

RNA Society

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From the Desk of the President, Juan Valcárcel

Dear Friends,

As many of you witnessed, the 2018 RNA Society Meeting was a great success on many fronts. The



UC Berkeley campus was a welcoming location, from the Jazz & Blues reception by **Harry Noller and the Riboband** to the final dinner and dance at the Faculty Club. We listened to inspiring advances in many areas of RNA

research and applications of the basic principles. From insights into the exquisite coordination between machineries involved in post-transcriptional gene regulation to the principles of phase separation in RNA assemblies; from widespread regulatory functions of small RNAs and their modifications, to the engineering of novel genomic editing tools to name just a few. (cont. p2)

In this issue :

Desk of the President, Juan Valcárcel	1
Society Annual Meeting in Review	4
Awards and awardees	4
Mentor Mentee Lunch	9
Mentor Program	10
Jr Scientist Highlights of RNA 2018	11
Desk of our CEO, James McSwiggen	15
Developments at the Society Journal, RNA	17
Chair of Meetings Committee, Benoit Chabot	18
Desk of Membership Chair: Kristian Baker	19
Award opportunities for Members	20
Thank You, Volunteers	22
Meeting Reports: RNA Sponsored Meetings	27
Upcoming Meetings of Interest	37
Employment	43



Adrian Ferré-D'Amaré, Atlanta Cook, Anne Ephrussi, Don Rio and Mihaela Zavolan also assembled a great mix of tradition and innovation, including inspiring Keynote talks by **Geraldine Seydoux, Mikiko Siomi and Jonathan Weissman,**



a prevalence of young dynamic session chairs, very interesting poster sessions and exemplary gender balance (an issue of the greatest importance, and a topic of on-going discussions among the Board of Directors). Society Prize winners **Jean Beggs, Andrei Korostelev and Erik Sontheimer** explained how their curiosity and intuition drove them to explore new threads, which in time became full new areas of research, and the importance that their pioneering efforts in establishing new technologies had in their careers. More on the participant feedback in the CEO's Desk (p.16)

We look forward to experiencing a similarly rich and motivating mix in a few months in Krakow, where the native Polish organizers **Witek Filipowicz and Artur Jarmolowski**, along with **Brenda Bass, Elena Conti, Tetsuro Hirose and Gene Yeo**, are already plowing the ground for our 24th Annual Meeting. Please make every effort to attend and convince your colleagues - even those outside of the RNA field - that our Annual Meetings provide unique opportunities in terms of science, professional networking and an optimistic view of the future of our field and careers going forward.

Unfortunately, shortly before our Conference we heard the very sad news of the passing away of our great colleague **Elisa Izaurralde**. Elisa was a passionate scientist who helped to write many pages describing our current understanding of mRNA metabolism, from capping to transport to decay. In the words of the poet Ida Vitale (and fellow

Uruguayan) her work spanned a broad area "going from the tight to the vast/ from the opaque to the spark". Elisa will be warmly remembered and greatly missed.

Elisa was also a dedicated mentor of students, postdocs and junior faculty, guiding by example of rigor and excellence and conveying the sense of opportunity that we have as scientists to understand the molecules and the regulatory networks that build our cells and organisms. Supporting our younger colleagues remains one of the most rewarding aspects of science. We were able to complete the pilot phase of the RNA Society Mentoring Program, receiving feedback from the year-long interactions of mentors, with anonymous summaries presented to the Board at the Berkeley meeting. We greatly appreciate the work of mentors and mentees during the Pilot phase. **Nancy Greenbaum** summarized the feedback from the participants (see p.10) and the Board agreed to create this standing Mentoring Program. We hope this Mentor program will continue to grow and will become another example of a continuously expanding program by members of the Society, as has occurred in the case of the RNA Salons and

Structured independent mentoring... can provide a fresh perspective on pressing topics...

RNA Spotlight series, both of which were spearheaded by **Kristian Baker, Ute Wieden-Kothe and Olivia Rissland**. Collectively, programs like this which engage and bring together our members are keystones to sustain our RNA community and strengthen the Society.

Structured independent mentoring, whereby an experienced mentor provides regular feedback to a small number of mentees who are not under their direct supervision, can provide a fresh perspective on pressing topics such as identifying a scientific niche for a young faculty member establishing his/her lab, the best strategy for a postdoc to apply for an independent academic or industry position, or whether or not to move to a new field after completion of a PhD. External mentoring should complement and add value to standard mentoring.



Please do not hesitate to take advantage of this community effort; see p10 and the [RNA Society Web site](#) for more details.

It has been my great privilege to work on behalf of the Society as President for the last two years. I want to express my personal gratitude to **Sarah Woodson**, who served for five years as President-Elect, President and Past-President, to **Jim McSwiggen**, whose knowledge and multitasking capacities as CEO have been key for the advancement of the Society in the last decade, and to **Brenda Peculis**, who as Society's Secretary remains our living memory and soul. The list of strong candidates who have volunteered to take up Jim's torch in 2020 speaks for itself of the generosity of our membership. We can also congratulate ourselves by the appointment of **Evelyn Jabri** as the Society's CFO. Evelyn was CEO before Jim's term, and is one of the most versed individuals on the history, inner workings and future perspectives of the Society.

We should be ambitious and work for our Society to keep growing ... as an instrument that can influence decisions relevant for the future...

I am thrilled that **Anna Marie Pyle** was elected as the next President and has accepted the responsibility to lead our Society for the next two years. In addition to her monumental contributions to understanding the architecture and dynamics of RNA, her generosity and vision of the future will push our Society to new frontiers. My last pledge to

you is to strongly support her initiatives because in an open Society like ours, any new advance remains critically dependent on the contributions from each and everyone of us.

...in an open Society like ours, any new advance remains critically dependent on the contributions from each and every one of us.

We should be ambitious and work for our Society to keep growing as an instrument that not only efficiently facilitates research and professional development but also as an instrument that can influence decisions relevant for the future of our societies. An instrument to convey both the exquisite beauty of Nature's architecture as well as the power that knowledge brings to solve pressing problems. An instrument to convey the unique time that new concepts and technologies are bringing to understand the molecular logic of life on earth, as much as to convey the need for our societies to be informed about the amazing prospects of technologies such as genome editing or RNA-based therapies. The current debate about whether gene editing should or should not be legally considered as a form of transgenesis, rather than similar to traditional breeding is a case in point with important implications for research, industry and human development. We hope that our Society will be an instrument to help scientists as much as to convince our fellow citizens to demand the free pursuit of research as part of their Bill of Rights.

