

RNA Society

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RNA Journal

<http://www.rnajournal.org/>
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Suggestions, rebuttals and articles for
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From the desk of the President Lynne Maquat



With 11th Annual Meeting of the RNA Society behind us, I would like to extend my personal gratitude to those of you who helped make RNA 2006 a very successful event. Lead organizer **Alan Weiner**, together with co-organizers **Andrea Barta**, **Adrian Ferré-D Amaré** and **Elisa Izaurrealde** and the Seattle-based staff of Simple Meetings, did a wonderful job providing a beautiful and user-friendly venue for scientific interactions. Of course, all of you who attended RNA 2006 also deserve thanks for contributing to the Society and its endeavors. (continued on. p2)

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From the desk of... (Continued from p1)

RNA 2006 consisted largely of four types of sessions: Plenary, Mini-Plenary, Concurrent and Poster.



Additionally, a number of individuals were honored during the annual Awards Ceremony that took place before the banquet on Saturday night.

Lifetime Achievement Awards Committee Members **Elsebet Lund, Tom Blumenthal, Elisa Izaurrealde** and

myself, with input from a number of other Society members, selected **Olke Uhlenbeck** as recipient of the 2006 RNA Society Lifetime Achievement Award for Service and **Christine Guthrie** as recipient of the 2006 RNA Society Lifetime Achievement Award for Research.

- Olke, who is currently a Professor in Biochemistry, Molecular Biology and Cell Biology at Northwestern University, was selected for his notable influence on the RNA Society since its inception. In 1992, Olke together with Tom Cech, Walter Keller and Alan Weiner organized the first RNA Processing Meeting to alternate with the CSH RNA Processing meeting. One of the purposes of moving away from CSH was to allow for a larger meeting, and the 1992 meeting had over 500 participants. Furthermore, Olke served as the first Secretary/Treasurer of the newly formed non-profit RNA Society in 1993 and again in 1997, and as President in 2004. Previous recipients of this Award are Tim Nilsen (2003), Chris Greer (2004) and Jean Beggs (2005).

- Christine, who is a Professor of Biochemistry and Biophysics at the University of California-San Francisco, was selected because she is a fabulous yeast geneticist who has devoted much of her career to studying the mechanism of pre-mRNA splicing in *Saccharomyces cerevisiae*.

Christine began by studying U snRNAs, particularly their interactions with one another and the pre-mRNA splicing substrate as well as their evolutionary conservation. She has been a pioneer in revealing what determines the fidelity and the efficiency of splicing, with special attention to ATPase and helicase activities and, most recently, GTPase activities. In the past few years, Christine has also described factors that mediate mRNA export from the nucleus to the cytoplasm. Previous recipients of this Award are Joan Steitz (2003), Harry Noller (2004) and John Abelson (2005).

The Awards Ceremony also announced the RNA Society/Scaringe Award runners up and winners. I would like to thank **Evelyn Jabri** for developing a new application process, **Ann Marie Micenmacher** for collecting and organizing applications, and **Phil Bevilacqua and Tim Nilsen** for selecting the awardees. Details about this Award and how to apply next year can be found in an article written for this Newsletter by Evelyn Jabri (page 13). Finalists for the Graduate Student RNA Society/Scaringe Award were **Irina Abaza** (runner up) and **Jeff Barrick** (winner). Irina is a Ph.D. student at the Center for Genomic Regulation working in Barcelona in the lab of Fátima Gebauer, where she is studying the mechanisms of translational regulation by Sex-lethal. Jeff is currently a Ph.D. student at Yale working on riboswitches in the lab of Ron Breaker. Finalists for the Postdoctoral Fellow RNA Society/Scaringe Award were **Rotem Sorek** (runner up) and **Megan Talkington** (winner). Rotem is currently a post-doc with Eddy Rubin at the Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory in California working on bacterial metagenomics. Megan is a post-doc in the lab of Max Nibert at Harvard working on double-stranded RNA viruses.



The Awards Ceremony also honored individuals for best posters in several categories thanks to **Ben Blencowe, Albrecht Bindereif, David Brow,**





Irina Aaza

Jeff Barrick

Rotem Sorek

Megan Talkington

Javier Cáceres, Andreas Kulozik, Stephen Cusack, Ite Laird, Hong Li, David Lilley, Karla Neugebauer, Scott Strobel, Rebecca Terns, David Tollervey, Alan Weiner and Alan Zahler, who worked diligently to select awardees during the three days that the posters were available for viewing. Decisions were difficult to make since many posters were very impressive.

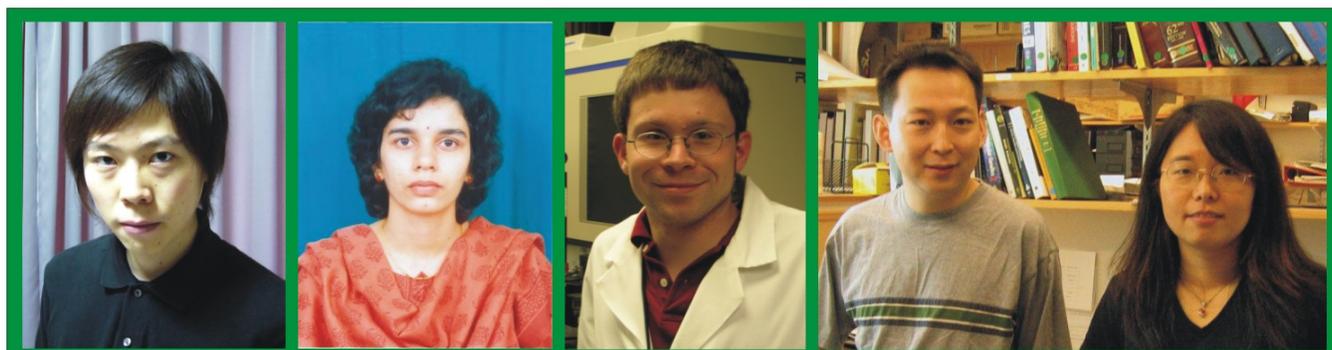
- *ACS Chemical Biology*, the newest journal from the American Chemical Society, sponsored a poster prize for ‘Innovative use of Chemical Biology applied to the Study of RNA’. The prize was awarded to **Isil Severcan** (photo not available) from Luc Jaeger’s lab at the University of California-Santa Barbara for a poster entitled “Spatially Addressable Three Dimensional Cages made of tRNA”.

- *Nature Structural & Molecular Biology*, together with the RNA Society, sponsored three poster prizes. The prize in Molecular Biology and Biochemistry went to **Isao Kashima** from Shige Onho’s lab at Yokohama City University School of Medicine in Japan for work on “Translation-dependent Formation of the SMG-1–Upf1–eRF1–eRF3 (SURF) Complex and Upf1

Phosphorylation in Nonsense-Mediated mRNA Decay”. The prize in Genetics and Development went to **Sakshi Pandit** from Brian Rymond’s lab at the University of Kentucky-Lexington for work entitled “Inhibition of a Spliceosome Integrity Maintenance Pathway Suppresses a Splicing Defect”. The prize in Biophysics and Structural Biology was awarded to **Thomas Edwards** from Adrian Ferre-D’Amare’s lab at the Fred Hutchinson Cancer Research Center-Seattle for a poster entitled “Structure and Biochemical Characterization of the Thiamine Pyrophosphate-Responsive Riboswitch”.

- *Nature Reviews Molecular Cell Biology*, together with the RNA Society, sponsored a poster prize for ‘Innovation and Interdisciplinary Research’. This prize went to **Xinshu Xiao** and co-author **Xefang Wang** from Chris Burge’s lab at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology in Cambridge for research on “Diverse Functions of Exonic Splicing Silencers”.

