

RNA Society

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From the Desk of the President, Manny Ares



It's nearing time again to mark another season of RNA study, discovery, and sharing. As is all too familiar with each of us, the time to submit papers one hopes to see published by December is running low. Those of us with teaching and other "institutional" duties that will capture our attention in the fall are watching the useful days left in the year dwindle down to a precious narcotic few. What better time to reflect on where we, as a Society, have been this unusual and transitional year?

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One place the RNA Society went that we had never been before was Asia. The 16th RNA Society Meeting was held in Kyoto, Japan jointly with the 13th meeting of the RNA Society of Japan. What a locale! What hospitality! And the science! The elite team of organizers did an amazing job of bringing it



all off, including **Melissa Jurica**, **Lynne Maquat**, **Yoshi Nakamura**, **Haru Siomi**, **Eric Westhof** and **Jamie Williamson** as the scientific organizers, and the outstanding staff. In particular **Yoshi** was amazingly patient and generous in his navigation of the whirlpools and currents that inevitably form as the confluence of many cultures takes place. We could not possibly have hoped for a more gracious host.

What meeting would be complete without awards and prizes? With so much great science being presented, deciding on "the best" is NP-hard. But the process is important because it forces us to put voice to our internal judgments and to balance them against the scientific value systems of our colleagues in open court. Thus, prizes are not just a powerful sign of accomplishment for the recipient, but also serve as a marker of the value systems of the awarding body.

When done right, judging posters takes substantial amounts of valuable (and limited) meeting time. Our august judging panel was **Alain Lederach**, **Jon Staley**, **Kiyoshi Asai**, **Marina Rodnina**, **Nils Walter**, **Reiko Sugiura**, **Renee Schroeder**, **Thomas Preiss**, **Toshifumi Inada**, and **Tsutomu Suzuki**, a truly powerful group of intellects. These folks, simply by their willingness to participate,

demonstrate their commitment to excellence in RNA research. By engaging the presenters, then debating the virtues of the many presentations with each other, and coming to difficult decisions, they provide a wonderful service to all the student and postdoc poster presenters and to the Society at large. Please see p8 for details on those Junior Scientists acknowledged for their scientific accomplishments.

The **2011 Lifetime Achievement Award for Service** winner was **Evelyn Jabri**, our former Chief Executive Officer. Please see the separate piece (on p 7) in this newsletter extolling Evelyn's numerous and outstanding contributions to the RNA Society over the last few years. Although I erred grievously in Kyoto, forgetting to deliver the detailed introduction of Evelyn I had written out and stuck in my back pocket, I plan to make it up to her there!

A highlight of the Award Ceremony was the address by **Witold Filipowicz**, the recipient of the **2011 Lifetime Achievement Award for Research**. I cannot recall when the Society started doing this or at whose behest, but I have always found the stories to be scientifically enlightening as well as highly entertaining. For the details on Witek's talk, called "**Catch and Play with RNA**", please see the separate piece in this newsletter (on p 4).

After the talk, we walked across to the Banquet room for the kind of camaraderie and relaxation that arises



from the group survival of a large meeting. At the banquet the organizers fulfilled one final obligation:



the ceremonial opening of the giant wooden cask of sake, a process that involves the wearing of special vestments and the wielding of mallets (do not try this at home). All went well and soon the bounty was ladled into our traditional square wooden sake cups (emblazoned with the meeting logo—a great souvenir!) for the toasts. After that we were treated to an amazing performance by the Geiko, the keepers of traditional Japanese dance and song who performed the firefly lantern dance (please no jokes about luciferase), and a song of longing for Gion, the ancestral home of the Geiko. Dinner was excellent (who noticed they were eating sea urchin ovaries? yum!) and much merriment was made. I heard about some after-hours karaoke escapades that went well into the Kyoto night and morning, but am sworn never to tell about them. I left Kyoto hoping soon to return.

Before closing these remarks, I would like to say how pleased I have been with the work of our new CEO, Jim McSwiggen. Being CEO of group whose members are energetic, full of ideas, and all around hard core about RNA is no small task. Anyone with an idea about how to make the Society better, no matter how small, can and should bring it to Jim. Now that Jim has had a little time to get the feel of the position, I see him becoming more skilled at validating the opinions of members and volunteers, hearing them, supporting them as contributors, and bringing their ideas to the Board for consideration. Of course, once Jim gets the Board's recommendations, the "executive" part of the CEO job kicks in. Jim has been excellent in this area, with full details, analysis and follow-through. I think we are very lucky to have Jim on board! I hope to see you all in Ann Arbor for the 2012 meeting.



Contribute to *RNA*, our Society journal!

Have you published in The *RNA* journal (<http://rnajournal.cshlp.org/>) lately? As a reminder, members received reduced publication and open access fees.

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.



From the Desk of the CEO Jim McSwiggen

It was really great to meet many of you at the RNA 2011 conference in Kyoto, Japan. I believe that the



conference was a big success, and I wish even more of you could have joined us. Now we are turning our attention to preparing for next year's RNA 2012 conference in Ann Arbor, Michigan, as well as working on

plans for future conferences and some other initiatives that I will describe below.

Before moving on to new projects, I have one final report to make regarding the RNA 2011 conference in Kyoto. At the beginning of July, I sent out a request to all the RNA 2011 participants asking that they take part in a survey on what they liked and didn't like about the conference. Happily, almost 45% of the conference attendees actually filled out the survey. I studied the responses, and I read each and every comment. Below is my summary of how people responded, but you can also look at the results yourself, if you like, by clicking [here](#).

First of all, I was happy to see that the survey response was not biased towards one particular interest group. Roughly the same cross-section of people responded to the survey as attended the conference. The gender ratios were the same; the ratios of grad students, post docs, professors and others were similar; and for the most part, the country representation was the same.

Most aspects of the conference were rated average or above average. Not surprisingly, the big exception was the food quantity, which was rated very low. We certainly plan to watch out for this issue at future conferences, but venue variability will always be a challenge if we choose new venues for our conferences. Attendees thought that the number and quality of both plenary and other talks were just

about right. People generally did not want the plenary talks confined only to the first night, and two different session formats were equally favored: the 15 minute chair overview with or without a 25 minute plenary talk. There also was a fairly positive attitude about all forms of corporate sponsorship, although the sponsored seminars received a slightly lower positive mark both in the ranking and in the comments. Finally, about 80% of the respondents think they are likely or very likely to attend another RNA Society conference in the future, but only about 40% think that will be next year in Ann Arbor. That's probably to be expected; it seems that the North American conferences draw mainly from the United States (65% US attendees for RNA 2010 in Seattle), while the European conferences are likely to draw mostly from Europe, and the Asian conferences mostly from Asia (47% Asian conferees for RNA 2011).

The comments made by respondents were also very informative. Naturally, there were a lot of comments about the food, and they have been noted. The need to have coffee and water at all of the coffee breaks was also heard loud and clear. A number of commenters also were annoyed to find that hotels were cheaper if they were booked outside of the conference. I suspect that this was due to a loss of hotel business as a result of the earthquake. As a consequence, the hotels dropped their prices to attract more customers, while the contracted conference rates stayed the same. I will be talking with hotel providers at future venues to ensure competitive rates for meeting attendees.