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The RNA Society is pleased to welcome **Evelyn Jabri** as the Society's Chief Financial Officer. Evelyn stepped into the role in April of this year and is already working diligently to approve expenses, reorganize the Society's financial account categories, become familiar with our investments, and help review contracts. Evelyn will be familiar to many of the membership, because she was the CEO of the Society from 2005 through 2010. She is also the founder and lead strategist at E&A Innovation Group LLC, a consulting company established to address the cross-sector needs of science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) professionals and the organizations that serve them.



RNA 2018 in Review

Jean Beggs, RNA Society 2018 Lifetime Achievement Award

Jean Beggs, Wellcome Trust Centre, University of Edinburgh, Scotland, was awarded the 2018 Lifetime Achievement award by the RNA Society. At the annual meeting in Berkeley, she received the plaque and gave a short presentation that helped us appreciate the rather atypical pathway her career followed, as well as the challenges and research achievements that spanned gene cloning, splicing, transcription and now chromatin.



Jean attended the Glasgow High School for Girls, then went on to attend Glasgow University where she focused in the sciences. She soon realized that her high school science courses had not adequately prepared her for University so, while she did well enough in Chemistry, she failed math and physics at the end of the first year. Over the summer she did much studying, managed to catch up and, in second year, she decided to try biology. Biology turned out to be her real passion, and she went on to be top student in her class for biochemistry and physiology. She received her BSc in Biochemistry with Honors from Glasgow University in 1971.

For her PhD, she studied the metabolism of soil bacteria with **Charles Fewson**. She described Fewson as very strict; she was required to indicate in her notebook the lot number of every chemical used in the lab, including NaCl and to keep her hand-written notebook in duplicate, with the carbon copy stored elsewhere. While still at school, aged 17, she met her future husband, Ian, and they married on the day he graduated from medical school. She went on to do a postdoc at the University of Edinburgh then received a fellowship, allowing her to move to the Plant Breeding Institute in Cambridge, England. The first of her two sons was born while she was a lecturer in Biochemistry at Imperial College London.

In 1985, she and her husband decided to move their family back to Edinburgh, so she resigned her tenured position in London. While she was already an accomplished scientist, there was no open position for her there. However, she was offered laboratory space in the Department of Molecular Biology at Edinburgh University, then hired herself as a postdoc so she could be paid. This curious arrangement made her eligible to get a research fellowship, which she would not have been eligible for as a tenured faculty member. This unique pathway meant she was a ‘staff member’ for 24 years while she was also an independent researcher. Although Jean followed her husband as he relocated for his career, she never felt she was playing second fiddle; rather she saw herself as taking a chance, creating her own way, optimistic that it would all work out. Clearly it has allowed much great science to be done!

In 1998, Jean was elected a Fellow of the Royal Society (FRS), one of 40 people and one of only 2 women inducted that year. It was unusual for women to be elected FRS, and *The Times* listed her as John Beggs in the announcement of newly elected fellows. In 2006, to celebrate the Queen’s birthday, Jean was appointed Commander of the Order of the British Empire (CBE), and received the “decoration” or medal at Buckingham Palace. She explained that she is not allowed to wear this rather splendid decoration without approval of the Palace. Jean admitted that was not a problem with her, because she thought it really does not look very good on a t-shirt, anyway.



Jean then got down to describing her science, clearly demonstrating she earned all of her awards. She began with work she did in Ken and Noreen Murray's lab in Edinburgh. During her postdoc she worked with bacteriophage lambda as a cloning vector, mainly cloning bacterial genes. It was becoming evident that there were problems with expressing eukaryotic genes in bacteria (and they didn't know about introns yet!) and a system for cloning genes in an eukaryote was needed. She learned how to do southern blots from Ed Southern and did some of the early work with yeast 2 μ m plasmids with John Atkins. She was gathering (and creating) the tools that would allow her to move forward into uncharted research areas.

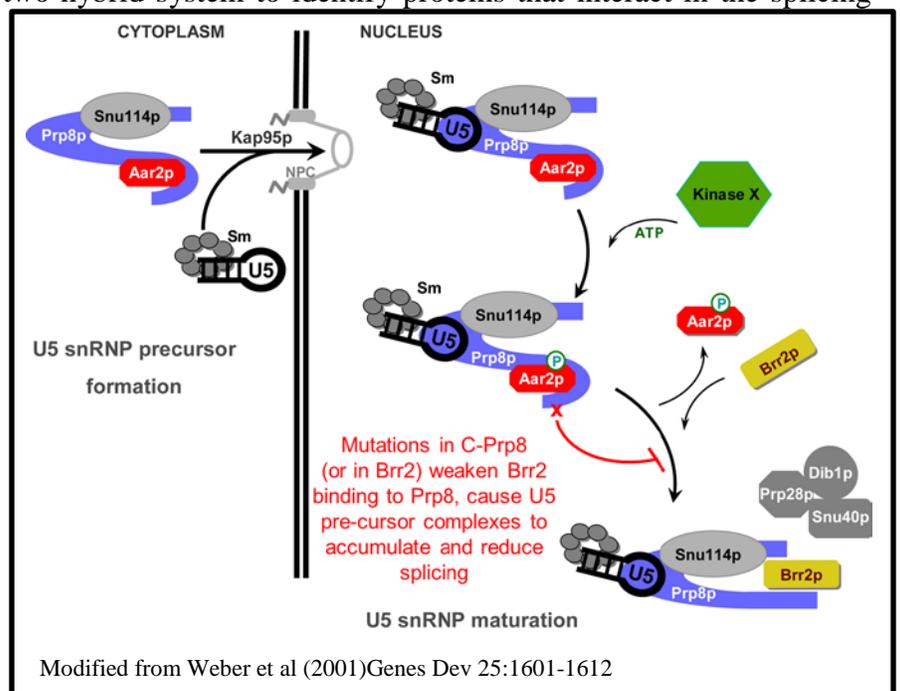


When she applied for a fellowship and was awarded funding to work in Cambridge, she interviewed with Sydney Brenner who asked what she wanted to do. She explained to him that she wanted to use the yeast 2 μ m plasmid to generate a cloning system for yeast. He said 'that won't work' and sent her away. Despite the lack of encouragement, she had funding and indeed went on to work with the yeast 2 μ m plasmid. She developed yeast cloning vectors using *LEU2* and *URA3* as selectable markers to create the first yeast shuttle vectors. That work resulted in her first paper in *Nature*, as a single author. The paper attracted some general interest, and a local newspaper described it with a title that created a different type of publicity than she was looking for, but she admitted that, other than the title, the science in the article was pretty accurate.