Additionally, the Awards Ceremony provided a forum for announcing newly elected members of the Board. A Nominating Committee, consisting of **Erik Sontheimer** (Chair), **Elena Conti**, **Anita**



Isao Kashima

Sakshi Pandit

Thomas Edward

Xefang Wang and Xinshu Xiao

Hopper and **Juan Valcárcel**, consulted with a number of other Society members, contacted prospective candidates and were responsible for finalizing the ballot. More than 500 or roughly half of Society members voted this year to elect a new President and three new members of the Board of Directors. I would like to thank all of the candidates on the ballot for their commitment to the RNA Society and all Society members who took the time and energy to vote.

Our newly elected President is **Brenda Bass**. Brenda joins the Board immediately as President-Elect. Newly elected board members are **Karla Neugebauer**, **Roy Parker** and **Marina Rodnina**. Their two-year term of office begins January 1st, 2007.

- Brenda is a Professor in the Department of Biochemistry, and an Adjunct Professor in the Department of Human Genetics, at the University of Utah School of Medicine. She is also an Investigator with the Howard Hughes Medical Institute. Her research focuses on double-stranded RNA-mediated pathways, such as those involved in RNA editing by ADARs and RNA interference. Brenda organized the Cold Spring Harbor RNA Processing meeting in 1995, chaired the first Nomination Committee of the RNA Society in 1995, served two terms as an RNA Society Director (1998-1999; 2004-2005) and was a member of the RNA Society Awards Committee in 2005.

- Karla is an independent group leader at the Max Planck Institute of Molecular Cell Biology and Genetics in Dresden, Germany. Her research focuses on co-transcriptional pre-mRNA splicing in yeast and mammalian cells, as well as spliceosomal snRNP assembly in Cajal bodies. She is a member of the European Alternative Splicing Network (EURASNET) and serves on the Career Development Committee of the European Life Sciences Organization (ELSO). She has organized and now manages ELSO's Database of Expert Women in the Molecular Life Sciences (<http://www.elseo-cdc.org/>), which aims to increase the visibility of women scientists in Europe.

- Roy is an Investigator with the Howard Hughes Medical Institute and Regents Professor of Molecular and Cellular Biology at the University of Arizona. He holds a joint appointment in the

Department of Biochemistry and is a member of the Arizona Cancer Center and the Genetics Program. His research focuses on the biogenesis, translation, and degradation of eukaryotic mRNA and how *S. cerevisiae* regulates different steps in this process to modulate gene expression. He has served on, and chaired, the NIH CDF-1 study section, and co-organized the Nucleic Acids Gordon Conference (1997), the CSH RNA Processing Meeting (2001), and the FASEB Conference on Post-Transcriptional Control (2004). He has been on the editorial board of *MCB* and *Science*, and currently is on the editorial boards of *RNA* and *Nucleic Acids Research*. He has served the RNA Society as a member of the Nominating Committee.

- Marina is a Professor of Physical Biochemistry at the University of Witten, Germany. Her research focuses on RNA in translation. Her group pioneered the use of kinetic and fluorescence methods in conjunction with quantitative biochemistry to solve the mechanisms of translation. She has served the RNA Society as meeting session chair (2004) and meeting organizer (2005).

In other news, **David Lilley** takes over as Chair of the Meetings Committee. His job is to help decide where to hold future RNA Society meetings. This includes evaluating the pros and cons of previously used sites and seeking out new sites. To date, RNA 2007 will be held in Madison, WI from May 29th to June 3rd. Lead organizer, **Sam Butcher**, will be assisted by **Erik Sontheimer**, **Rachel Green** and **Maria Carmo-Fonseca**. RNA 2008 will be held during the last week of July in Berlin, Germany. Lead organizer, **Reinhard Lührmann**, will be assisted by **Elena Conti**, **Volker Erdmann**, **Witek Filipowicz**, **Joan Steitz** and **Juan Valcárcel**.

In the past, issues that pertain to Society membership have fallen largely to the Secretary/Treasurer when it was time to update the RNA Society Handbook and Directory, and to the CEO. During the last Annual Business Meeting, we formally instated a Membership Committee that consists of Directors **Mariano García-Blanco** and **Tom Blumenthal**. The goal of the Committee is to increase our rank and file by more than the current 1015 registered members. The many incentives for



joining and maintaining membership in the RNA Society can be found listed at the Society web site <http://www.rnasociety.org/membership>. As I look toward the last four months of my term as President, and one more year of active duty as Past-President, I wish to express my gratitude to everyone who bestowed on me the honor and pleasure of serving the Society. I welcome your suggestions, and look forward to working with Evelyn and other officers to initiate several new programs. These include two important and exciting new venues for young scientists.

- A mentoring session for women at RNA 2007. It is well known that the ratio of women to men who are in graduate school drops considerably at later stages of career development in both academics and industry. This has been true for decades, and it continues to be true today. The mentoring session will provide examples of how female members of the RNA Society have balanced careers and families throughout their years as

practicing scientists. The session will be open to all interested individuals.

- A mechanism for students and post-docs to get more involved with the Society. While we hear from students and post-docs through the eBallot, the process is anonymous. We aim to establish a board of individuals who would like to be actively involved in RNA Society administration for the purposes of representing their peers. This board will report directly to officers of the Society. If you are a student or post-doc who has such an interest, please contact either Evelyn or myself. We welcome your ideas and look forward to working together.

If you are interested in contributing to the RNA Society and have a concrete idea for how you can help, please contact either :
Evelyn Jabri (ejabri@gmail.com) or myself (lynne_maquat@urmc.rochester.edu).



From the CEO's desk Evelyn Jabri



We've had another excellent year at the RNA Society! Our journal reached a new milestone, our annual meeting was a smashing success, and our membership has grown to 1015 from ~850 in 2005 thanks to a solid increase in

the number of student members. We've provided \$10K in sponsorship of student travel grants to smaller RNA meetings (see page 15) and explored ways in which we can become more involved in policy issues. In a month, we will release a new online directory and membership renewal system. And it won't stop there!

Our Society journal, *RNA*, continues to prosper. Its impact factor reached 6.1, an all time high. Thanks to **Tim Nilsen**, his deputy editors—**David Engelke**, **Eric Westhof** and **Marv Wickens**, and our editorial board for their continued work on the journal. Thanks also to all of our members for publishing in the journal. CSHP has worked hard to get *RNA* in more libraries as well as generate additional revenue from advertising. As a result of these efforts, the journal doubled its revenue in 2005 and is projected to do well in 2006. The majority of this revenue is funneled back into the journal to ensure its continued success. For example, the total number of manuscripts submitted and published in *RNA* continues to increase and this has necessitated the hiring of a full time CSHP production manager dedicated to the journal. The Society is providing **Ann Marie Micenmacher**, the Editorial Assistant for *RNA*, with additional help in the editorial office so she can continue to provide excellent support for the journal and our authors. Lastly, we continue our discussion with CSHP on how to reduce the cost of publication for our members. As many of you know, as a member you receive a 50% discount on the first color figure and the majority of proof correction charges are waived. We plan to continue to reduce the costs associated with publishing in *RNA*.

In the coming year, the journal and CSHP would like to publish more short (5-8 pages) reviews in the journal. These reviews will educate the community about a particular area of RNA and discuss common themes in the numerous RNA processes. If you are interested in writing a review, send a brief outline and cover letter to Tim Nilsen.

