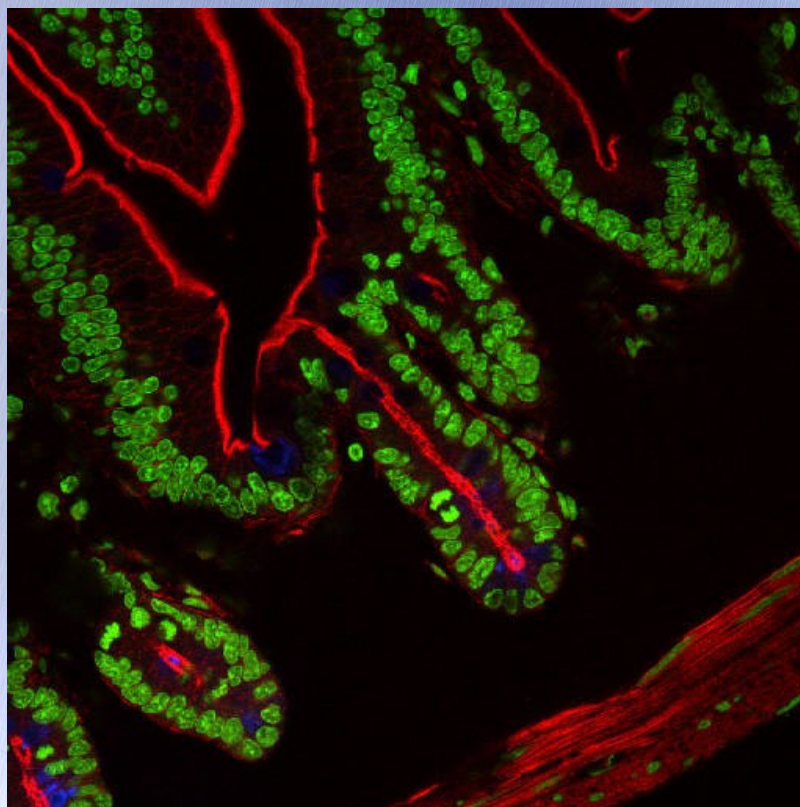


Can computer aided formative assessment impact on student performance?

Dr Helen Hooper
Division of Biological and Food
Sciences School of Applied
Sciences
Northumbria University
h.hooper@unn.ac.uk



Mouse small intestine. Paul Thomas © Henry Wellcome Laboratory for Cell Imaging, University of East Anglia, image sourced from Centre for Bioscience ImageBank

Project aims

- Investigate the effect of formative (and diagnostic) assessment exercises on two modules: Animal Biotechnology [final year], and Biochemical Pathways [second year]
- Develop resources to address poor exam performance and attendance on both modules
- Highlight gaps in student understanding to students, enabling improvement in time for summative assessment

Project outcomes

- A series of formative assessment exercises were developed and delivered to students for Animal Biotechnology, mainly using BlackBoard
- An online Bioinformatics (BI) workbook was developed enabling students to explore BI resources on the internet in relation to a specific genetics problem
- Positive student and staff feedback was recorded
- Significant improvement in exam performance was noted from over the previous cohort

Full details about this project are available from
<http://www.bioscience.heacademy.ac.uk/project/s/tdf/hooper1.htm>