In 1977 introns were first described, and with the finding in 1980 that the yeast *ACT1* gene has an intron, it became clear that yeast has the machinery and the ability to splice introns. This was the birth of yeast as a model system to identify and characterize the splicing factors required for intron removal. Jean was among those at the center of that discovery process as she collaborated with a variety of other labs. Curiously, her next *Nature* paper described the *inaccurate* expression of rabbit chromosomal beta globin in yeast!

This also led to her application of a yeast two-hybrid system to identify proteins that interact in the splicing machinery *in vivo*. Jean and co-workers produced a manuscript reporting exhaustive yeast two-hybrid screens to identify a variety of interacting proteins. She said, unfortunately, one of the reviewers referred to it as "exhausting".

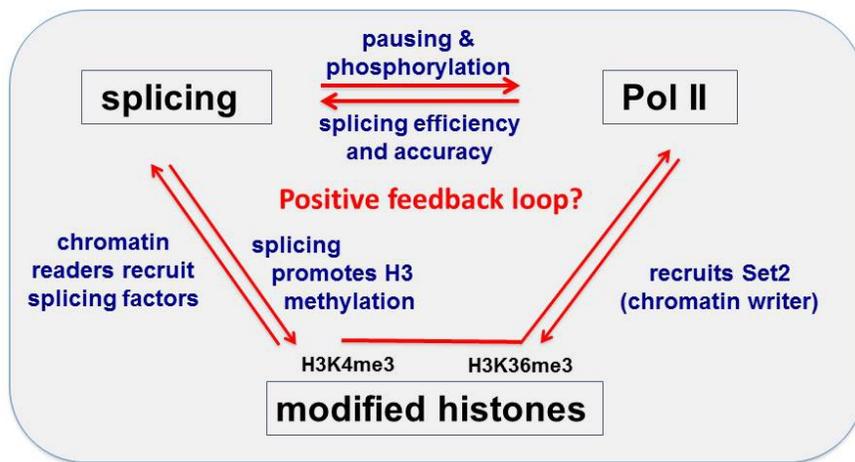
One of the first splicing factors to be cloned by Jean's group was Prp8, the first yeast snRNP protein to be identified. This is a huge, 280 kDa protein and it took nearly 3 years to determine the complete DNA sequence by Sanger sequencing (cutting edge technology at the time). Over time, the structures of Prp8 and of various splicing complexes were solved by others. Jean said it was gratifying to 'see' the protein and how it interacts with other spliceosome components, as this validated a lot of earlier genetic and biochemical studies and it all made sense.



As work progressed to identify proteins constituting the snRNPs as well as the interacting proteins, Brr2, an RNA helicase, was demonstrated to compete with another protein, Aar2, for interaction with the C-terminus of Prp8. In humans, mutations in the C-terminus of Prp8, and certain mutations in Brr2, are correlated with a form of degenerative blindness, retinitis pigmentosa. Data from Jean's lab, as well as that from other groups, demonstrated that these mutations in Prp8 or Brr2 cause problems in the maturation of the U5 snRNP, raising the possibility that the disease phenotype may result from a shift in the ratio of splicing complexes that affects splicing.

Starting in 2006, Jean coordinated a project funded by the EU to do "systems biology" studies of RNA metabolism. This opportunity brought into close collaboration the labs of **Tollervey, Kufel, Bertrand, Dichtl** and Beggs that had different interests in RNA biology and took various approaches to ask related questions. Their shared goal was to examine the kinetics of transcription, splicing and 3' end formation upon induction of gene expression and, in collaboration with computer scientists, generate mathematical models. Given the shared expertise and unique interests in their labs they were able to grow cells, induce expression and at various times, snap freeze the cells, allowing quantitative assays to be run identifying changes in the numbers of RNA

molecules per cell over a time course. These experiments led Beggs' team to a better understanding of a kinetic analysis of splicing and 3' end formation in yeast. The experimental design allowed them to clearly distinguish events before and after polyadenylation. A stochastic model suggested that 88% of reporter transcripts spliced co-transcriptionally. Moreover, splicing caused the polymerase to pause, apparently allowing more co-transcriptional-splicing to occur, and thereby increase overall efficiency. Later, 4-thio-U labeling experiments



demonstrated that Pol II elongation speed and the efficiency of splicing are anti-correlated, with ribosomal protein transcripts being particularly sensitive to transcription speed. Curiously, they found that ribosomal protein transcripts are spliced more efficiently and with higher fidelity than other transcripts, and proposed that this may ensure optimal ribosomal protein gene expression. Ongoing work is examining the features of ribosomal protein transcripts that may confer higher splicing efficiency and fidelity.

Finally, Jean's lab is now taking a more global look at relationships between splicing and chromatin structure, specifically methylation of histones associated with genes containing introns. Her lab is looking at links between splicing and chromatin modification using auxin-induced degradation of splicing factors, and examining the effects on the Set1 and Set2 methyltransferases that modify H3K4 and H3K36 respectively. They find that recruitment of Set1 and Set2 to chromatin is differentially affected when splicing is inhibited in different ways. Overall, it is clear that there are multiple interactions between splicing, transcription and chromatin, with the potential to control RNA metabolism through complex regulatory circuits.

Jean concluded her presentation by acknowledging all those who have worked with and for her and for the support of her family, colleagues and her reviewers.

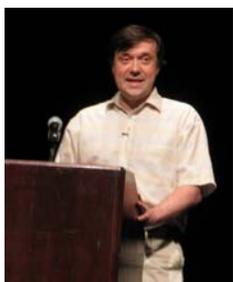
Beth Tran, RNA Society 2018 Lifetime Service award

Beth Tran received the **RNA Society's 2018 Lifetime Service Award**; she is the youngest member of the Society to have been awarded the Service award. Some of us feel we have 'watched her grow up' within the Society. She has worked at various levels for and within the RNA Society since about 2006. Beth was one of the first post-doc representatives and helped to create what is now known as the Junior Scientist group within our Society. She assisted **Lynne Maquat** with the first 'RNA Society Women in Science' forum (which eventually morphed into the Science and Society seminar) and has helped to organize the mentoring lunches. Most recently Beth was voted onto the RNA Society Board of Directors, just completing her 2-year term in 2017. We expect the Society will continue to benefit from Beth's contributions of time and energy!