Our publisher will also contact *RNA* authors and ask if they wish to include their methods in the new CSHP Protocols publication. These peer reviewed methods provide more details about specific techniques, allow authors and other readers to add personal comments, edit, and revise the protocols. In addition, these protocols link to the original *RNA* article and provide a way for those reading CSHP protocols to discover the content in our society journal. It's a great way to get more eyes on the contents of our Society journal, so please consider contributing your protocols. CSHP and the Society are also discussing a mechanism whereby our members receive a discount on CSHP books. More to come on the journal in 2007.

In addition to our journal, the meetings program was extremely successful from both a scientific and financial perspective. I'd like to thank the organizers, session chairs and participants for their hard work at RNA2006. The meeting was very profitable and attracted \$20K in sponsorship. The latter was used to provide free libations at the receptions and posters. We achieved this level of sponsorship thanks to **Jim Bruzik**, our CFO, who contacted many companies and solicited their help. Please join me in thanking Jim and the sponsors of RNA2006, which are listed at the end of this newsletter.

This year we began a long term project to revamp our meetings program. We introduced a searchable abstract website to help you find and print those of interest to you. We provided a discount (\$100) to a member attending RNA2006. This was not the first time the Society offered a reduced registration fee



but these discounts will become the norm for our future meetings. As will the very stylish conference bag with the RNA Society logo! We do have a few remaining abstract books for sale and a conference bag free to those who ask.

At our Board meeting, we discussed other items related to our meetings program. The Directors and Officers agreed to continue to hold the meeting every year. For those who are curious, the informal vote on the eBallot was 364 in favor of continuing our yearly meeting to 103 wishing to adopt the every-other-year schedule.

Many of you requested that we rethink the format of the meeting and consider how we might include emerging areas of RNA science in the existing meeting schedule. How can the Society make a change without completely overhauling the meeting format—one that many of you enjoy? The Directors and officers discussed many options including having “mixed” plenary sessions on related topics (eg. splicing mechanisms and group II introns); having a keynote lecture at the first evening session to introduce a new subject of RNA research to the Society; introducing “Thematic Sessions” to discuss common threads running through multiple RNA processes; reworking of workshops to ensure that they really are that and not just a small, more focused session with talks selected from abstracts. **David Lilley**, who graciously agreed to become the chair of the meetings committee, will work with me and the organizers of our upcoming meetings to revamp our meetings (read more from David on page 8).

Speaking of member requests, some of you asked the Society to get more involved in science policy issues and lobbying. Last year, Lynne and I began exploring ways to satisfy this request. We initiated a discussion with FASEB, a large consortium of societies that has a strong voice on the Hill. At the same time, FASEB expressed their desire to have the RNA Society join their organization as a FASEB member Society. For your information, the RNA Society currently employs FASEB to maintain our membership records and do our bookkeeping but we are not now, nor are we required to be, members of FASEB.

We invited **Mark Lively**, Chair of the FASEB Member Society Committee, to our board meeting to discuss how joining FASEB would benefit the Society. Dr. Lively noted that becoming a member of FASEB would allow the RNA Society to join the collective scientific voice to shape science policy. The cost of becoming a FASEB member Society is ~\$12/active member (excluding student members). We also need to designate one or more members to serve on FASEB committees and these members would be responsible for representing the Society to FASEB in monthly meetings. RNA Society issues would not necessarily become part of the broader FASEB agenda; rather, FASEB promised to provide expertise to the Society to pursue specific RNA issues on its own. After much discussion, the Directors and Officers felt that the RNA Society was not ready to join FASEB. Some Directors noted that the benefits to our international members (~35% of the membership) are small relative to those of the U.S. members. They also pointed out that many members of the RNA Society are also members of ASBMB and other FASEB Member Societies. Therefore, their voices are already represented through FASEB. The Directors unanimously voted not to join FASEB as a member society but to continue to discuss other options for gaining a voice on the Hill.

There were many other suggestions on the eBallot survey including requests for a better way to find members and update membership information. I am thrilled to inform you that we will soon release an electronic RNA Society Directory and Membership Renewal system. The online directory, which will only be open to members, will allow you to update information at your convenience and search for colleagues by name, institution or keywords. We hope this will help us keep our membership records up-to-date as well as provide a more current directory. For the short term, we will continue to print the Directory of Members but will phase this out as more members learn to use the on-line system.

In addition, we will launch an on-line membership renewal system on a secured site to make it easier for you to renew your membership and for new members to join the Society. Current members will



receive an email in the coming weeks directing them to the new site. If you miss that email, we will also include links from the RNA Society website that will take you to the relevant pages. Try out the on line directory and membership renewal systems and send me feedback on how we can further improve them. Next year, **Fabrice Jossinet**, our Webmaster, and I will focus on developing a social

bookmarking system to enhance communication and expand the connections between our members.

I look forward to hearing your feedback and suggestions. If you are interested in helping with any of the projects Lynne or I mentioned, let me know.

Please email me at ejabri@gmail.com.

Calling all RNA Clubs around the world!

The RNA Society would like to list you on our website so that members and non-members can find the Club(s) nearest them. Please send us your Club name, its address, the contact person (with email address if possible), and the URL to your Club's website. We'll compile a list and post it on the RNA Society website.

Future RNA Society Meeting sites

David M.J. Lilley

Chairman of the Meetings Committee



The RNA Society exists to facilitate communication of all aspects of RNA science, and the promotion of interactions between laboratories working on the diverse areas of RNA biology and chemistry. Conferences are a key part of those aims, with the annual meeting as its flagship. This meeting is unique in the way it brings together such a wide variety of RNA science and attracts large numbers of scientists working in all aspects of RNA.

I must congratulate Alan Weiner and co-organizers for the wonderful 2006 meeting in Seattle. The science was spectacular, and the local arrangements worked extremely well. Even the weather came to the party, with spectacular views of Mt Rainier for five days. I think everyone left RNA 2006 feeling that they had experienced something very special.

However, the success of recent meetings doesn't mean that the format should be immutable, and we are seeking some discussion about future directions. The lead organizers for 2007 (Sam Butcher in Madison) and 2008 (Reinhard Lührmann in Berlin) are considering the introduction of a limited number of invited talks from more established scientists. One possibility would be to have one or more longer talks on the opening night. Another would be to introduce one invited talk per plenary session, perhaps to provide more of an overview and background to the short talks that will still provide the bulk of the session. Clearly we need to get the balance right here, because we certainly don't want a marked reduction in the number of contributed talks.



Another aspect for discussion is the nature of the workshops. Personally I have found these one of the most vibrant parts of past meetings. Yet recently they have drifted rather into being just further, more-parallelized sessions that lack any special character. I would like to see these regain their former excitement. Perhaps we should get back to choosing a suitable organizer for a hot topic, and give them the discretion to set it up as they see fit. Reinhard has suggested thematic workshops to discuss topics of current strong interest that cross the disciplines that tend to have separate sessions.

Clearly the RNA Society belongs to its membership, and I know that people have strong feelings on the annual meeting. Any changes need to be consensual. I therefore invite opinions and discussion on any of these proposed changes.

Another of my responsibilities as chair of the meetings committee is to investigate venues for future annual meetings. We are scheduled to return to Madison again in 2009, but beyond that is currently undecided. There is a general feeling that people are growing tired of Madison, and perhaps we should try some new locations. In thinking about this we should bear in mind some requirements. We need three lecture theatres that can take several hundred people – this was a problem in Banff, where the second largest theatre was not large enough to accommodate all who wanted to attend some sessions. We need space for posters, so that they can be viewed in comfort, ideally allowing all to be displayed simultaneously for the duration of the meeting as in Seattle. Accommodation must be available that is suitable both for cost-conscious graduate students and more comfort-seeking members of the Society, all preferably within walking distance of the sessions. Lastly, transport and accommodation costs should not be too high, so that people continue to bring multiple members of their laboratories. To my mind, this ‘family’ aspect has always been a great feature of RNA Society meetings. We are currently considering a number of possibilities that largely fit these criteria, but would welcome more suggestions.