People also indicated an interest in conferences that are smaller and more focused, but also cheaper and in more interesting places ... In other words, a big set of conflicting wishes. One possible way to improve future conferences is to have more outside financial support. This year's conference demonstrated that the RNA Society could be successful in obtaining corporate support. I will be



looking to find more outside financial support for the conferences in the coming months.

In other news, we are currently in the process of updating the RNA Society web site, reviewing the Society bylaws for possible updates, and looking for new ways to build our membership. The web site is still in early design stages, but we hope to have something available for viewing by September. After that, we will be adding new functionality for easier access to the information that you consider most important. I plan to send out a survey after the site is up to find out what you like and don't like, so that we can better structure the site to meet your needs.

The new membership initiative is the last most important thing that we have going on right now.

The Membership Committee (Chair Kim Dittmar, Roy Parker, Nils Walter & Marc Schneider) has come up with some great immediate-term suggestions for increasing Society membership by encouraging new members and retaining existing members, and I will be working to implement those proposals over the next half year. We also will be reaching out to you for more ideas on how to make the RNA Society a place where all RNA scientists want to join and remain members. More members would mean a more vibrant community, more affordable conferences, and more opportunities to help young scientists in their research. I am looking forward to working with the Membership Committee, and with you, to continue building our Society.



Meetings Report RNA 2011 Kyoto Japan

RNA Society 2011 Lifetime Achievement in Science Award Witold Filipowicz

One of the fun things RNA Society Presidents get to do is introduce the winner of the Lifetime Achievement Award for Research, and then, listen to the talk. This year the Awards Committee selected Witek Filipowicz, who told us the story of his scientific career (only to date—not nearly done!) in a presentation called **"Catch and Play with RNA"**.



The tradition of selecting someone with years of experience and accomplishment to speak from both their personal and scientific viewpoints is now a well-established high point of the annual RNA Society Meeting. For me these talks are a window into the timeless, technology-independent, human elements of the scientific enterprise. Hearing such stories as an undergraduate and grad student, I marveled at how one could even hope to get good answers using the primitive methods of days gone by. But of course they could and did. Having now witnessed multiple technological revolutions, I see many students wondering anew how we got anything done back then ("Wait—you mean you had to

sequence it yourself??"). What is it that stays the same about science as technology routinely rearranges the landscape? The answers seem to come from talks like the one that Witek gave, in which the immutable lessons of old still gleam brightly in the too-slowly retreating darkness.

Witold Filipowicz earned his M.D. degree from the Medical University, Lodz, Poland in 1968. In 1973 he received his Ph.D. from the Institute of Biochemistry and Biophysics, Polish Academy of Sciences, Warsaw. He spent his postdoctoral years in the U.S. with Severo Ochoa, as the "científico polaco" of NYU (apparently this nickname was considered a humorously ironic oxymoron by Witek's mostly Spanish colleagues), and with Aaron Shatkin at the Roche Institute of Molecular Biology in Nutley, NJ. In 1976 he returned to Warsaw and took a position at the Institute of Biochemistry and Biophysics. In the early 1980s he took a "sabbatical" from Soviet Bloc science, crossing the Iron Curtain and returning to the Roche Institute in New Jersey before accepting his current position at the Friedrich Miescher Institute for Biomedical Research in Basel in 1984. Witek's many scientific accomplishments include: co-discovering

científico polaco

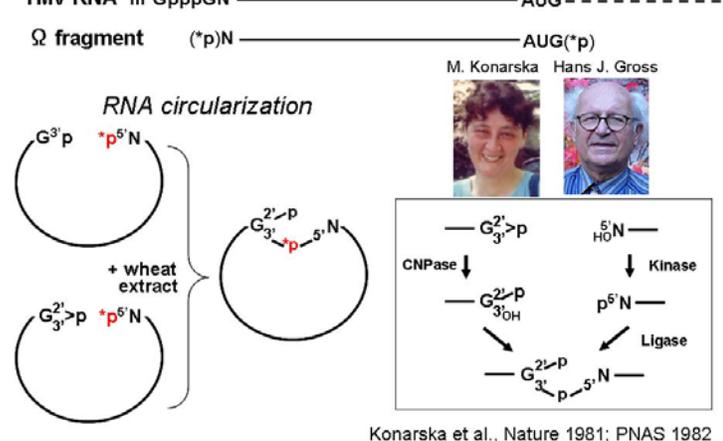


with Severo Ochoa's group in US, 1974-76



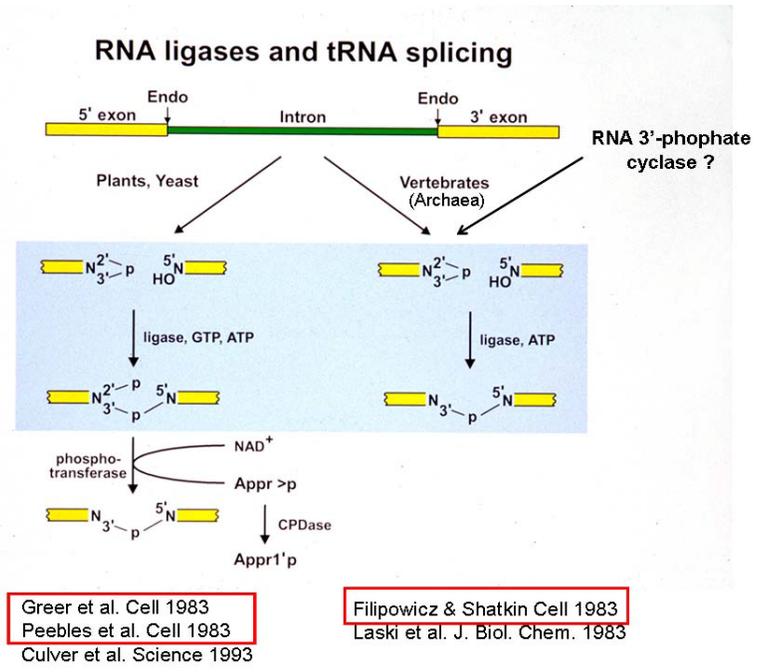
mRNA cap binding protein, elucidating the biochemical pathways of tRNA splicing using the wheat germ and HeLa systems (with Magda Konarska, in collaboration with Hans Gross and Aaron Shatkin), characterizing RNA splicing and U snRNA biogenesis in plants (Greg Goodall), and intronic snoRNA biogenesis in mammals (Tamas Kiss), establishing a mechanism of dsRNA cleavage by Dicer (Haidi Zhang), providing evidence that microRNAs repress translation (Ramesh Pillai), and that miRNA repression is a reversible process (Suwendra Bhattacharyya). He remains an influential contributor to this field as demonstrated by his recent findings on the regulated turnover of microRNAs.

Witek opened his talk with a few general observations about how scientists go about their careers. He made a distinction between two types of scientists, the **grinders** who "stick through their whole scientific life to one topic, or even one enzyme, going deeper and deeper into the mechanism and biological function" and the **flower pickers**, who "who wander or stroll around, change their areas and models of research, getting side-tracked to satisfy their evolving curiosity". Finally, he pointed out that it is very possible for one person to be both at various times, and indicated that he was such a person.