Beth is an Associate Professor in the Department of Biochemistry at Purdue University (West Lafayette, Indiana, USA) with research interests in the biochemical mechanisms and biological functions of DEAD-box RNA helicases. Her laboratory is most well-known for studies of the DEAD-box RNA helicase Dbp2 from *S. cerevisiae* and insights into the roles of long non-coding RNAs (lncRNAs) in gene expression.

RNA Society Early- and Mid-Career awardees



The RNA Society awarded the **Early-Career Award** to **Andrei Korostelev** at University of Massachusetts Medical School, (left)

The **Mid-Career Award** went to **Erik Sontheimer** at the University of Massachusetts Medical School (right)



Both presented short talks at the opening night plenary session.

The RNA Society 2018 Scaringe Awards

The RNA Society/Scaringe Awards are open to all junior scientists (graduate students and post-docs) worldwide who have made a **significant research contribution to the broad area of RNA**, as evidenced by lead student authorship on published research, not restricted to any journal.

Prize: \$500 cash and a trip to the annual meeting.

This year's awardees include: **Madeline Sherlock**, graduate student awardee in **Ron Breaker's** Lab at Yale University for her work on *Orphan Riboswitches*.

Boxuan Zhao, graduate student awardee in **Chuan He's** Lab at University of Chicago for his work on *RNA Epitranscriptomics and m6A Methylation*.

Fuguo Jiang, postdoctoral awardee in **Jennifer Doudna's** Lab at the University of California, Berkeley for his work on the *CRISPR-Cas9 Genome Editing Complex*.



RNA 2018 Poster awards

Every year the RNA Society acknowledges poster presenters for “Excellence in RNA Research”. The journal Biochemistry and ACS publications are pleased to recognize junior scientists with six poster prizes; the Journal of Biological Chemistry provides two awards, and EMBO Journal and the RNA Society each provided one award. This year the Poster awards went to: (photos from left to right)



Biochemistry/ACS Awards

Y. Grace Chen, Stanford University; Circular RNA Immunity

Jamie Gilmore, Kyoto University; Nanoimaging of structural domains in long single-stranded RNA molecules

Eri Matsumoto, Tokyo University of Agriculture; AMPK affects alternative splicing via SRSF1 phosphorylation

Erick Nakagaki Silva, University of Cambridge; RBPMS: A Master Regulator Of The Differentiated Smooth Muscle Cell Alternative Splicing Program

Qingqing Wang, Univ of California, Berkeley; The Junction Usage Model (JUM): A method for comprehensive annotation-free analysis of tissue-specific alternative pre-mRNA splicing patterns

Briana Van Treeck, University of Colorado-Boulder; RNA self-assembly contributes to stress granule formation and defining the stress granule transcriptome



Photos, from left to right

JBC Awards

Jungyun Park, Hanyang University; UPF1-dependent microRNA-mediated gene regulation

Eric Van Nostrand, UC San Diego; Integrated analysis of eCLIP profiling for 150 RNA binding protein targets reveals RNA processing regulatory networks and novel protein functions

EMBO Journal

Malgorzata Rogalska, Centre for Genomic Regulation, (CRG); Self-regulatory network of the core spliceosome

RNA Society

Christopher Venters, University of Pennsylvania; HnRNP profiling reveals long introns' pivotal impact on mRNA production resources in human cells

Mentor-Mentee Lunch RNA 2018

Nancy L. Greenbaum

As at previous RNA Society meetings, this year's Mentor-Mentee Luncheon was a popular and productive event. A total of 165 mentors and 435 mentees participated in this year's MM lunch (55% of the ~1100 attendees at the meeting), an even higher fraction of total attendees than at previous meetings – and we even had a little bit of extra space for last-minute attendees. At the time of registration for the event, participants – students, postdocs, faculty, industry professionals and research staff – indicated their preference to offer or receive mentoring and selected their first and second choice of topic: relating to careers in academic research or in biotech/industry (or deciding between the two), teaching, balancing of family/career, and preparation of grant/fellowship proposals. Many of the mentors had contributed their expertise and experience to junior participants at a number of previous meetings, but we also welcomed a number of first-time mentors. As the membership and meeting attendance reflect a more international Society, so does representation of participants at this event.



As with the 2017 event, we mixed graduate students and postdocs at tables discussing career paths in research, teaching, and private sector careers (they had been at separate tables in the past). This year, though, for the first time, we combined all those pursuing research careers at academic institutions at all levels, *i.e.* included students seeking advice for postdoctoral decisions with postdocs seeking advice for faculty positions at the same tables. This change seemed to work out well, as it enabled more junior scientists to learn from the questions of those pursuing the next step and for those who were currently postdocs to share their experiences with graduate students. I welcome comments from any of you who didn't find the change helpful. Thanks to the presence of a large biotech industry in the Berkeley vicinity and the excellent special symposium on industrial careers organized by the Junior Scientists (see p 12), we had an abundance of mentors with expertise in private sector careers. For the first time, almost all junior participants who chose this area (or deciding between academics and private sector careers) were able to be accommodated.

We emailed mentors shortly before the meeting to remind them of the luncheon and to make suggestions for how to make the most of the table discussions. The only complaint was about sluggish food lines. We welcome your feedback, comments and suggestions for future MM lunches.

A challenge this year was that the only space large enough to accommodate 70 tables was the exceptionally noisy and chaotic cafeteria where we had most meals. The problem was resolved by arranging some eight or ten rooms at two different sites (thanks to Mary McCann of Simple Meetings and the organizers for making this possible!). In addition to the relatively quieter (and less crowded) environment in most of these smaller rooms, an advantage to this arrangement was that each individual room had a separate buffet table, eliminating the long lunch line experienced at the 2017 event. Tables generally included 2-3 mentors and 6-8 mentees, and every attempt was made to have male and female mentors at each table.

We thank all of the mentors for giving their time to support our junior scientists. I welcome any suggestions for enhancement of this event in the future, and I look forward to seeing you at RNA 2019 in Krakow!