Another aspect of future locations is how often we meet outside North America. We have gone to Europe every fourth year for some time – does this frequency require changing? Perhaps we should also consider meeting in the far East.

The annual meeting remains very special to many of us, but it is time to think about its format a little lest we stagnate. Please contact me (d.m.j.lilley@dundee.ac.uk), or the officers of the Society with any thoughts or suggestions.

Name This Newsletter!

To encourage communication with each other, and the Society as a whole, we are having a contest to name our Newsletter! Be creative, or thoughtful, but be prompt! Email us your favorite name suggestion (RNA Society Catalyst?). The winning name will appear on our Spring 2007 issue, and the individual who submitted the selected name will win an iTunes gift card.

Along with a name, our Newsletter will also get volume and issue numbers. Students and Postdocs who submit pieces for publication in the Newsletter can then properly cite their contributions on their CV. Send your nominations to peculisb@missouri.edu by 20, December 2006 to be considered for the iTunes gift card.



RNA 2007

Twelfth Annual Meeting of the RNA Society

Madison, Wisconsin
May 29-June 3, 2007

Topics include:

RNAi and miRNA	RNP Function and Dynamics
RNA Silencing	RNA Transport and Localization
Riboregulation in Development	RNA Editing and Modification
Noncoding RNA	tRNA, snoRNA and rRNA
RNA Catalysis	Ribosomes
RNA Structure and Folding	Translation Regulation
Splicing Mechanisms	Bioinformatics
Splicing Regulation	RNA Turnover
3' End Formation	RNA-Protein Interactions

Organizing Committee: Sam Butcher (University of Wisconsin-Madison), Maria Carmo-Fonseca (University of Lisbon), Rachel Green (John Hopkins University), Eric Sontheimer (Northwestern University)

The Organizing Committee invites abstracts on all aspects of RNA structure, function, biology and chemistry. Abstracts for oral presentations will be selected by the Committee and the Session Coordinators. Topics covered in oral presentations will be determined based on the abstracts received. Abstracts that are not selected for oral presentations will be presented as posters.

All members will receive an email announcing the start of the registration and abstract submission process at the end of December 2006. Others interested in participating should please check the RNA Society website (<http://www.rnasociety.org>) for details of the annual meeting. The deadline for registration and submission of abstracts is Monday February 26th, 2007.

Contact: The RNA Society, 9650 Rockville Pike, Bethesda, MD 20814-3998 USA
Phone: 301-634-7120 Fax: 301-634-7420 Email: rna@faseb.org
Website: <http://www.rnasociety.org/>



Graduate Student / Postdoc Pages

These pages are written for, to, and in some cases by our younger RNA Scientists. However the information, opinions and experiences here are by no means exclusive to this group. We are encouraging submissions by authors who wish to speak to this audience, to offer advice, information and commiseration as needed. If you have advice, opinions or stories to share, send them in!

Preparing for a Job at a Primarily Undergraduate Institution (PUI)

Dave Kushner, Dickinson College



By working as a graduate student or a Postdoc at a large research university, you gain familiarity with what working as a PI at a Research I University entails. But how do you gain a perspective if you have an interest in teaching and seek a career as a teacher/scientist at a PUI (an institution, such as a liberal arts college, where the main focus is education of undergraduate students)? While at most PUI institutions it is important that you perform research with undergraduate students (more on this topic in a future column), it is critical to have teaching experience in order to apply for such a job. This is valuable for the obvious reasons: to decide if you like teaching, to gain experience in working with students, and, importantly, to find methods and styles of communication of information that work for both you and your students in the classroom and/or lab. Based on this, a written description thereof can be crafted into a Teaching Philosophy, a required part of most all PUI job applications.

How do I get teaching experience? Obtaining any kind of experience will be helpful; however, it will be important for you to obtain as much experience as possible prior to applying for a tenure-track position. The best advice is to start gaining experience as early in your career as possible – ideally, in graduate school. As a graduate student, you may have a TA requirement where you assist in the lab portion of a course. If you are only required to do this once, consider volunteering to do it each year during your graduate studies. Whether or not you have the opportunity to TA, you may work at

an institution where you could help your PI, or a member of your thesis committee, or the PI down the hall with a class that they are teaching. Volunteer to give a few lectures, or help out in labs that are part of their course. It is unlikely (but not impossible) that you will have time to teach a single course in its entirety (designing lectures and labs, making quizzes and tests, and doing all the grading) on your own, but you can do all these things over time. This will allow you to build a trajectory of teaching that will be evident on a job application – that teaching is important to you and you make time for it. When you decide to search for Postdocs, if you think you ultimately want to teach at a PUI and will want to seek teaching experiences while a Postdoc, be very up-front with potential PIs about this when you are interviewing. If the PI is not willing to support you in your endeavors, you may be better off by looking for another lab to work in. Ultimately, while the ability to develop a research program in which undergraduates can participate is an important part of your job application to a PUI, you will want to continue building your teaching experience by the aforementioned mechanisms.

What if I only obtained minimal teaching experience as a Grad student/Postdoc but am getting ready to hit the job market? If you feel that you have a strong research program to bring to a PUI, but desire an experience where you have sole responsibility for course design and execution, there are a few options for you to consider. One, if your University is in a large city, there may be community colleges and/or University branch campuses nearby that need Adjunct instructors for parts (or all!) of a course – do not be afraid to



contact the Chair of those departments and make them aware of your availability and interest in helping out. To get experience working at a PUI, you could look for a “Teaching Postdoc” at a PUI, where you will do research in the lab of a faculty member, and also teach a little bit. Another option is for you to look for one-year Sabbatical Replacement (a.k.a. Visiting Assistant Professor) positions. Many PUI faculty take Sabbaticals every 6-7 years or so, and need to be replaced while they are on leave. Such job ads are often found in *Science* and/or *The Chronicle of Higher Education* (jobs.chronicle.com), usually in the Spring prior to the academic year (but occasionally as much as one full year in advance). It is often the case that the PUI will bring in a candidate who can make it evident that they have the background, and willingness, to teach the specific courses that the faculty member on Sabbatical normally teaches –

even if the candidate does not have much practical experience. Experience gained from a Sabbatical Replacement can be incredibly valuable as you look for a tenure-track position.

Overall, you do need to be proactive in seeking teaching experience, but having such experiences should help you determine if a PUI is the right place for you to begin your career. Once you feel you have the right balance of teaching and research experiences, and you want to search for a PUI job, be advised that many job ads can be found in *Science*, *The Chronicle*, and/or higheredjobs.com, and most searches start in the late summer/early fall for the following academic year. For another commentary on the topic of gaining teaching experience, see the article by Jason Underwood on page 14 in this issue of the RNA Society Newsletter.

In the next issue of the RNA Newsletter : Dr. Kushner will address the day-to-day routine at a PUI – how to effectively combine teaching, research and service.

If you have specific interests in teaching, whether at a PUI or other institution, that you would like see addressed by Dr. Kushner (or another qualified individual with first-hand experience), please send your questions and comments or suggest topics to be addressed in future issues to peculisb@missouri.edu. While one-on-one dialogues may not be possible, this venue would be perfect for answering questions and addressing the topics you (anonymously) indicate are of interest.