In true grinder fashion however, Witek expressed some regret that he did not grind his already monumental work on the RNA 3'-P cyclase–ligase enzymes system to a satisfying conclusion (his lab dropped all but its RNAi and microRNA work in 2000). But his joy in the discoveries of others who owe so much to his earlier work, was abundantly evident. This joy of course exposed him as a practiced flower picker, since true flower pickers have only fond feelings for the projects they have left unfinished behind them. Ultimately, regardless of your scientific "type", Witek recommended you "pursue your projects to the end and never get discouraged."

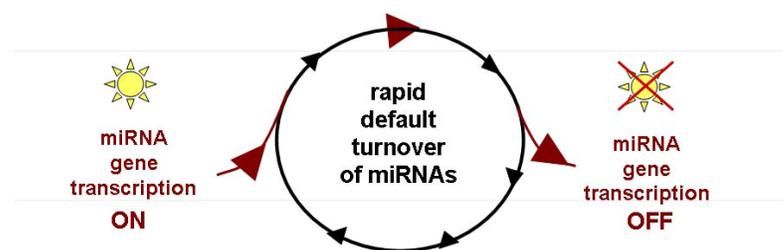
Witek then spoke about the RNA 3'-P cyclase and RNA ligase studies of the early 1980s. When I was a grad student at UCSD during that time, it seemed to me we had to listen to a great many (too many?) talks by Gayle Knapp, Richard Ogden, Peebles, Greer and the other Abelson lab postdocs about yeast tRNA splicing. After a few of these I was not so attentive, this being before my true RNA conversion, but I noted the hushed reverence with which they always presented the findings of the "Warsaw group" on this phosphate here going there, etc. etc. Apparently Filipowicz (or, as he said, rather his extremely gifted PhD student, Magda Konarska) was a miracle worker whose mechanistic studies in wheat germ and HeLa were one model for how tRNA (and at that time perhaps every RNA) was spliced. And amazingly all this was done on the far side of the Iron Curtain where who knew how you got what you needed. Witek provided some insight on this in his talk, revealing that his friends around the world would send him "care packages" with enzymes and (really?) radioisotopes.



A consequence of this difficulty according to Witek led to one of the important discoveries about the ligase. In the time before SP6 and T7 transcription methods to make RNA substrates, the lab was isolating a 70 nucleotide T1 nuclease resistant fragment from the tobacco mosaic virus genome called the omega fragment. Given the very limited amount of T1 gifted to the lab, a rather minimum amount of enzyme necessary to produce the fragment was used. Still, this product sometimes worked well as a ligase substrate—ligase activity was detected by conversion of the linear fragment to a circle—and sometimes not. It turns out that under conditions of excess T1 digestion, the initial cleavage product containing the 2', 3' cyclic phosphate is largely converted in a second step by the enzyme to the 3' phosphate form, an RNA that is not a substrate for ligase. Thus using just enough T1 to cut, but not so much as to convert the cyclic phosphate, revealed that the ligase needed the cyclic phosphate. I love this story in part because it illustrates the folly of what we call in our lab the "Lot'll Hypothesis". The Lot'll Hypothesis states that "If a little is good, a lot'll be better." In this case a little (required by the circumstances) was good, and a lot was quite a bit worse.

Witek went on to write the epilog to the story of RNA ligases and the RNA 3'-P cyclase, an enzyme that catalyzes conversion of the 3'-P to cyclic phosphate. These activities are highly conserved across diverse species and the full understanding of their roles remains elusive. Nonetheless, his group dropped this work in 2000 when the lab underwent a major transformation, focusing exclusively on RNAi and microRNA mechanisms. After pointing to some of the highlights of his work on Dicer processing and microRNA function, Witek focused on

Light-dependent regulation of miRNAs in the retina
(miR-182/183/96 cluster, and miR-204 and miR-211)



- miRNAs do not turn over fast in non-neuronal cells (primary retinal Mueller glia cells; RPE-1, ES, NIH3T3 cells)
- Do miRNAs turn over rapidly also in non-retinal neurons?

more recent work (done by Jacek Krol, in collaboration with Botond Roska) on the regulation of microRNA levels in the retina and in neuronal cells. I found this transition to be an amazing demonstration of Witek's flexibility and adaptability. It seems he cannot avoid making interesting discoveries no matter what he does. The latest results are so fresh and fundamentally critical (How are microRNA levels regulated? How are microRNAs turned over? Why are some more stable than others? How does glutamate regulate microRNA levels in neurons?) that it is clear Witek has much more to teach us in the coming years.

At the end of the talk I felt inspired. Here was a person of such passion, commitment and enthusiasm that success seemed almost an incidental byproduct of his work. I am sure that it was not as effortless as he made it appear. I vowed to try to take Witek's advice to heart—never get discouraged—and perhaps to smell, if not pick, a few more flowers on the way. Congratulations to Witek on receiving the RNA Society's 2011 Lifetime Achievement Award for Research.

Contributed by Manny Ares and Kim Dittmar



RNA Society Lifetime Achievement Award for Service 2011

Evelyn Jabri

Congratulations to Evelyn Jabri on this recognition of her outstanding service to the RNA Society! You might wonder as I did, how someone so young could be receiving a Lifetime Achievement award? It is like that joke about how many elephants will fit in a Volkswagen (Six: three in the front and three in the back). The simple



formula: Compress a lifetime of achievement into six years of heroic effort. No problem!

Evelyn was an undergraduate at the University of Colorado, Boulder and did her Ph.D. at Cornell. She went back to Boulder and did postdoctoral work with Tom Cech on the *Naegleria* GIR1 ribozyme. She then took a position at Indiana University in the Biochemistry Department. After four years there she became an editor at *Nature* and has been heavily involved in science communication and educational issues. She served as the CEO of the RNA Society for six years, from the start of 2005 to the end of 2010. During this time she also had a "real" job as

Assistant Director for Editorial Development at the American Chemical Society and became the lead Director for Editorial Development as of January 2011.

Evelyn took the RNA Society CEO position in 2005 with serious RNA street credibility and a positive and enthusiastic vision of what the Society could become. A highly consultative self-starter, it seems impossible now to give Evelyn as much credit as she deserves for the transformation of the Society from its initial embodiment to the Society we see today. During her tenure Evelyn oversaw the growth of Society membership by ~60%. She was instrumental in negotiating a number of improvements in the relationship between the Society and Cold Spring Harbor Press surrounding the journal *RNA*, including reduced publication charges and an open access option.

While Evelyn was CEO, the Society's financial position improved greatly relative to general economic conditions with our cash reserves increasing fivefold to >\$500K. One area in which Evelyn committed substantial effort was optimizing the annual meeting format and its financial structure. Her efforts likely directly resulted in increased attendance and meetings profitability. She was also a great supporter of the idea of smaller meetings and worked hard to assist subpopulations of the Society with her expertise and skill in pulling off such meetings.

Evelyn's prodigious organizational skills and her belief in the new electronic media helped establish a more open and rapid decision making process, in part through better electronic accounting of decisions, contracts, and discussions.

She shared a core belief about the RNA Society, which is that it should serve its junior members first, and helped establish a Junior Scientists Group to develop activities for this important segment of the membership. She helped develop an RNA & Society Dinner to address the broader issues that have a powerful impact on our ability to do our research and teaching. And of course you would not be reading this if she hadn't decided to start the RNA Society Newsletter!



