



HAPPY NEW YEAR FROM EVERYONE AT NCTC

Technical Enquiry:

Question - How should I store my NCTC bacterial strain when it arrives?

Scroll to the end of the newsletter for the answer.....

Hannah McGregor, Quality Control Supervisor at NCTC, tells us about her public engagement activities in 2016

I am very lucky to work for NCTC - not only because I work with some extraordinary and historical bacteria on a daily basis, but I get the opportunity to share my passion for microbiology with members of the public and potential future scientists.

Part of my current role is mentoring placement students, who spend a year with NCTC in between the 2nd and final year of their undergraduate degree. It is always rewarding to see the knowledge and enthusiasm for bacteriology gained by the end of their time with us. Over the past year, I have been involved with public engagement events as a way to share my passion for microbiology with those who may not have any previous exposure to the subject and want to learn more.



Hands-on microbiology for families at RCPATH's Disease Detectives at the Hunterian Museum, London in Oct 2016

[Read more](#)

New bacterial strains in 2016



We made a record number of bacterial strains available from the NCTC online catalogue in 2016. In total, 98 strains from 20 families were added, a quarter of which were Type strains. Many were included in the NCTC 3000 whole genome sequencing project undertaken with the Sanger Institute and PacBio. Many of the new strains, including *Escherichia coli* O104 (NCTC 13562), are unique to NCTC.

[Find out more](#)

Read about the history *E. coli*, NCTC 86, isolated by Theodore Escherich in 1885, deposited with NCTC in 1920 and whole genome sequenced in 2016.



Win the opportunity to visit the NCTC laboratories in Colindale*.

Fill in our crossword and send it in to us to be in with a chance of winning.

(hint: all the answers can be found in this and previous editions of NCTC News!)

Email completed crosswords by Feb 10 to culturecollections.marketing@phe.gov.uk

*Travel and accommodation not included

Thank you for sending in your agar art! Here are two of our favourites.

Image courtesy of Marie Owen
FWE network, PHE, Porton



Image courtesy of @CursoOncogiaUFV

Do you have any interesting images of our strains?

Send them to us and if you are featured in the newsletter you will receive an NCTC 2GB memory stick. Send all images to: culturecollections.marketing@phe.gov.uk

Meet the team: Heena Shah

Heena is the NCTC Product and Distribution Manager. She has worked for Culture Collections for 2.5 years. Heena's role involves managing distribution networks for microbial products, new strain acquisition and new product development.



Three random facts about Heena:

1. Always drinks tea, not coffee
2. Is a marmite lover
3. Born in Kenya

Events in January

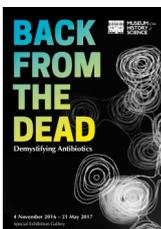
NCTC will be attending the following events in January 2017 - we hope to see you there.



Topics in Infection 2017, 25 January 2017, SOAS, London, UK



Frontiers in Laboratory Medicine (FiLM) 2017, 31 January-1 February, Austin Court, Birmingham, UK



Public Events

Running until 21 May 2017, Museum of the History of Science, Oxford, UK

An exhibition to commemorate 75 since the first human trials of penicillin; the journey of antibiotics from discovery in the 1940s to the rise of antibiotic resistance in the present day.

Technical Enquiry:

Answer - All NCTC strains are supplied as freeze-dried (lyophilised) cultures sealed under vacuum into glass ampoules. These ampoules are placed in a secondary plastic tube to protect the ampoule during transport and storage. On receipt the ampoules should be stored between 4°C and 10°C, although they can be stored at temperatures as low as -30°C.

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YouTube

www.phe-culturecollections.org.uk