The RNA Society/Scaringe Young Scientist Award 2007

Deadline for application for the 2007 RNA Society/Scaringe Award is January 15th, 2007. Additional information about the application process will be sent to all members in early November 2006. We encourage qualified junior members of the Society to apply for this award.

The RNA Society/Scaringe Young Scientist Award was established to recognize the achievement of young scientists engaged in RNA research and to encourage them to pursue a career in the field of RNA. The award is open to all junior scientists (graduate students or postdoctoral fellows) from all regions of the world who have made a significant contribution to the broad area of RNA. The award is not restricted to authors who have published in the *RNA* Journal. The prize will recognize one outstanding graduate student and one postdoctoral fellow based on their research accomplishments to date, a 1000-word essay describing their scientific contributions to RNA research, and a 500-word abstract for a review in their field of RNA research.

Judging Procedures:

All applications are evaluated by the RNA Society Awards Committee. The applicants will be divided into one of two groups: graduate students or postdoctoral fellows. Applications will be judged on the quality of the research and the entrant's ability to articulate his or her research contributions to the field of RNA. This committee will choose one graduate student and one postdoctoral winner prior to the abstract deadline for the annual meeting.

Prizes:

The names of the winners will appear in the abstract book and their expenses associated with attending the meeting will be reimbursed. The winners will receive a cash prize and a one-year membership to the RNA Society that includes a subscription to the journal *RNA*. By accepting the prize, the winner agrees to write a minireview or review for *RNA*. The review can be written solely or in collaboration with their advisor.

Winners of the RNA Society/Scaringe Award:

Stefano Marz (2004)

Ramesh Pillai (2005)

Jeffrey Barrick-graduate student award (2006)

Meghan Talkington-postdoctoral fellow award (2006)

Look for the application material on the RNA Society website in November 2006!



Postdoc's Soapbox

Jason Underwood

When you drive in and around Santa Cruz, you'll see big trees, hybrid cars and two flavors of hippies.



There's the older ones that probably followed the Grateful Dead for a period in their life, but are now successful enough to live in this spendy beach community, and the new ones that are sharing cramped quarters (or sidewalk space) to make ends meet. Up the hill is the forest wonderland known as UCSC. You'd think that the Ewok was the mascot, but instead the school is represented by a slug. It's a funny, yet fitting, choice and the history of that choice is worthy of discussion, or at least a Google search. Most importantly for this page, the campus is a nice environment to study the fantastical, acrobatical, and evolvable biopolymer, RNA. (By the way, did you hear that the ribosome is a ribozyme?!)

The stage is set for a productive and interesting postdoctoral project, but for now I'm just happy that my cloning karma is so spot-on. The resources and expertise surround me and I know that I can hone my research skills in a place like this.

I also have my eyes wide open for opportunities to better my teaching skills. The scholar-teacher role was something that lured me to pursue graduate studies years ago. After my PhD, I explored that path in my own way, by taking a semester-long adjunct gig at a liberal arts college in Los Angeles. It was an excellent experience and it forced me to re-evaluate the well-worn roads that biochemists take to the academy. A great research project in a top lab can provide the experience, connections and papers to score the professor title, but then what?

Often, a new assistant professor is expected to teach a course or two in their first year at the university or college. In the US system, at least, many of these hires haven't stood in front of a class of undergraduates since they were first or second year graduate students performing departmentally-required teaching assistant duties. Many have never developed a curriculum or dealt with the dramas, follies, and even fibs that can accompany life at the lectern. In fact, graduate students at top schools are usually not required to teach very much and instead see their stipends paid from fellowships, training grants or the grants of their PI. This leads to an interesting dilemma. Are top schools only made for training research scientists or should there be an optional emphasis on teaching skills? Since the postdoc period tends to determine one's specialty, perhaps that's the more appropriate time for such an option?

Combination programs do exist, but at just a handful of schools in the US. During my time at UCLA, I had lunch with Society member, Roy Parker, and heard about the postdoctoral scientist teaching program at University of Arizona. This places an emphasis on both doing good benchwork and bettering one's classroom skills. Postdocs end up teaching their own course or two and can learn firsthand whether teaching is a proper choice for their career. While such programs bridge a gap and provide training for what many of us seek, the academy, the Arizona program is the exception to the norm. On the other end of the scale, I've also witnessed a postdoc friend at a private university and the miles of red tape necessary for him to teach a course. Though he did his stellar graduate and postdoctoral work in top RNA labs, his desire to teach at a small college forced him to take an intermediary job at an excellent liberal arts college to gain experience before jumping to a tenure track gig. Some say that this is simply because he seeks employment amongst that upper crust of liberal arts colleges. A top research-oriented school like Harvard or Berkeley does not look for teaching experience to this same extent, but shouldn't teaching be a consideration? A primary mission of



these schools is research, yes, but every year there's a crop of fresh smart undergraduates applying to and entering these schools. Everywhere that there are students looking to learn, there should be an effort to employ teachers that can, well, TEACH.

A compelling argument can be made for time at the bench as a training tool for educators. In fact, in the middle of writing these lines, I gave a RT-PCR tutorial to a bright-eyed new graduate student that is working with me. Still, I feel that bridging the gap between a research environment and a classroom is a topic worthy of discussion amongst the Society and perhaps a forum in Madison would be appropriate. Amongst our ranks are a sizable number of shining ribo-stars, National Academy members and Nobel winners who spent their

baccalaureate years at an institution primarily dedicated to teaching. In addition, there are many Society members who have thrived both in the lab and in the classroom. Perhaps a few amongst these cumulative masses could lead this discussion. In my humble, I'm-just-a-postdoc-but-you-gave-me-a-column-so-deal-with-it opinion, this is a query that should also be addressed on a larger scale with the help of NSF, NIH or HHMI. The latter already supports a few postdoctoral teaching fellows at a number of prestigious liberal arts colleges, but in many cases, these environments make establishing independent research plans rather difficult. Therein lies the problem. How do we train to be both a researcher and a great teacher? Oh wait, did I say that already?

Travel Fellowships from Meetings Supported by RNA

Did you know that your membership dues help to support student travel fellowships and help launch new RNA-related meetings?

RNA Society can provide fellowships (\$500-1000) to the organizers of a meeting to support the travel of students or postdoctoral fellows to RNA-related meetings. It's up to the organizers to decide how they divide these funds to help the junior scientists (support one versus support multiple with smaller fellowships), but the RNA Society will need a statement outlining your plans for the funds at the time of the request.

The Society can also help organizers launch a new meeting (one that has never been organized before), by providing an interest-free loan. The sum is negotiable and depends on what the organizers feel they can repay. In general, the Society would support the launch of a new meeting for 1-2 years but the organizers will have to develop a plan to

obtain other support after 2 years. If you wish to pursue this option, we will need a proposal outlining why the loan is necessary, how the money will be used, how the organizers will repay the loan to the RNA Society, and the plans for making the meeting self-supporting in the future.

The RNA Society asks that the organizers display our logo on the meeting website and in the abstract book as an indication of our support. Also, the organizers are invited to write a summary (~500 words) of the meeting to be included in the Society Newsletter. This is an ideal opportunity to promote your favorite area of research.

If you are a meeting organizer and a member of the RNA Society interested in obtaining support for your RNA-related meeting, please contact Evelyn Jabri. (ejabri@gmail.com) and provide the information indicated above.



Meetings Supported by The RNA Society

The Nucleic Acids Gordon Research Conference was held on June 4-9th at Salve Regina University, Newport, RI. The organizers for the 2006 meeting were Scott Strobel and Steve Kowalczykowski. The 2007 Nucleic Acids Gordon Conference organizers are Jody Puglisi and Cynthia Burrows.