I always found Evelyn to be relentlessly positive, willing to listen to any idea and seeing the best in it, presciently aware of our crazy quilt of personalities and a judicious navigator of that landscape. To my knowledge, she never missed a chance to follow up and follow through. She was tirelessly dedicated for every moment of her time as CEO. I guess that must be how you pack a lifetime of service into six years. Well-deserved Evelyn!

Contributed by Manny Ares

Scientific Achievement of Junior Scientists By Manny Ares

As described above (p2), identifying specific junior scientists to be singled out to be awarded special acknowledgement for their accomplishments is very difficult. Keeping within the parameters defined by the awarding bodies helps but makes this no easy task for the judges.

Nature Structural & Molecular Biology sponsors three poster awards in different topical categories. In the **Molecular Biology & Biochemistry** category, there was a tie between **Uli Ohmayer** (Comparative analyses of yeast pre-ribosomal particles to identify major ribosomal protein assembly events) and **Po-Jen Chen** (CPEB2 Interacts with eEF2 and impedes target RNA translation at elongation). In the **Genetics & Development** category, **Piotr Kozlowski** (Bioinformatic analysis of copy number polymorphism of microRNA genes in the human genome) took the prize, and **Yaser Hashem** (Cryo-EM study of the mammalian 43S preinitiation complex) narrowly beat out his other poster in the **Biophysics and Structural Biology** category.

Nature Reviews in Molecular Cell Biology sponsors a prize for the poster best demonstrating "**Innovation and Interdisciplinary Research**". The winner of this prize was **Shuntaro Takahashi** (Real-time monitoring of cell-free translation process using quartz-crystal microbalance).

Finally the **American Chemical Society Journal Chemical Biology** sponsors a prize for "**Innovative use of chemical biology applied to the study of RNA**". Again there was a tie (Did I mention it is challenging to make these decisions?) between **Brian Belmont** (Direct chemical control of eukaryotic translation with protein-binding RNA aptamers) and **Changho Lee** (Allosteric ribozyme capable of specifically inhibiting miR-122 functions only in HCV replicating cells).

This year's **Scaringe Award Recipients** were selected from a great group of junior scientist nominees who had made a **significant research contribution to the broad area of RNA**, as evidenced by lead student authorship on published research. This is a high honor, bestowed each year upon one grad student and one postdoc. This year the Awards committee selected (former) graduate student **Jasmine Perez**, (now a postdoc in Benjamin tenOever's lab) for her work on **the role of small RNAs in viral replication** (one of Jasmine's papers also won a **2010 Cozzarelli Prize** from PNAS). This year's postdoctoral winner is **Hani Zaher** (postdoc in Rachel Green's lab), whose work on **the structural basis for fidelity of translation** was recognized.

Congratulations to all winners – and thanks again to the judges.

Contributed by Manny Ares



Junior Scientist Meeting Report

The RNA Society Junior Scientist Committee is charged with addressing and voicing the interests of the RNA Society's younger researchers. This aspect becomes critical at a large, international meeting such as Kyoto. In what started at the Berlin meeting and has now become a tradition, part of the committee's responsibilities include planning some pre-conference activities consisting of a dinner and tour of the host city. With the tremendous help of Asako McCloskey, Marc put together a fantastic tour package that provided an opportunity for the young attendees to meet each other while experiencing some of the major Kyoto attractions.

Prior to the start of the conference, we met on Monday night for an informal dinner organized by Kim and Asako. The dinner was at an Izakaya, which is a Japanese style bar that also serves food



and originates from sake houses. Our visit featured several interesting dishes to share from, served against a backdrop of malt beer, sake and plum wine. An impressive turnout of over 50 young scientists spread across three large tables afforded a warm and welcoming atmosphere. Altogether a fitting start that provided some refreshment from the jetlag associated with the many long journeys to Kyoto.

Tuesday morning greeted us with a beautiful, sunny day for the start of our tour. As more young scientists arrived, our tour group evolved. A new mix of 50 young scientists stormed Nijo Castle and the Ninomaru Palace, which served as the residence and seat of the Shogunate. The castle was a vast

complex enclosed by two sets of broad walls and moats. The palace displayed impressive gold leaf ornamentation, wall paintings on the sliding walls



and even squeaky Nightingale floors (to prevent sneak attacks from assassins). The castle grounds featured several tranquil gardens and ponds. Evidently the fame of the RNA Society preceded our visit, as several of us were interviewed by school children on a field trip. In exchange for answering questions pertaining to our favorite Japanese food or comics, we were given a postcard or a small origami piece and posed for a photo.

We next journeyed via subway to Gion, home of the geisha (or geiko in Kyoto) and maiko dancers and birthplace of kabuki theater. Along the way we picked up some lunch, walked along the Kamo River



and wandered about Maruyama Park. After lunch, we walked from the park towards Kiyomizudera temple. The walk itself seemed quintessential Kyoto: a narrow street flanked by traditional

wooden shops, ryokan (inns) and the occasional shrine; all cast afire in the glow of the golden hour. It was here that we encountered our first geisha, however after posing for many photos it was pointed out that they were fakes. This was revealed by the hair and the makeup. However, it was nice of them to pose for photos with several of our scientists.

We finally reached Kiyomizudera temple, said to be one of the most beautiful in all of Japan. It is also quite popular; our humble group was nearly engulfed by hordes of visiting school children, all seeking yet another interview. The temple was built in 780 on the Otowa waterfall from which Kiyomizudera (“Pure Water Temple”) is named. Attached to the main hall is a large wooden terrace that overhangs above the hillside some 50 feet below and provides a superb view of the city. The waterfall is partitioned into three streams, which visitors can drink from using metal cups affixed to long poles. Each stream is supposed to bring health, longevity, or wisdom – though it is considered poor form to drink all three. With that our sightseeing tour concluded, leaving just enough time to race back for the opening session of the meeting.



On Friday we held our career development lunch. This year we decided the lunch would focus on “international careers in science”, selected to coincide with the meeting’s international spirit. We invited a diverse panel of participants whose experience in the US, Europe and/or Japan provided a perspective on the practice of science. The panel consisted of Drs. David Rueda (Wayne State University, US), Hiroaki Suga (University of Tokyo, Japan), Fatima Gebauer (Centre for Genomic Regulation, Spain) and Yohei Kirino (Cedars-Sinai

Medical Center, US). We thank Shintaro Iwasaki for his help in moderating the session. After a brief introduction, each panel member discussed their background and formative experiences training and working in different countries. Among the topics discussed were the differences in scientific culture/organization, funding practices, career paths and publishing. We even learned that letters of



recommendation carry different weights depending on which country they originate from. The panel’s discussion was followed by an audience question session, which brought up the role of women in science and various lifestyle choices involved in an international career. The lunch concluded with the panel’s consensus advice to young scientists interested in an international career to work hard and persevere. We would like to thank our panel members and audience for making this year’s lunch a great success.

