December Success Stories from the School of Informatics

Samuel Heron and Ian Simpson, with colleagues from the Medical School have a paper in Nature Protocols. Their research addresses the difficulties in physical separation of cell types to study them. In general only single cell type can be analysed. Researchers propose new approach that will make analysis of a distinct cell type from different species possible thanks to the use of Sargasso, a Python tool. This novel procedure requires no special skills beyond those that might normally be expected of wet lab and bioinformatics researchers.

https://www.nature.com/articles/s41596-018-0029-2

Vaishak Belle gave an invited talk at the cognitive robotics workshop in Tempe, Arizona, USA last month. Viashak's talk was entitled "Probabilistic Planning by Probabilistic Programming: Semantics, Inference and Learning". The International Workshop on Cognitive Robotics is a bi-annual event, bringing together researchers and practitioners interested in AI and robotics. Research in cognitive robotics is interested in the cognitive aspects of robots such as perception processing, attention allocation, anticipation, planning, complex motor coordination, reasoning about other agents and perhaps even about their own mental states. This edition of the CogRob workshop aimed at connecting the CogRob community with recent advances in the field of machine learning and agent technologies in order to allow new insights how such techniques could be used beneficially for the behaviour modelling of intelligent agents.

Michael Rovatsos joined Chris Speed from ECA and colleagues from Business School, School of Law and School of Literatures, Languages and Cultures as a co-PI on a on Data Driven Innovation for the Creative Industries project that have been awarded £10 million in funding to set up Creative Informatics, a R&D partnership for the Creative Industries. The funding will create the environment for new forms of creative industry that uses data from a range of organisations to encourage innovation across the sector. The award is part of an £80 million nationwide creative industries initiative from the Arts and Humanities Research Council (AHRC) - The largest-ever single investment in the sector. The Scottish Funding Council will provide further financial support.

https://efi.ed.ac.uk/university-wide-effort/creative-informatics/

A team from Informatics has won the fourth annual Cyber ‘Capture the Flag’ competition organised by Deloitte. The competition tests participants' penetration testing, forensics, malware and intrusion analysis skills in a fun and competitive environment. In addition, this year teams needed to develop an approach to recovering a business after a cyber-attack. Informatics team has won a number of cyber security competitions before.