The GRC has a 50 year tradition of bringing together scientists interested in RNA and DNA biology. In recent years subjects have spanned the fields of RNA splicing and riboregulation to DNA recombination and mismatch repair. It is consistently one of the best meetings of the year. The diversity of nucleic acid related subjects, the capped enrollment and the unscheduled afternoons at Newport Rhode Island, one of America's most beautiful small towns, provide ample opportunity for students and postdocs to informally interact and exchange ideas. Funds are available through the RNA Society and other sources to defray the travel and enrollments costs of students and postdocs who may wish to attend. Recipients of travel awards at the 2006 Nucleic Acid Gordon Conference were:

Ken Blout from Yale University
Paul Rothmund from Caltech
Joshua Warren from Duke University

The EMBO Workshop on the Functional Organization of the Cell Nucleus was held in Prague, May 5 – 8, 2006, and was organized by Ivan Raška, Ueli Aebi and William C. Earnshaw. Previous EMBO nuclear workshops were held in Prague 1999 and 2002, making this our third gathering.

The workshop provided the opportunity for scientists working on various aspects of the nucleus to discuss recent advances in the field of nuclear structure and function. The overall number of participants was 115, and included 31 invited speakers; an additional 32 scientists were selected to give oral presentations. In total 57 posters were presented.

The program of the workshop comprised several sessions: Chromatin and chromosome structure (chair: Robert H. Singer), Organization of nuclear space (Greg A. Matera), Nuclear architecture and gene expression (Wendy Bickmore), Nuclear dynamics and plasticity (Jean Beggs), RNA processing and intranuclear RNA movement (Ann L. Beyer), Nucleolus and nuclear organelles (Yuri Lazebnik), Nuclear envelope and nucleocytoplasmic transport (Jiří Bártek and Elena Conti), and The nucleus in apoptosis and disease (Cristina M. Cardoso). The last session, that was chaired by Yosef Gruenbaum and Harald Herrmann, encompassed oral presentations of best posters as well as one-slide oral presentations.

The workshop was made accessible to graduate students and postdocs from less-favored European as well as non-European countries. This aim of the Organizers was supported with funds from EMBO as well as a number of bursaries available from sponsorships. Travel fellowships were awarded to Barbara Sollner-Webb from Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine, and Andrey A. Toropov from Geology and Geophysics Institute, Republic Uzbekistan Academy of Sciences. Thanks go to the RNA Society, and specifically to Evelyn Jabri, for the support that helped with the successful realization of the workshop.

D. Cmarko, J. Bednar and I. Raška



The Second Biology of Post-transcriptional Gene Regulation meeting was held at The Queens College, Oxford, United Kingdom Aug 13-18 2006 and was organized by Jane Wu and Adrian Krainer

Despite some unfortunate last-minute cancellations due to the terrorist threat at UK airports, the meeting was very successful. The sessions were highly interactive due to the efforts of the speakers and the session leaders, Don Rio, Tom Cooper, Mariano Garcia-Blanco, Chris Smith, Lynne Maquat, Nick Proudfoot, Jean Beggs, Tom Blumenthal and Doug Black.

Forty speakers and more than 60 poster presenters discussed extensively their research in different areas of RNA processing. The meeting attendees exchanged their views on topics ranged from systems biology approaches, evolution biological aspects to mechanisms of RNA processing as well as the role of RNA processing in human diseases. They presented their views on not only the grand landscape of the RNA field, but also molecular details of regulatory mechanisms of gene expression.

The RNA Society provided \$1,000 for four poster awards which went to Daniel Hogan (Stanford University, USA), Dasa Longman (the MRC Human Genetics Unit, Edinburgh, UK), Núria Majós (Centre for Genomic Regulation, Barcelona, Spain) and Eric Wagner (UNC, Chapel Hill, USA).

The third Gordon Conference on the same topic will be held in 2008, at a venue and time to be determined. Adrian Krainer will be the Chair, and Lynne Maquat (University of Rochester) will be the Vice-Chair.

Computational Approaches to Noncoding RNAs conference was held in Benasque, Spain in July 2006, and was organized by Eric Westhof and Elena Rivas.

The RNA Society was pleased to provide two travel fellowships granted to Andrew Uzilov from UC Berkeley and Jens Reeder from Universitat Bielefeld. Congratulations to both.

The 7th International Conference on Ribosome Synthesis was held in Warrenton, VA from Aug 16-20, 2006 and was organized by Susan Baserga, Yves Henry, Lasse Lindahl, John Woolford and Janice Zengel.

This triennial meeting focuses on integrating our knowledge of ribosome structure and function with ribosome assembly. This includes aspects of structure, synthesis, processing and modification of rRNA as well as identifying the roles of proteins and RNP assembly factors in these various processes.

The RNA Society provided funds which were used to help defray the costs of travel and registration incurred by a student. This was awarded to Stephen Doris from Susan Gerbi's lab at Brown University.



Upcoming meetings

RNA Chemistry and Physics Meet Biology (Supported by the Nobel Foundation)

Sept 29-30, 2006

Lund, Sweden

Organizers : Eric Westhof, Tina Persson and Fritz Eckstein

This event will receive travel fellowships from the RNA Society

Translational Control and Non-Coding RNA Meeting

November 8 - 12, 2006

Nove Hradky, Czech Republic

Organizers : Martin Pospisek, Leos Valasek, Vasek Vopalensky, Tomas Masek

This event will receive travel fellowships from the RNA Society



Employment and Careers

The RNA Society is pleased to make the Employment and Careers web page available to the RNA community. Advertisements for employment opportunities are free to members of the RNA Society. All employment opportunities remain on this page for a three-month period. In addition, positions listed on this page are also published in the RNA Society newsletter (distributed to more than 1000 members and subscribers) as a free service and on a one-time basis.

If you would like to have your employment opportunity listed on this page, please download [the E-Jobs form](#), and return the completed form via email to rna@faseb.org.

Current Listings

Faculty positions

Position available in Dept of Biochemistry of the Universite de Sherbrooke at Sherbrooke, Canada
Position posted on Monday, June 12, 2006

Applications are invited for tenure-track positions at the Assistant Professor level starting in 2007 and 2008 either in biochemistry or molecular biology. The Department of Biochemistry is a young and dynamic group of researchers who are well-known for their innovation. It includes a strong RNA group. For more details, visit <http://www.usherbrooke.ca/biochimie/>. The successful candidates will be expected to develop an externally funded research program and eventually contribute to teaching at the graduate and undergraduate levels.

In accordance with Canadian Immigration requirements, priority will be given to Canadian citizens and permanent residents of Canada. The Universite de Sherbrooke is committed to the principle of equity in employment and offers equal employment opportunities to qualified applicants.