RNA Society Mentoring Program Year 1 Summary: Feedback and Goals for future

This year marks the first anniversary of an exciting new Mentoring Program introduced by the RNA Society. Our President, **Juan Valcárcel**, had sought support from members of the Society's Board at last year's Annual Meeting to expand the range of Society-sponsored mentoring activities by creating a one-on-one program. As Juan wrote in last year's newsletter, "Supporting our younger scientists is one of the best services of our Society towards securing the future of RNA Research. The external Mentoring Program may, in due time, become an important instrument to sustain our field and further build our deep sense of community". The annual mentoring lunch may provide junior members with answers to questions about standard issues they face during career transitions (see the separate article on the 2018 Career Mentoring Luncheon p.9), but a single 1½ hour group event is far too limited to offer the in-depth mentoring many find critical for career development. The goal of this new program is to pair up junior scientists at a critical career stage with suitable senior member mentors. The intent was not to replace the traditional intra-institutional typically provided to young scientists during their PhD or postdoctoral training or when starting independent positions, but to enhance it by filling gaps in research field- or career path-specific mentoring that research advisors and faculty colleagues may not have topic-specific experience, or the uninformed perspective, to offer.

Our initial aim was to establish the feasibility, basic structure, and ground rules of such a one-on-one mentoring program. In this pilot phase, 20 junior scientist member mentees submitted applications in response to Juan's request in last year's post-meeting Newsletter ([Aug 2017](#)), and each was matched with a mentor. To speed along this first installment, the 20 mentors for this pilot phase were targeted individually from the Society's senior membership (almost all accepted immediately). The 20 mentees were diverse in their demographics: 45% were junior faculty members, 30% were postdocs, and 20% PhD students; 65% were working in USA or Canada, 20% in Europe, and 15% in Asia/Australia; and 35% originated from US

or Canada, 25% from Europe, 35% from Asia/Australia, and 5% from South America. In comparison, 65% of the 20 recruited mentors were from the US, 25% from Europe, and 10% from Asia/Australia.

Participants were provided with information about mentoring goals/tools, and were encouraged to communicate from November 2017 to May 2018, with an early check-up (Dec. 2017). We did not define preferred modes of communication (pairs chose email/Skype or in-person communication, depending on their locations). Mentees sought assistance with a wide range of problems: career direction, preparation of grant proposals, narrowing a research niche, seeking or adapting to faculty positions, interpersonal relationships with colleagues, considering changes of direction, and developing networking skills among them. Examples span from a young faculty member trying to identify a scientific niche, to a postdoc trying to decide between career paths in academia or in industry, to a PhD student wondering about the best strategy to apply for postdoc positions or to change research topic.

In April 2018, surveys were sent to all participants to assess: 1) modes and frequency of communication; 2) mentor/mentee "fit"; 3) overall effectiveness; 4) reasonableness of time involvement (for mentors). Only 15 pairs made contact, and several other mentees didn't pursue active communication for fear of "bothering" their mentors – so we now know how important it is to clarify the roles and responsibilities of both participants and to encourage mentees! Of pairs that communicated actively, 60% responded with very positive ratings, 30% had "mixed" results (often a mismatch of expectations insufficient communication), and several pairs had too little contact to achieve their goals. Most mentees felt their mentors were a good fit, and appreciated the experience their mentors could offer. Several mentors felt they could handle two or three mentees at a time; only one mentor felt that the time involvement was too great.



So – what have we learned? In addition to encouraging participants to be more proactive in contacting each other and to verify their commitment, we should: 1) provide more and clearer information regarding methods and goal-setting of structured mentoring; 2) establish suggested structure and frequency of communication; 3) encourage pairs to define goals and evaluation of their progress in meeting those goals.

We shared this information with the Society Board, and were gratified to receive their enthusiastic approval to continue the individual Mentoring Program at a similar scale for a second year. For those interested in enrolling as mentees, an electronic application form is available by clicking on this [link](#). This form requests specific information

about each mentee candidate’s background, career goals, and details that will enable optimal pairing with a mentor. In addition to direct targeting of senior members to mentor an individual junior scientist, those wanting to be considered for a mentoring role should contact me directly (nancy.greenbaum@hunter.cuny.edu), and include all relevant contact information, as well as information you feel will help us to match you with a mentee. Be as detailed (or not) as you wish regarding preferred level of mentee, topics, limitations, etc. For each mentoring pair, we will provide additional information about making contact, structured mentoring, and follow-up.

If you have additional ideas or comments, please contact me (nancy.greenbaum@hunter.cuny.edu) and/or Juan Valcárcel (juan.valcarcel@crg.eu).

News from the RNA Society Junior Scientists

UC Berkeley in Review

Pre-meeting bike tour of San Francisco

The morning prior to registration, a brave group of approximately 70 RNA Society Junior Scientists met up at the subway station and set out for a great day of adventure in downtown San Francisco. After picking up rental bikes, the group biked along the city’s waterfront.

They stopped at numerous scenic lookouts and landmarks, including the Ferry Building, Pier 39 (where they saw sea lions and great views of Alcatraz) and Fisherman’s Wharf (where everyone was treated to freshly baked sourdough bun courtesy of Lexogen).

After a few hours, everyone had successfully made it close to the Golden Gate Bridge for a great group photo! At that point part of the group returned to UC Berkeley, and the other half continued on to reach the top of the Golden Gate Bridge, zig-zag down Russian Hill and bike through downtown San Francisco.

This adventure-filled bike tour was a great way to get to know fellow Junior Scientists and explore the main San Francisco attractions. A big thank you to **Eleonora de Klerk** for setting up a great tour!



Junior scientists social

The Junior Scientists Committee hosted a social gathering on Wednesday evening in the Tilden room and patio at the MLK student union building on campus. Junior scientists attended the social event and shared snacks, beverages, and ideas.

The social started with a brief introduction of the RNA Junior Scientist Committee, and the committee members introduced themselves and made a few announcements regarding future events and recruitment of new committee members. The view of sunset from the patio was lovely and the social was a much welcome break during the meeting where young scientists get to discuss their research with one another and make new friends as the next generation of future collaborators and colleagues.



Career development workshop

On Thursday evening, the Junior Scientists hosted an outstanding lineup of industry leaders from the area for a panel discussion on “**Careers Beyond Academia**”. Invited speakers gave an overview of the journeys that led them to their roles in the biotechnology sector.