Our two post-doc representatives Kim and Marc are retiring from the committee with our heartfelt thanks for the years of hard work and dedication. They will both remain active in the Society as part of the Membership Committee (chaired by Kim). We are asking for volunteers to serve as post-doc representatives for the next two years. If you are interested, please contact us. Serving as a representative involves attendance at the meeting and assistance in planning the junior scientist programming described here. We also prepare short pieces for the bi-annual newsletters. Other than that, we are trying to have a more active Facebook group throughout the year and as a representative you can



generally act as a contact for junior scientist members to give feedback about the Society. 2012 looks to be another great year for the RNA society. The continued success and growth of the society is due in part to the contributions from our fellow post-docs and graduate students. If you

would like to get involved or share any ideas concerning the RNA Society please contact us and/or join our Facebook group (“RNA Society Junior Scientist Members”). We are looking forward to next year’s meeting in beautiful Ann Arbor, Michigan and hope to see you there!



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Chairman of the Meetings Committee David M.J. Lilley

Without doubt everyone came away from the meeting in Kyoto a few weeks ago feeling that he or she had had a truly memorable experience, both scientifically and culturally. I personally felt that the balance of longer overview talks and the short



presentations (really the bread and butter of our meetings) was just about perfect, and the team of organizers led by Eric Westhof put together an excellent program.

Socially the meeting was no less wonderful, culminating in the spectacular Japanese banquet. The fusion of the RNA society with our hosts the Japanese RNA society worked brilliantly and huge credit goes to Yoshi Namamura for all the organization and fund raising that lay behind this success. Lastly the venue itself contributed to the entire experience. The lecture theaters were excellent, the A/V services faultless and the poster hall was the best we have ever used.

When I took on the job of honorary chair of the meetings committee one of my first goals was to look into taking our annual conference to Asia for a first time, so with the Kyoto meeting completed I have completed a full cycle. A sounding of our membership had shown that there was an enthusiasm for going to Asia, but this was uncharted territory for us. However with the unqualified success of the Japanese meeting it is clear that this works very well, and can be considered again for the future. Of course given the balance of the membership we must also meet regularly in locations to which American and European postdocs and graduate students can attend in significant numbers. But we can now seriously consider returning to Asia in say four years time. I encourage bids from Asian venues with the necessary facilities and local RNA interest to contact me. I can supply a document that outlines all the requirements.

Before I leave the topic of Asian meetings, perhaps I could just mention here that I am organizing a conference on Riboregulation in Shanghai in the fall of next year; that is advertised elsewhere in this Newsletter (see p 23). We hope to see as many of you as possible attend this meeting that is supported by the RNA Society. Let's continue our engagement with the Asian RNA communities.

Next year we shall return to the US, but to a new venue in Ann Arbor, MI. This will be organized by Rachel Green (lead), Nils Walter, Melissa Moore and Gerhard Wagner, and planning is now well advanced. This meeting should have the mid-western campus feeling of a Madison conference, and will be very accessible for large numbers of US-based scientists. For those who might have felt that Japan was perhaps just a little too far to go this year, please come next year to Ann Arbor. I shall say more about this meeting in the next newsletter.

In 2013 we return to Europe, to Davos, Switzerland. This promises to be another excellent venue, and Jim McSwiggen and I shall be visiting the site later this month with the lead organizer Frédéric Allain. We have just finalized the composition of the organizing committee for this conference, who are Witek Filipowicz, Sarah Woodson, Adrian Krainer and Osamu Nureki, in addition to Fred.

Lastly we are in an active process of looking at venues for the 2014 meeting back in North America. I hope I can say more about this quite soon.

I guess my final word has to be about Kyoto again. I think we all left this meeting with a warm glow, and the feeling that we had experienced a very special event. Thanks again to Eric Westhof, Yoshi Nakamura, Lynne Maquat, Haru Siomi, Jamie Williamson and Melissa Jurica, as well as the super-professional team of conference organizers. We shall remember the Kyoto meeting for a long time.

David Lilley
d.m.j.lilley@dundee.ac.uk



Thank You, Volunteers

The RNA Society both survives and thrives because of the efforts of many volunteers. Even though we hire out some of our activities (to FASEB, Cold Spring Harbor Press, and others), the key creative and decision-making activities are done entirely by Society volunteers. In this article, the RNA Society Board would like to acknowledge those efforts for 2010 and 2011. Please accept our sincere apologies if we've left anyone out.

Committees and Committee Chairs

A variety of committees help the Society carry out its essential functions.

- **Jim Bruzik** has been Finance Committee Chair and Chief Financial Officer for the Society since 2005. He acts as the interface with our business office at FASEB, seeks out corporate sponsors for our annual meetings, requests and approves payments for Society expenses, and generally ensures that we stay on track financially.
- **David Lilley** has been the Meetings Committee Chair since 2005. He leads the effort to find the next interesting place to hold our annual meeting while ensuring that the venue will be both workable and affordable. He is currently leading the deliberations for the 2014 meeting.
- **Kimberly Dittmar** was appointed Chair of the newly formed Membership Committee just this year. She is working with committee volunteers **Roy Parker, Nils Walter, and Marc Schneider** to find more and better ways to serve our membership and to encourage more people to join.
- The Nominating Committee is appointed by the president each year to search for the best candidates to run for our elected offices of President, Secretary, and Board Member. Most importantly, after identifying such candidates they have to convince them to agree to run for office. Last year (2010), this job was performed by: **Frederic Allain, Kurt Fredrick, Amy Pasquinelli, and Eric Phizicky**. This year the job was handled by: **Javier Caceres, William Fairbrother, Marty Fedor, and Yi-Tao Yu**. For both years an excellent field of candidates was identified and persuaded to run for office.

Conference Organizers

Our annual meetings just keep getting better, in large part due to the tremendous efforts of the volunteers who agree to organize the events. This year's meeting in Kyoto was a great success, despite the concern engendered by the March 11th earthquake and tsunami—followed by an ongoing nuclear crisis—that devastated Northeastern Japan. This year's organizers handled that crisis, and all the other issues associated with the conference, with aplomb and a lot of hard work. The RNA 2012 organizers are now hard at work preparing for next year's conference.

RNA 2010 Organizers: **Douglas Black, Juli Feigon, Elisa Izaurralde, Timothy Nilsen**
RNA 2011 Organizers: **Melissa Jurica, Lynne Maquat, Yoshikazu Nakamura, Haruhiko Siomi, Eric Westhof, Jamie Williamson**
RNA 2012 Organizers: **Rachel Green, Melissa Moore, Gerhart Wagner, Nils Walter**

Conference Volunteers

Other volunteers also help with specific projects at the annual meeting.

- Since 2005, **Lynne Maquat** has organized the RNA & Society Dinner (formerly the Women in Science dinner), which gives conference participants insight into an aspect of science that they might not otherwise encounter at a science conference.



- Each year the Society awards prizes for the best posters in various categories. Judges constitute an appointed Poster Prize Committee. This year (2011), the task of choosing the winning posters was accomplished by: **Alain Lederach, Jon Staley, Kiyoshi Asai, Marina Rodnina, Nils Walter, Reiko Sugiura, Renee Schroeder, Thomas Preiss, Toshifumi Inada, and Tsutomu Suzuki**. In 2010, the winning posters were chosen by: **Susan Baserga, Albrecht Bindereif, Marco Blanchette, Sam Butcher, Maria Carmo-Fonseca, Guillaume Chanfreau, Jeff Coller, Carl Correll, Wendy Gilbert, Rachel Green, Kristen Lynch, Oliver Mühlemann, Amy Pasquinelli, and David Rueda**.