Contact :

[Dr Jean-Pierre Perreault](#)

Tel : (819) 564-5310

Fax : (819) 564-5340

Email : Jean-Pierre.Perreault@USherbrooke.ca

Position available, Dept of Biochemistry and Molecular Pharmacology of West Virginia University at Morgantown, US
Position posted on Monday, May 29, 2006

A position as Research Assistant Professor is available to study the regulation of RNA splicing by nutrients in mammalian liver. The position provides the scientist with the opportunity to apply basic knowledge of RNA processing to the understanding of unique regulatory pathways involved in energy homeostasis. The applicant must have Ph.D. in Chemistry, Biochemistry or related field in the basic sciences, at least 4 years of postdoctoral training, and at least 5 publications in refereed scientific journals. Applicants should have demonstrated expertise in the study of RNA splicing both in vivo and in vitro, skills in protein biochemistry and in primary cell culture. A successful applicant will be expected to maintain a productive research program including the publication of their work. In addition, the applicant is expected to apply for extra-mural support for their research and thus must have the immigration status to permit this. Interested applicants should send via e-mail: a cover letter, a c.v., and contact information for three references to Lsalati@hsc.wvu.edu. Applications will be accepted until June 30, 2006

Contact :

[Dr Lisa M. Salati](#)

Tel : 304-293-7759



Email : lsalati@hsc.wvu.edu

Position available in Dept. of Genetics and Developmental Biology of the University of Connecticut Health Center at Farmington, United States

Position posted on Wednesday, February 01, 2006

Tenure Track Faculty Position in RNA Biology

The Department of Genetics and Developmental Biology at the University of Connecticut School of Medicine is seeking highly qualified individuals with an outstanding background in RNA biology. Areas of interest include but are not limited to RNA editing, alternative splicing, non-coding RNAs (including microRNAs), RNA transport and RNA stability. The Department is seeking an individual who will build on our established expertise in these areas and who will develop a world-class translational research program in RNA research.

Applications are invited for a position at the Assistant, Associate or Full Professor level. Faculty will enjoy superb resources including a generous start-up package as well as state-of-the art core facilities for mouse transgenics and ES cell manipulation, microarrays, nucleic acid sequencing, flow cytometry, confocal microscopy and fluorescence imaging. The successful candidate will be expected to establish an independent and innovative research program that will attract extramural funding and to actively contribute to a rich scientific environment.

Candidates are invited to visit the departmental web page (<http://genetics.uhc.edu>) and should apply by submitting (preferably electronically) a curriculum vitae, selected publications and the names of three references to:

Brenton R. Graveley
Chair of the RNA Biology Search Committee
Department of Genetics and Developmental Biology
The University of Connecticut Health Center
School of Medicine
Farmington, CT 06030-3301
Email: graveley@neuron.uhc.edu

UCHC is an Equal Opportunity Employer M/F/V/PwD

Contact : Dr Brenton R. Graveley

Tel : 860-679-2090

Email : graveley@neuron.uhc.edu

Postdoctoral positions

Position available in Dept of Biology of the University of Washington at Seattle, United States

Position posted on Monday, July 31, 2006

I am looking for a highly motivated Postdoctoral Fellow to study RNA localization in a giant unicell, *Acetabularia acetabulum*. We have identified 3 conserved domains in our EST libraries whose functions we would like to understand. In specific, we would like to test if they act like "zipcodes" to tell mRNAs where to go in the organism, or as stability signals, etc. Microinjection studies will determine 1) what happens when these conserved elements are altered in order, number etc.; 2) on which portion of the cytoskeleton do fluorescent beads or fluorescently tagged RNAs ± these conserved regions travel during development; 3) whether there are some conserved sequences that direct an mRNA to the apex or base of the organism; 4) the role of the nucleus (if any) in directing RNA trafficking. Imaging with confocal and/or epifluorescence video microscopy and fluorescence in situ hybridizations will be the main assays. The successful candidate will perform the microinjections, analyze the fluorescence microscopy data and will work closely with a



technician who will assist in making the molecular constructs. This work will be complemented by searches for localized, stable transcripts of *A. acetabulum* ESTs or genes. The successful candidate will be expected to apply for independent postdoctoral fellowship(s) during this 2 year NSF postdoctoral period. Start date for this position is immediate.

Contact :

[Dr Dina F. Mandoli](#)

Tel : (206) 543-8917

Email : mandolin@u.washington.edu

Position available in Department of Molecular Biology and The Skaggs Institute for Chemical Biology of The Scripps Research Institute at La Jolla, United States

Position posted on Monday, July 24, 2006

A postdoctoral position is available immediately in the research group of Martha J. Fedor at The Scripps Research Institute in La Jolla, California to investigate intracellular RNA assembly. This postdoctoral project involves the use of self-cleaving ribozymes to probe specific RNA recognition and complex formation reactions *in vivo* and explore the mechanisms through which RNAs assemble into specific functional structures despite the capacity to form alternative, nonfunctional structures with similar thermodynamic stabilities. This position provides an opportunity for an energetic young scientist to learn how to apply quantitative approaches to investigate RNA-mediated reactions *in vivo* while interacting with an outstanding group of established RNA scientists in premier research environment.

The ideal candidate will have a recent Ph.D. in Molecular Biology or Biochemistry and laboratory experience working with RNA and yeast. Salary support at a level commensurate with experience is assured for at least one year, with funds likely to be available for subsequent years depending on mutual agreement. To apply for this position, please send your CV, a brief statement of your scientific interests and career goals, and a list of at least three professional references to mfedor@scripps.edu.

Contact :

[Dr Martha J. Fedor](#)

Tel : 858 784-2770

Fax : 858 784-2779

Email : mfedor@scripps.edu

Position available in Dept. of Genetics and Developmental Biology of the University of Connecticut Health Center at Farmington, United States

Position posted on Monday, July 24, 2006

Multiple postdoctoral positions are available in the Graveley lab (<http://genetics.uhc.edu/graveley/index.html>) to study various aspects of RNA biology. There are three main projects in the lab:

1. Genome-wide analysis of alternative splicing in *Drosophila* using RNAi screens and microarrays.
2. Alternative splicing of the *Drosophila* Dscam gene (which generates 38,016 isoforms).
3. Elucidating the roles of microRNAs in controlling regeneration and stem cell biology in the Planarian *Schmidtea mediterranea*.

The successful candidate will be extremely motivated, outgoing, and creative, have expertise in *Drosophila* genetics, RNA biochemistry, and/or bioinformatics, have outstanding communication skills, and publications in reputable journals. Interested applicants should send in pdf format, a cover letter indicating why you are interested in the lab, a cv, and pdfs of published work to graveley@neuron.uhc.edu.

Contact : [Dr Brenton R. Graveley](#)

Tel : 860-679-2090

Email : graveley@neuron.uhc.edu



Position available in Dept. of RNA Biology of the Max Planck Institute for Infection Biology at Berlin, Germany
Position posted on Sunday, July 16, 2006
Postdoctoral fellowship
microRNAs, sRNAs and bacterial infections

Applications are invited for a postdoctoral fellowship in the RNA Biology Group at the Max Planck Institute for Infection Biology. The aim of the research is to functionally characterize noncoding regulatory RNAs that play a role infections by pathogenic *Salmonella* species. This includes RNAs on the host side (microRNAs) as well as on the pathogen side (sRNAs). We are particularly interested in dissecting the mechanisms that underlie RNA-mediated regulation.

Applicants should hold a PhD degree, and should have a strong background in bio-chemistry and/or molecular biology. The fellowship (20,400 - 30,000 p.a., dependent on age and qualification) will be initially awarded for one year, with the possibility of extension by another two years.

The institute is located in the heart of Berlin on the historical Charity medical campus. It is well-equipped and has excellent core facilities. Berlin is a metropolitan city that offers a high quality of life, affordable accommodation and a vibrant cultural scene. We welcome applications from suitably qualified people from all sections of the community regardless of race, religion, gender or disability.