Fadi Bahjat Marayati led the discussion, and **Dr. Ron Batra**, Genomics Scientist with Locana Bio (previously Verily Life Sciences) set the stage with a comprehensive presentation on the differences between academia and



industry, focusing on application strategies and work/life culture. **Dr. Leah Makley**, president and CEO of Viewpoint Therapeutics, offered a unique perspective on a fast track to founding, securing funding for, and growing a successful therapeutics start-up. **Dr. Joe Lewcock**, Head of Biology Discovery at Denali Therapeutics and **Dr. James Kiefer**, Senior Scientist and Associate Director, Structural Biology, Genentech described serendipitous paths to their leadership roles as division directors. **Dr. Katharina Stengel**, Scientist at Caribou Biosciences and **Dr. James Broughton**, Scientist at Mammoth Biosciences, discussed taking part in the launch of new CRISPR technology companies. In all, the panel was a fantastic representation of a broad spectrum of roles in biotechnology careers.

Following speaker presentations, the floor was open for a panel discussion, and speakers fielded questions from the audience submitted via microphone and twitter. The discussion was a candid and charming conversation filled with useful information on career transition strategies. This workshop was extremely well attended and well received. Thanks to the Junior Scientist organizing committee and to our excellent invited speakers for making this workshop a huge success.



We'd like to thank everyone who came out to our sessions and events and appreciate any feedback. You can keep in touch with us throughout the year via email (junior_scientists@rnasociety.org) or social media. Our contact information is also posted on the RNA website.

RNA Society Junior



@jrRNAscientis



RNA Society Junior



Eleonora de Klerk – Eleonora.deklerk@ucsf.edu
Julie Loiselle – loiselle.julie@gmail.com
Malgorzata Rogalska – Malgorzata.Rogalska@crg.eu
Anzer Khan – anzer.khan@ceitec.muni.cz

Junior Scientist Committee Representatives for 2018-2019

The Junior Scientist Committee works throughout the year to plan workshops and events for the annual RNA Society meeting. After two years of amazing work on this committee, **Fadi Marayati** and **Kris Brannan** are moving on, and we are pleased to welcome **Malgorzata** and **Anzer** as our two new incoming members. We are already busy planning for RNA 2019 and are very excited for next year's activities and workshops!

Meet the committee members:

Malgorzata Rogalska – Incoming Postdoc Representative

I am a Postdoctoral Researcher in the laboratory of **Juan Valcárcel Juárez** at the Centre for Genomic Regulation (CRG) in Barcelona, Spain studying regulation of pre-mRNA alternative splicing during cell differentiation, development and disease. My research project uses transcriptome-wide sequencing merged with network analysis and biochemical studies in order to deepen our understanding of the molecular mechanisms of splicing regulation.

The thing that inspires me the most about the RNA Society is the true sense of community among its members. As part of Junior Scientist Committee, I am looking forward to joining the network of young scientists and enhancing the exchange of ideas between the professionals from all over the world and at different stages in their careers.



Anzer Khan – Incoming Graduate Student Representative

I am from India, I did my undergraduate studies from University of Delhi and postgraduate studies from South Asian University. I joined Prof. **Mary O’Connell** lab in 2016 as a doctoral student at Central European Institute of technology (CEITEC), Brno. My doctoral thesis is focused on role of RNA editing enzyme (ADAR) in Drosophila development and immunity. I have been actively involved in many student initiatives at CEITEC. I have also learnt about the importance of networking. As part of the RNA Society’s junior scientist committee, I would like to connect with more people who are working in the field of RNA biology, and organize some interesting activities during the upcoming annual meeting of the RNA society.



Eleonora de Klerk – Returning Postdoc Representative

I am currently a postdoctoral fellow at UCSF (University of California, San Francisco - USA), in the laboratory of **Dr. Matthias Hebrok**. Hebrok’s Lab focuses on pancreatic alpha and β -cell biology, with an interest in signaling pathways that affect the function, proliferation and/or survival of insulin/glucagon producing cells, and those that promote the formation of alpha and β -cells from uncommitted stem cells. I am currently working on stem cell-derived beta cells, specifically performing CRISPR screenings to uncover positive and negative regulators which can overcome two main bottlenecks in the generation of stem cell-derived β -cells: limited amount of insulin producing cells and dedifferentiation of β -cells over time, with the long-term objective of generating hESC-derived and iPSC-derived β -cells that can be used to treat diabetic patients in the near future.



I’ve been part of the Junior Scientist Committee for over a year, with the main goal of helping connecting PhDs and Postdocs working in the RNA field, hoping to facilitate the sharing of knowledge and to create bridges between labs. Last year in Berkeley we definitely had a great time and I am already looking forward to seeing you all again in Krakow, Poland next spring!

Julie Loiselle – Returning Postdoc Representative

I am currently a postdoctoral fellow at the University of Ottawa in Ontario, Canada in the lab of Dr. **Kristi Adamo**. My current research focuses on determining the molecular mechanisms through which physical activity during pregnancy influences placental health. Specifically, I am examining how placental alternative splicing and miRNA expression are influenced by physical activity, and the downstream consequences of these changes.

As part of the RNA Society’s Junior Scientist Committee, I am most excited to be involved in engaging junior scientists and providing important career development and networking opportunities. Looking forward to meeting everyone in Krakow, Poland next spring!



From the desk of the CEO

Jim McSwiggen

It's hard for me to believe that three months have already passed since our RNA 2018 meeting in Berkeley. The 23rd Annual Meeting of the RNA Society was a great success, both in scientific content and in attendance. That, in turn, led to a very good financial picture for the meeting. We had 1147 attendees at the meeting. That's the highest level of attendance that we've ever had for a North American meeting, and is surpassed only by RNA 2008, Berlin (1227 attendees), and RNA 2016, Kyoto (1209 attendees). We had 776 submitted abstracts—also a record for North American meetings—and 165 of those were given oral presentation slots. I hope you will join me in sending a big thank you to organizers **Adrian Ferré-D'Amaré**, **Atlanta Cook**, **Anne Ephrussi**, **Don Rio**, and **Mihaela Zavolan** for organizing such a successful meeting. They made the hard decisions regarding choice of speakers, the schedule, and the entertainment. Of course, many others contributed to making this year's meeting a success, and they need to be thanked as well. The list is long, however, so we've devoted a separate piece in the newsletter to thanking them and all those who have contributed to the success of the society this past year.



