients attending the National Hospital for Neurology and Neurosurgery (NHNN).

7. 1995 to 1998: Dr Roger Hurst is now a Science Leader in the Health & Food Group, Functional Food & Health Team, in The New Zealand Institute for Plant & Food Research Limited, Hamilton, New Zealand. Dr Hurst leads two separate research programmes (total NZ\$ 9.5 million) within a team of about 40.

8. 1999 to 2004: Dr Martyn Sharpe has just finished a 4-year visiting Professorship at Michigan State University, continuing his work on catalytic antioxidants and has patented a new class of compounds that will be used to

treat neurodegenerative diseases, especially Parkinson's. He has now moved to the Methodist Hospital in Houston where he will investigate the causes of, and preventative treatments for, Autism.

9. 2005 to 2010: Dr Stephanie Schorge was recently awarded a prestigious Royal Society University Research Fellowship (5 years in the first instance). She will remain at the Institute of Neurology leading a group of researchers looking into genetic mechanisms of a variety of neurological disorders.

The 10th Pewterers Fellow has a strong track record at the forefront of Epilepsy research. Prior to being awarded the Pewterers' Fellowship, Dr Ivan Pavlov won a fellowship from Epilepsy Research UK. Ivan has helped identify a new type of inhibition that opens an exciting opportunity to develop completely new treatments for epilepsy. Ivan is originally from Russia, but has spent many years in London and now holds dual nationality. He was delighted to accept the Pewterers' Fellowship because of the freedom it offered, the opportunity to remain at Queen Square, and the chance to build links with the Worshipful Company.

### **Stephanie Schorge**

(This article was originally written in 2012, and information about the 10th Fellow has been added for publication now. Ed.)

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