Applicants are also encouraged to informally contact the head of the group, Joerg Vogel, for more information on the planned projects. Applications, including a CV and the names and addresses of two academic referees, should be sent by regular mail or email to:

Max Planck Institute for Infection Biology
Personalabteilung - PhD Studentship Vogel
Schumannstrasse 21-22
10117 Berlin, Germany
e-mail: job@mpiib-berlin.mpg.de

Contact :

[Dr Joerg Vogel](#)

Tel : +49-30-28460-265

Email : vogel@mpiib-berlin.mpg.de

Position available in Dept of Molecular and Structural Biochemistry of the North Carolina State University at Raleigh, United States
Position posted on Monday, July 03, 2006

Postdoctoral positions are available immediately as a member of a research team, investigating structure/function relationships of RNA, RNA/RNA and RNA/protein interactions. RNA structure and interactions will be studied using NMR-manageable experimental systems, DSC, ITC, CD and other spectroscopy. Applicants should have demonstratable macromolecular NMR experience. Our NMR equipment includes: 500 MHz, and 600 NMR instruments and access to 800 MHz, software for processing data and restrained molecular dynamics and molecular modeling. Initial appointment is for one year, with the expectation of annual renewal for a minimum of two years contingent upon review. North Carolina State University, within the Research Triangle of North Carolina, offers an excellent work environment and benefits. The RNA Society of North Carolina and that at NCSU are very active with collaborations and learning experiences. Salary is competitive and commensurate with experience. Applicants should reply by mail and/or e.mail with: a detailed resume, date available, detailed statement of experience-technical ability in NMR, and three letters of reference. Review of applications will be followed by interviews on-site and decisions made early Fall.

Contact :

[Dr Paul F. Agris](#)

Tel : 919-515-6188



Fax : 919-515-2047
Email : Paul_Agris@ncsu.edu

Position available in Dept of Chemistry of the Penn State University at University Park, United States
Position posted on Thursday, April 06, 2006

A post-doctoral position is available to study dynamic regulation of RNA processing by a small family of Arabidopsis hnRNP-type RNA binding proteins. This project is a collaboration between a plant biology group, headed by Prof. Sally Assmann: (<http://www.bio.psu.edu/People/Faculty/Assmann/lab/>), and an RNA chemistry group, headed by Prof. Phil Bevilacqua: (<http://research.chem.psu.edu/pcbgroup/>). The successful applicant will have the opportunity to expand his or her knowledge of biochemical and structural approaches to understanding RNA biology, and to investigate the roles of these RNA binding proteins in plant growth and development.

Applicants should have a Ph.D. in the one of biosciences or in a closely related area, should have published in international journals, and should have excellent communication skills. Applicants should have demonstrated expertise in RNA biology and/or protein biochemistry and in Arabidopsis molecular genetics. Interested applicants should send via e-mail a cover letter, a c.v., and pdfs of published or in press articles to abpostdoc@bio.psu.edu. Applicants currently residing in North America or Europe should also arrange to have two letters of reference sent to the same e-mail address.

Contact :

Dr Philip C. Bevilacqua
Tel : 814-863-3812
Email : abpostdoc@bio.psu.edu

Position available in Dept of Cell Biology of the Cleveland Clinic Foundation at Cleveland, United States
Position posted on Monday, February 20, 2006
Postdoctoral Position in the Department of Cell Biology, Lerner Research Institute, Cleveland Clinic Foundation

A postdoctoral position is available in the Ladd laboratory in the Department of Cell Biology at the Cleveland Clinic Foundation for a scientist with training in molecular and/or developmental biology. Research will focus on the role of pre-mRNA alternative splicing regulation in vertebrate heart development and heart disease using chick and mouse model systems. Good English language skills and a Ph.D. or M.D. in a relevant discipline are required. The position is available immediately and will remain open until filled. The Cleveland Clinic offers an excellent work environment and benefits. Initial appointment is for one year, with the expectation of annual renewal for two to five years contingent upon review. Interested applicants should send a cover letter summarizing research interests and career goals, curriculum vitae, brief description of research experience, and contact information for three references to Dr. Andrea N. Ladd, Department of Cell Biology, Lerner Research Institute, Cleveland Clinic Foundation, 9500 Euclid Ave NC-10, Cleveland, OH 44195 or via email to: ladda@ccf.org. For more information, please visit: <http://www.lerner.ccf.org/cellbio/ladd/>

Contact :

[Dr Andrea N. Ladd](#)
Tel : 216-445-3870
Fax : 216-444-9404
Email : ladda@ccf.org

Position available in Dept of Bacteriology of the University of Wisconsin-Madison at Madison, United States
Position posted on Thursday, February 16, 2006



A Post-Doctoral position is available immediately at the University of Wisconsin-Madison in the laboratory of Dr. Karen Wassarman to investigate the role of small noncoding RNAs and how they function in bacteria. The small RNA field has expanded significantly over the last several years - both in terms of identification of many new small RNA genes in all organisms as well as highlighting the significance of when and how they function. Our interests include the involvement of RNA regulators in controlling gene expression in bacteria, particularly in response to changing environmental conditions. We utilize biochemical, genetic and molecular approaches to elucidate important functions for novel small RNAs, their mechanisms of action, and the physiological consequences of these functions. The ideal candidate will hold a Ph.D. in Biochemistry, Microbiology, Molecular Biology or a related discipline. The candidate will be familiar with basic techniques to study RNAs in vitro and in vivo; experience in RNA-protein interactions is highly desirable but is not essential; prior experience in bacterial research is not required. The candidate must have strong oral and written communication skills and be able to work as part of a collaborative team. The initial appointment will be for one year with the expectation of annual renewals. Interested candidates should email a cover letter, cv, and contact information for three references to Karen Wassarman (wassarman@bact.wisc.edu).

The University of Wisconsin-Madison provides an exceptional research environment with a strong community of RNA researchers as well as a commitment to Microbiology. Madison, the capital of Wisconsin, is an exciting place to live providing a diversity normally associated with larger cities, yet retaining the comforts of its friendly, Midwestern location. Contact :

[Dr Karen Wassarman](#)

Tel : 608-262-8106

Email : wassarman@bact.wisc.edu



eJobs with the RNA Society



The RNA Society is pleased to provide an Employment and Careers webpage for the RNA community.

Postings are free to members of the RNA Society. All advertisements are posted within two weeks of receipt and remain on this page for a three-month period. In addition, positions listed on this page are also published in our society newsletter as a free service and on a one-time basis.

- You may download the form as a Word document from the RNA society website (<http://www.rnasociety.org>).
- Please provide the requested information
- Name the completed form as LastName_eJobs.doc (for example, Genius_eJobs.doc)
- Return the saved file via email to rna@faseb.org.

Type of position (please click on one box to select category of job)

- Postdoctoral Fellow Positions Government & Industry Positions
 Faculty Positions Other Positions (*please specify*) _____

Description of position (include area of research, skills required, start date and duration of position)

Contact information (required)

Name _____ (*Must be a member to post on this site*)
Organization _____
Dept. _____
Address _____
City _____ State/ Prv. _____
Tel. _____ Fax _____ (*optional*)
E-mail _____
URL _____ (*optional*)
Signature _____ (*electronic signature of available*)
Date _____

The RNA Society has the right to reject job advertisements that they deem are inappropriate for posting on this site.



Invitation to Membership



The RNA society is the intellectual home for those interested in RNA Science. It was established in 1993 to facilitate sharing and dissemination of experimental results and emerging concepts in all areas RNA research. It is a multidisciplinary society, representing molecular, evolutionary and structural biology, chemistry, biochemistry, biomedical sciences, genetics, and virology as they relate to questions of the structure and function of RNA and of ribonucleoprotein assemblies.

We welcome new members from all areas of scientific research and we look forward to sharing the new perspectives they bring to the Society.

There are many benefits to being a member of the RNA Society. These include:

- Print copies and web access to the Society journal, *RNA*. *RNA* has an Impact Factor of 6.1 and is now ranked above such journals as *Journal of Molecular Biology*, *Journal of Virology* and *Biochemistry*. *RNA* has an excellent immediacy index, a measure of the speed with which published papers are cited.
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