Junior Scientist Reps & Advisors

The Junior Scientist Reps are graduate students and post-docs who are working diligently to gain a greater voice for junior scientists in the Society. They do all the planning and heavy lifting for junior scientist events at each of the annual meetings, among other things.

| | |
|---------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Grad Reps, 2009-2010 | Melanie Baker-Preston, Rea Lardelli, Heather Miller, Claudia Recinos-Seldeen. |
| Grad Reps, 2010-present | Eric Anderson, Peter Watson |
| Post-doc Reps | Kimberly Dittmar (2009-2011), Marc Schneider (2010-present) |
| Faculty Advisors (2009-present) | Marty Fedor, Karla Neugebauer |

Newsletter Editor

Brenda Peculis has been the Newsletter Editor since 2005. Twice a year she sends out reminders for articles to be added to the newsletter, then gently pesters the contributors until they complete their tasks. Finally, she formats the whole thing, adds pictures and quotes, and then sends it out for the rest of us to read.

Web Master

Fabrice Jossinet has been the Society Webmaster since 2005. He set up the current web site and continues to maintain it with new updates as the requests come in for conference notices and job postings. Unfortunately, Fabrice will be stepping aside this year. We're going to miss his contributions.

RNA Journal Editors, Board and Reviewers

What can we say? You all know what editors do, and you also know that it can be a lot of work. Contributors' decisions to submit top-quality manuscripts to *RNA*, and the editors' efforts to ensure that accepted manuscripts maintain the highest quality, has resulted in *RNA* having an ISI Impact Factor of 6.015 for 2010. It has also made *RNA* a good, consistent source of revenue for the Society.

This year has seen some turnover at the journal, with almost a dozen new volunteers accepting the post of Editor. These new editors will be taking a more direct role in shepherding manuscripts through the review process in an effort to allow Tim more time to monitor overall quality issues.

| | |
|------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Editor-in-Chief: | Timothy W. Nilsen |
| Editor: | Javier F. Caceres, Kathleen Collins, Elena Conti, Adrian R. Ferré-D'Amaré, Erik Sontheimer, Brenton R. Graveley, Rachel Green, Elisa Izaurralde, Daniel Kolakofsky, Rob Singer, Eric Westhof |
| Reviews Editor: | Thomas R. Cech |
| Editorial Board: | John N. Abelson, Sidney Altman, Manuel Ares, David P. Bartel, Brenda L. Bass, Philip C. Bevilacqua, Douglas L. Black, Thomas Blumenthal, Ronald R. Breaker, Chris Burge, James E. Dahlberg, David R. Engelke, Martha J. Fedor, Witold Filipowicz, |



Mariano A. Garcia-Blanco, Christine Guthrie, Matthias W. Hentze, Daniel Herschlag, Allan Jacobson, Walter Keller, Adrian R. Krainer, Alan M. Lambowitz, David M.J. Lilley, Reinhard Lührmann, Thomas Maniatis, James Manley, Lynne E. Maquat, Iain W. Mattaj, William McClain, Andrew Newman, Harry F. Noller, Norman R. Pace, Richard A. Padgett, Roy Parker, Marina V. Rodnina, Michael Rosbash, Phillip A. Sharp, Joan A. Steitz, Scott Strobel, David Tollervey, Thomas Tuschl, Olke C. Uhlenbeck, Juan Valcárcel, Alan M. Weiner, Marvin Wickens, James R. Williamson, Sandra L. Wolin, Sarah A. Woodson, Robert Zimmermann

We also thank the roughly 600 scientists who agree to review manuscripts for RNA each year. Their work is essential to maintaining the high quality of published papers in *RNA*.

To all of these volunteers—and to any that we might have missed—we offer our sincere thanks for all that you’ve done and continue to do for the RNA Society.

Sincerely,

The RNA Society Board of Directors.

James McSwiggen, CEO; Manny Ares, President; Roy Parker, Past President; Douglas Black, President Elect; Angela Kraemer, Secretary; Board Members David Brow, Kathleen Collins, Rachel Green, Narry Kim, Scott Strobel, and Gerhart Wagner



RNA Society-supported meetings

Reports from recent meetings supported by the Society :

2011 Gordon Research Conference on RNA Editing January 9-14, 2011

The RNA Society sponsored poster awards for the 2011 Gordon Research Conference on RNA Editing that was chaired by **Eric Phizicky** and **Kazuko Nishikura** this past January in Galveston, Texas. Awardees, their University affiliation and poster titles were:

Bhalchandra S. Rao, Ohio State University, Columbus, OH

Graduate student in the lab of Jane Jackman

Novel repair activities and regulation of Thg1 enzymes: New frontiers for 3'-5' nucleotide additions

Jessica L. Spears, Ohio State University, Columbus, OH

Graduate student in the lab of Juan Alfonzo

Trypanosoma brucei ADAT2/3 tRNA deaminase: Conserved active site residues, unique active site architecture

Alexander F. Lovejoy, Stanford University, Stanford, CA

Graduate student in the lab of Pat Brown

Identification of Nucleotide Modifications in mRNA in S. Cerevisiae

Jeffrey E. Squires, Victor Chang Cardiac Research Institute, Darlinghurst, Australia Postdoctoral fellow in the lab of Thomas Preiss

Discovery of 5-methylcytosine sites in mRNA and noncoding RNA by next generation sequencing

ASM Conference on Regulating with RNA in Bacteria March 7-11, 2011

The ASM Conference on Regulating with RNA in Bacteria took place in San Juan, Puerto Rico from March 7-11, 2011. The RNA Society's funds helped in general support of the conference, and when combined with other donors' contributions, enabled us to offer discounted registration fees for students and postdoctoral fellows while maintaining high standards for the meeting which were enjoyed by all participants. ASM is very grateful for the RNA Society's generous support.

Sixth Microsymposium on Small RNAs May 16-18, 2011

The Sixth Microsymposium on Small RNAs took place in Vienna, Austria from May 16-18, 2011. The Microsymposium combined long talks from Senior Scientists, like David Bartel and Tom Tuschl, with 30' presentations from young group leaders, a Workshop for selected PhD students and short presentations from company-representatives. The program can still be found online at: <http://www.imba.oeaw.ac.at/microsymposium>

We covered a nice range of topics including: "The plant session", "Bioinformatics goes in vitro and in vivo", "Talking to the editors", two sessions on "The multiple functions of small RNAs", two sessions on "Therapeutics and Technology", and two sessions on "piRNAs on the move." For the first time we had a poster session where 24 posters were presented. In addition, we enjoyed a fantastic violin concert and a dinner downtown.

The financial support from the RNA Society was used to support the PhD Workshop. The winner of the Workshop for PhD students was **David Weinberg**, from David Bartel's lab. He presented "The inside-out mechanism of Dicers in budding yeasts", which was recently published in Cell. Second prize went to **Lena Sokol**, from Nicole Meisner's lab. She presented "Successive tailing and trimming of RISC-loaded miRNA by the 3'UTR-binding protein HuR".