Despite the success of this year's meeting, there is always room for improvement, so each year we ask the conference attendees to tell us what worked well and where we could improve. Happily, about 50% of attendees responded to our survey request. The results of that post-meeting survey can be viewed [here](#). As is often the case, the majority of the respondents gave the meeting very positive reviews, but not all respondents were positive. I have read all of the responses that we received and will do what I can to improve future meetings based on these comments. There are limitations, however, in terms of what can be done. In the remainder of this article, I want to address some of the comments that we received and either describe how we hope to address those issues or explain the challenges involved in addressing those issues.

Scientific Program

A majority of respondents ranked the oral sessions to be excellent or above average (80% for these two categories), with a slightly lower percentage (75%) expressing similar approval of the poster sessions. Still, a number of people commented that the program was not diverse enough, should include fewer splicing talks (or other heavily represented topics) in favor of chemical biology, bioinformatics, or other underrepresented subjects. The board has discussed this issue a number of times and we agree that we need to strive for more diversity in our coverage of RNA science. The question is, how should that be achieved? The majority of the oral presentations come from submitted abstracts, so we would need to either attract more abstract submissions from underrepresented disciplines or consider breaking with RNA society tradition by specifically inviting some speakers from underrepresented disciplines. I am in favor of seeding the conference with a small number of invited speakers to achieve a more balanced program, but in the past that idea has met resistance. I'll be sure to discuss this issue with next year's organizers.

There were a handful of comments regarding the choice of session chairs. For example, that there were too few Asian scientists, or that US scientists were favored. In past years, the session chairs were chosen beforehand, with an eye to both geographic and gender balance. This year, the organizers decided to choose session chairs from the list of mid-career scientists who were already registered for the meeting. Of the PIs that attended this year's meeting, 63% were from the US, 20% from Europe, 12% from Asia, and 5% from other places. Of the 20 session chairs, 12 (60%) were from the US, 5 (25%) from Europe, none were from Asia, and 3 (15%) were from Canada, Brazil and Israel. Given the small sample size and the pool from which they were selected, this seems like a fairly good distribution. Nevertheless, I'll discuss with next year's organizers.



A number of people wrote to express displeasure with having PIs vote for posters rather than having appointed poster judges. I tend to agree. There seems a greater risk of bias with a vote, especially with the small numbers of PIs that voted this year (62, about the same number of judges in the last conference). On the flip side, the recruitment of poster judges is a great deal of work for both organizers and judges alike, so I can see the attraction of going with a vote. As with the other comments, I'll pass these on to next year's organizers.

This next comment is quoted in full because it captures my own feelings about a number of the talks. "The quality of the science presented was great! But there is a lot of work needed to improve the quality of talks, especially from more established scientists. ... Could there perhaps be a session on how to give a conference talk? I feel like many PIs have yet to learn some basic points, for example: 1) Explain your figures & axes. Don't just point at a graph and say this shows X and Y; 2) If there's not time to explain your figure, leave it out [i.e. don't present your paper, present your ideas!]; 2a) Don't show too much data; 3) Sound like you care about your research; 4) Stop using /so/ many buzzwords/clichés."

Meeting Schedule

There were many conflicting comments about the meeting schedule.

- The free evening is really a "must". Seriously bring that back!
- Allow for longer talks if that means less selected abstracts.
- Add more concurrent sessions to make more free time (since the schedule was exhausting)
- Have fewer concurrent sessions. I missed important talks because they happened simultaneously.
- Too many events scheduled.
- Starting at 7:30 with sponsored talks and going until 10:30 for poster sessions is too much.
- More breaks, smaller sessions and more, specialized parallel sessions.

There's always a tension between giving more people a speaking slot and giving everyone opportunities to meet with their colleagues outside of the lecture hall. Each group of organizers makes a slightly different calculation on how best to balance those two mutually exclusive demands. I don't imagine that organizers will want to significantly reduce the number of talks in future meetings, so the schedule is likely to remain crowded. Attendees should feel free to skip talks or other events when they start to burn out or need to meet with colleagues.

Poster Sessions.

There were also a number of critiques of the poster sessions—that they were too crowded and that the posters were up for too little time. We fully agree with those criticisms. We knew going in that the Pauley Ballroom was going to be tight, but that was exacerbated by the dramatic increase in attendance (1147 this year, compared to 897 in Madison and 823 in Ann Arbor, the two previous US meetings). Our goal is to have all posters up for the entire time, with about 3 m² per poster. That ideal is rarely achieved, however, and so we have to make compromises. In this case the compromise was far from ideal.

Food and Coffee Breaks

"The food was really not great."; "Food was terrible! Do better."; "Need actual coffee at the coffee breaks!" We hear you and are suitably reprimanded. This is one of the trade-offs that are encountered when going to a more expensive venue such as Berkeley. We were able to keep the costs down by having meals in the university dorm cafeteria. When we made the site visit, we had lunch in the cafeteria and all agreed that the food was fairly decent with a lot of choices. Apparently, the number of choices were significantly scaled back for our group, and what was there was not as good as what we sampled. I'm not a coffee drinker, so I didn't notice the lack of coffee. I'll make a note that coffee has a high priority with many of you.

Support for Parents

"Providing facilities for breast-feeding mothers should also be prioritized." We'll make a note of that and try to make it happen. We very much want to support and encourage the participation of parent scientists in



the conference. If we neglect to provide these or other accommodations that you need, please feel free stop by the registration desk during the meeting and ask for assistance. We'll do everything we can to meet your needs.

Cost to attend

“The registration fee should be lower.” Yes, it would be wonderful if we could offer free admission to our conference, but that would cost the society about \$1,000,000 per year. We made a profit of ~\$60,000 on this conference, all due to the higher than expected attendance. If we had known that the attendance would be so high, we might have reduced the registration fees by ~\$50 per registrant to break even for the Society. Would \$50 mark the difference of being able to attend or not? Instead, we chose to provide 185 travel awards to those who needed it most (\$135 K total), and 22 refunds to PIs who brought three or more lab members to the conference from outside of North America (~\$16 K total). I believe that this is a better way to support RNA science than an across-the-board price reduction.