Next year's Microsymposium will take place in Basel, Switzerland, organized by Marc Bühler, Helge Grosshans and Nicole Meisner.



**PiCLS Annual Symposium
June 10, 2011**

The 2nd PiCLS Annual Symposium was held on June 10th in Dundee, UK. This successful event was organized by PhD students in the College of Life Sciences and it gathered more than 150 PhD students and 20 PIs. Talks were given by eminent stalwart speakers from a large spectrum of research fields in life sciences, including the plenary speaker and Nobel Laureate Sir Tim Hunt. Additionally, selected PhD students were given the chance to present their work either in a 10-



minute oral presentation or 1-hour poster session. Best Talk prize, kindly sponsored by the RNA Society, was given to the PhD student Susan Breen on her work about potato defence genes. The event was a great success with more than 95% approval of PhDs and PIs and for this the PiCLS committee is excited to announce the 3rd PiCLS Annual Symposium to be held in 2012. The photo shows the prize winners with Sir Tim Hunt.

**Translation UK 2011
July 5-6, 2011**

Translation UK 2011 was very successful, with 160 participants from UK and continental Europe who presented 20 talks and 69 posters. The topics spanned the mechanism and regulation of translation, including that mediated by microRNAs, mRNA localisation and decay. RNA Society funding was used to offer partial meeting costs to five graduate students/early stage postdocs - at least two of whom were from as far Dundee in Scotland.



RiboWest 2011
July 18-19, 2011

RiboWest 2011 took place at UNBC's Prince George campus on July 18 and 19. Peter Sarnow of Stanford University was the keynote speaker, and Benoit Chabot of the University of Sherbrooke was the Sherbrooke Invited Guest. This year's RiboWest had the largest attendance ever at UNBC, with 100 participants from as far afield as Ontario and Oregon. Topics highlighted at the meeting included microRNAs, the ribosome, RNA splicing, RNA modification, and RNA degradation, among others. Another special feature was a session on industry-academic collaboration, which featured talks from industry and academia on topics of potential commercial interest, as well as small group discussions on how to promote collaborations. This year's conference organizers were Stephen Rader and Andrea Gorrell of UNBC, and the meeting was supported by CIHR and NSERC, as well as a number of generous industry sponsors. More information, including dates for next year's meeting, can be found at:

<http://resweb.res.unbc.ca/ribowest2011/index.htm>

The organizers are grateful to the RNA Society for providing funding for talk and poster prizes. The prizes were awarded as follows:

Best Talk: **Sorana Morrisy** (Marra Lab) BC Cancer Agency Genome Sciences Centre

Extensive relationship between antisense transcription and alternative splicing in the human genome

Second Place Talk: **Kirsten Rosier** (Wieden Lab), University of Lethbridge

Using a combined in vitro and in silico approach to identify the catalytic residue in the universally conserved NTPase, YchF

Third Place Talk: **Qian Ren** (Jan Lab), University of British Columbia

Alternative reading frame selection mediated by a viral tRNA-like internal ribosome entry site

Best Graduate Student Poster: **Roshani Payoe** (Fahlman Lab), University of Alberta

Single Point Mutation in ACT-domain Affects Binding and Stimulation of Stringent Response Factor RelA on Ribosomes

Best Undergraduate Poster: **Lisza Bruder** (Mosimann Lab), University of Lethbridge

Crystal Structure of PhyA (Mitsoukella multacida) in Complex with Myo-Inositol Hexakisphosphate



3rd Place Poster Prizes: **Ashley Moore** (Russell Lab), University of Lethbridge
Characterization of small nucleolar RNA genes in the protist E. gracilis

Reem Skeik (Owtrim Lab), University of Alberta

Self-Dimerization Analysis of CrhR DEAD-Box RNA Helicase

Angela Fung (Fahlmann Lab), University of Alberta

Investigating Inhibitors for Aminoacyl-tRNA Protein Transferases

Michael Ungerer (Unrau Lab), Simon Fraser University

In Vitro Selection of Novel RNase P Cleavage Sites

Upcoming Meetings of Interest :

RiboClub 2011

September 19-21, 2011

Orford, Canada

http://riboclub.org/cgi-bin/OpeningSession/index.pl?page=opening_session

The program includes keynote lectures by Gary Ruvkun and Jennifer Doudna, poster sessions and 16 invited speakers on plenary sessions covering the following topics: RNA dependent regulation of translation, splicing decisions under stress, RNA dependent regulation of viral infection, RNA molecules associated with genome stability, structure and behavior of regulatory RNA and nuclear RNA degradation. Additional talks will be selected from submitted abstracts. The program also includes an after-dinner presentation by Peter Moore entitled "How We Got Here: an Informal History of the Structural Biology of RNA".

The RiboClub Society in collaboration with the RNA Society and the Canadian Society for Biochemistry and Molecular Biology has set aside funds for fellowships to support the travel of **graduate students and postdoctoral fellows**. Late registration will be accepted through September 2, 2011.

8th International Retroviral NC Symposium

September 18-21, 2011

Barcelona, Spain

<http://www.ncsymposium2011.org/>

After 14 years of intensive research since the first NC symposium, especially that dedicated to HIV, the purpose of this 8th International Retroviral NC Symposium is to exchange the latest results and ideas related to retroviral Nucleocapsid (NC) Proteins and functionally homologous proteins in other viruses. The Symposium will be held in Barcelona Spain at the contemporary art museum CaixaForum, giving the organizers the opportunity to provide you with a very stimulating atmosphere.

The topics to be presented will cover up-to-date concepts of modern biology, supported by the latest applications of physics and biotechnologies, in particular new microscopic methods. There will also be a special session dedicated to HIV-1 NC-related transversal research. Invited speakers have been selected for their outstanding contributions in the NC field. Organizing Committee: Jose Maria Gatell, Robert Gorelick, Sebastien Lyonais, Gilles Mirambeau, Delphine Muriaux, Karin Musier-Forsyth

2011 International Symposium on Aminoacyl-tRNA Synthetases

September 25-30, 2011

Salt Lake City, UT

<http://www.aars2011.com>

Snowbird Ski Resort has been selected as the site for the 2011 International Symposium on Aminoacyl-tRNA Synthetases. This beautiful location contains state-of-the-art conference facilities surrounding by mountains and beautiful vistas. It is easily accessible to travelers via the Salt Lake City Airport (SLC), followed by a short drive into the mountains.

Sessions will include: Structure and Function of the AARSs, Novel Roles for AA-tRNAs in Biology, Non-Canonical Roles for AARSs and AARS-Like Proteins, Novel Technologies, Translational Fidelity, AARSs in Plants, Organelles, Trypanosomes, Plasmodia and Beyond, and Beyond the AARSs and into the Ribosome.

Organizers: Tamara Hendrickson, Magali Frugier, Marie Sissler



Biomolecular Structure and Function Symposium at ACS Midwest-Great Lakes Joint Regional Meeting

October 19-22, 2011

St. Louis, MO

<http://mwrm2011.org/program.html#biomolecular>

This special, full-day symposium that will feature exciting talks on recent work involving nucleic acids and Speakers will include Hashim Al-Hashimi, University of Michigan, Christie Chow, Wayne State University, Robert Clegg, University of Illinois–Urbana-Champaign, Katie Henzler-Wildman, Washington University in St. Louis, Jim Maher, Mayo Clinic, Scott **Silverman**, University of Illinois–Urbana-Champaign, and **Jack Tanner**, University of Missouri.

Organizers: Cindy Dupureur, Dana Baum, Maria Nagan, Juliane Soukup

RNA Society of North Carolina Symposium: RNA Tool and Target

October 20-21, 2011

Research Triangle Park, NC

<https://www.signup4.net/public/ap.aspx?EID=SYMP25E&OID=50>

The 2011 Symposium on RNA Biology will include talks from:

Rob Batey, Univ. Colo. Boulder

Ben Blencowe, Univ. of Toronto

Jennifer Doudna, UC Berkeley (plenary lecture)

Liz Gavis, Princeton

Wendy Gilbert, MIT

John Rinn, Harvard

Branko Stefanovic, Florida State

Tom Tuschl, Rockefeller

Andrea Ventura, Memorial Sloan-Kettering

Jörg Vogel, Univ. of Wuerzburg, Germany

The deadline for abstract submission is September 16, 2011.

Corn Belt RNA Meeting

November 4 – 5, 2011

Columbia, Missouri

<http://muconf.missouri.edu/cornbeltRNA2011/>

The 2'-hydroxyl group thrives in the Heartland! Mark your calendars for the first annual Corn Belt RNA Meeting held on the campus at the University of Missouri - Columbia, on November 4-5 2011. The meeting will begin at 1:00 p.m. Friday, November 4, with keynote plenary seminar John Ableson and will continue until mid-afternoon on Saturday, November 5. Additional talks, selected from submitted abstracts, will be presented Friday afternoon, evening and on Saturday morning. The meeting is open to all RNA scientists from the Midwest and further away. Talks selected from abstracts submitted will emphasize presentations by students and postdocs. The schedule will encourage social interaction among the attendees at posters so posters from all attendees are encouraged. Participation in this 2-day event will require only one night's stay, making the meeting affordable for all groups, including those with limited travel funds. Funds from the RNA Society will be used to help defray costs for accommodations for students and postdocs.

For more information, please contact the organizers: Frank Schmidt schmidtf@missouri.edu, Brenda Peculis peculisb@missouri.edu and Don Burke burkedh@missouri.edu. Or search for RNA on <http://scienceevents.missouri.edu>



International Conference on Riboregulation

September 10-12, 2012

Shanghai, China

We shall hold a three-day conference in September 2012. The meeting will cover the areas of riboswitches, catalytic RNA and regulatory RNA (miRNA, CRISPR RNA), predominantly from a mechanistic and structural perspective. We hope that around 200-300 people will attend the three-day conference.

The following have already agreed to present plenary lectures during the meeting :

Jennifer Doudna UC Berkeley, USA

Hong Li Florida State University, USA

Scott Strobel Yale University, USA

Eric Westhof Strasbourg, France

Keqiong Ye, NIBS, Beijing, China

Further invitations will follow. In addition, we plan to invite a number of younger faculty to present shorter talks, and to chose contributed talks from submitted abstracts.

Narry Kim SNU Seoul, Korea

Dinshaw Patel Sloan-Kettering New York, USA

Jamie Cate UC Berkeley, USA

Adrian Ferré D' Amaré, NIH, USA

We want to keep registration costs for attendees quite low, particularly for local participants. Part of our goal with this meeting is to give an opportunity to young Chinese scientists to get exposure to international RNA research, so we want to make the meeting as accessible for them as possible.

The medical campus of Fudan University is located in a very nice area close to the French Concession, and well connected to the rest of the city by several new subway lines. There is good hotel accommodation a five-minute walk from the Institute for Biomedical Sciences, where the meeting will be held.

Organizers: David Lilley, Alastair Murchie



2012 Gordon Research Conference on "The Biology of Post-Transcriptional Gene Regulation"

July 15 - 20th 2012

Salve Regina University in Rhode Island

This meeting started in 2004 and has grown into one of the most successful GRCs in our field. It is held every other year and surveys the very most recent findings on all aspects of post-transcriptional RNA processing and its regulatory control, including miRNAs, lncRNAs, alternative splicing, translational control, control of RNA transport, localization, and decay, with respect to both normal cell function and in the many diseases of RNA metabolism. Approaches span the genomics and systems levels, through high resolution structure and single molecule dynamics studies, including emerging methods.

Organizers Manny Ares & Melissa Moore



Positions available

Postdoctoral positions :

Position available in Dept of Molecular Genetics and microbiology of the University of Texas at Austin , Austin, United States

Position posted on Sunday, June 12, 2011

A funded two-year postdoc position is available immediately in Arlen Johnson's lab at the University of Texas at Austin. We use a combination of molecular genetics, cell biology and biochemical techniques to study nuclear export and maturation of ribosomes. Projects include: understanding the coordination of ribosome assembly with nuclear export, ribosome transport and the interface between ribosome biogenesis and translation. I am seeking a highly motivated candidate with strong experimental training in molecular or cell biology with a strong publication record. Prior experience in protein purification is preferred. Interested candidates should email a cover letter, CV, and contact information for three references to Dr Arlen Johnson at [arlen\[at\]mail.utexas.edu](mailto:arlen[at]mail.utexas.edu).

Contact :

[Dr Arlen Johnson](mailto:arlen@mail.utexas.edu)

Tel : 512 475-6350

Email : arlen@mail.utexas.edu

Position available in Dept. Cancer Biology of The Scripps Research Institute , Jupiter, United States

Position posted on Thursday, June 09, 2011

Postdoctoral Position in Eukaryotic Ribosome Assembly

Research Description: An NIH-funded post-doctoral position is available to study the structure and function of essential proteins required for small ribosomal subunit assembly in yeast. A variety of in vitro and in vivo methods will be used to test models regarding the structure and function of individual assembly factors or assembly intermediates, providing training opportunities in diverse research techniques. This project is located in Prof. K. Karbstein's laboratory at The Scripps Research Institute in Florida. The Karbstein lab is a leader in the field of 40S ribosome assembly (<http://www.scripps.edu/karbstein/Karbstein/Home.html>).

Scripps Florida is a dynamic research environment where scientists with both academic and industry experience work collaboratively, ideal for the postdoctoral fellow who is undecided about future career trajectories.

Requirements: Applicants with published expertise in protein biochemistry, yeast genetics and biochemistry, or crystallography will be given close consideration. Funding is in place for up to 3 years. Please send a cover letter discussing your interests in the laboratory as well as your CV and list of 3 individuals as references to kkarbst@scripps.edu.

Contact :

[Dr Katrin Karbstein](mailto:kkarbst@scripps.edu)

Tel : 561 228 3210

Email : kkarbst@scripps.edu



eJobs with the RNA Society



The RNA Society is pleased to provide this job posting webpage to 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.

- Please complete this form using Microsoft Word by typing your text into the gray boxes, which will expand as you write.
- Name the completed form as LastName_eJobs.doc (for example, Jabri_eJobs.doc)
- Return the saved file via email to rna@faseb.org.

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

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

Description of position (please 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.

ZIP/Postal Code Country

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.