By the way, I am sometimes told that our conference is expensive relative to some other conferences, but I don't believe those people are making a fair comparison. Few other conferences are as long as ours or provide as many meals as part of the registration package. Food costs are the single largest expense for a conference; it takes up more than half of our budget. Other conferences seem less expensive because they are either shorter or don't provide as many meals.

As always, if you have questions, comments, concerns or commendations regarding the RNA Society, please let me know. I am always happy to hear from our members (and happy, as well, to hear from non-members who want to become members).

Jim McSwiggen, CEO, CEO@rnasociety.org

Developments at the Society Journal, *RNA*

The Society journal, *RNA*, continues to thrive. Now in its 24th year, *RNA* continues to publish high quality articles, as well as timely communications, reviews, and opinion pieces, with an impact factor in the top 20% of journals in this class. *RNA* continues to be a convenient place to publish, with no page limits, BioRxiv compatibility, rapid review, and rapid on line publication after final acceptance. *RNA* Society members also continue to enjoy other benefits of publication in *RNA*, including a low cost flat rate publication fee of \$1000 for manuscripts under 12 pages, and unlimited free color figures. Profits from the journal go directly to the *RNA* Society, helping to support numerous functions including travel awards.

RNA has also made a number of editorial changes to continue to be at the forefront of the field. We are pleased to welcome **new Editors Maria Carmo-Fonseca** (Instituto de Medicina Molecular, University of Lisbon), **Fátima Gebauer** (Centre for Genomic Regulation, CRG), and **Jörg Vogel** (University of Würzburg). We are also pleased to announce **new Editorial Board members**, including **Lingling Chen**, (Shanghai Institutes for Biological Sciences, Chinese Academy of Sciences), **Soo-Chen Cheng** (Institute of Molecular Biology, Academia Sinica), **Bryan Cullen** (Duke University Medical Center), **Anne Ephrussi** (EMBL, Heidelberg), **Wendy Gilbert** (Yale University), **Jane E. Jackman** (The Ohio State University), **Martin Jinek** (University of Zurich), **Arlen Johnson** (The University of Texas at Austin), **Katrin Karbstein** (The Scripps Research Institute), **Magda Konarska** (Warsaw University), **Andrei Korostelev** (University of Massachusetts Medical School), **Kristen W. Lynch** (University of Pennsylvania School of Medicine), **Kiyoshi Nagai** (MRC Laboratory of Molecular Biology), **Mary O'Connell** (Masaryk University), **Marie Öhman** (Stockholm University), **Tao Pan** (University of Chicago), **Joseph A. Piccirilli** (The University of Chicago), **Ramesh Pillai** (University of Geneva), **Anna Marie Pyle** (Yale University), **Stewart Shuman** (Memorial Sloan Kettering /



Cancer Center), **Haruhiko Siomi** (Keio University School of Medicine), **Mikiko C. Siomi** (The University of Tokyo), **Jonathan Staley** (University of Chicago), **Gisela Storz** (National Institute of Child Health and Human Development), **Yanli Wang** (Institute of Biophysics, Chinese Academy of Sciences), and **Phillip Zamore** (University of Massachusetts Medical School).

Tim Nilsen, Editor in Chief
Eric Phizicky, Deputy Editor

Chairman of the Meetings Committee Benoit Chabot

The final figure for attendance at Berkeley 2018 was 1147 participants. Having such a high attendance at an annual meeting is a two-edged sword! On the one hand, it confirms our ability to draw quality participants when exciting science is offered along with an attractive venue. Yet, becoming too large (a situation previously encountered with RNA meetings) invites criticisms. My opinion on this conundrum is to maintain coverage of all RNA flavors. Several meetings already focus on RNA subtopics. Having the privilege to be on the edge of our zone of comfort promotes new ideas and drives innovation. Could we even consider adding sessions dedicated to reaching out to other scientific societies or fields? Your thoughts for dealing with attendance and success are welcome.



I want to warmly thank and congratulate **Adrian Ferré-d'Amaré** and his team (**Anne Ephrussi, Atlanta Cook, Mihaela Zavolan** and **Don Rio**) for organizing such a splendid and successful RNA Society meeting at **UC Berkeley**. Quality and stimulating science at oral and poster sessions was a perfect match for the outstanding California weather.

We are now gearing up for 2019 in Krakow, as well as planning the next 5 years of RNA Society meetings. Here is the plan for our meeting venues as decided in the last Meetings Committee and approved by the Board.

- 2019 - Krakow, Poland - June 11-16 - Witek Filipowicz** (lead), **Brenda Bass, Elena Conti, Tetsuro Hirose, Artur Jarmolowski** (local), **Gene Yeo**
- 2020 – Vancouver, Canada - May 26-31 - Sarah Woodson** (lead), **Stephen Rader** (local)
- 2021 – Asia (TBD)**
- 2022 – North America**
- 2023 – Europe**

I am grateful to members of the Meetings Committee for contributing to the often difficult task of selecting continents, venues and organizers for our meetings. Members of the committee now include **Florian Heyd** (Germany), **Andrei Korostelev** (USA), **Shinichi Nakagawa** (Japan), **Rui Zhao** (USA), **Maayan Salton** (Israel), **Marie Öhman** (Sweden), **Katrin Karbstein** (USA), **Karla Neugebauer** (USA) and **Yukihide Tomari** (Japan). My sincere thanks go to **Michelle Hastings, Markus Bohnsack, Erik Sontheimer** and **Renée Schroeder** for their much appreciated service to the committee in the last three years.

As always, we welcome suggestions from members willing to champion their institution or city as possible venues.

Benoit Chabot, Chair of the Meetings Committee, Université de Sherbrooke

Benoit.Chabot@USherbrooke.ca

From the desk of Membership Chair Kristian Baker

I am excited to update you on recent news and some of the initiatives that are presently underway aimed at enhancing your membership in the RNA Society

MEMBERSHIP



I am delighted once again to report that membership is at an all-time high...with 1860 members (a 13% increase over this time last year). I want to thank all of our long-term members for their continued commitment, and welcome our newer members who I trust will find the RNA Society a supportive and engaging scholarly community. Our society represents a scientifically diverse and geographically vast group of RNA researchers, and I urge you all to take advantage of the many benefits your Society offers and to take frequent opportunity to engage with your peers - at our annual meeting, through local events, on social media, or by individual contact.

RNA SALONS

The second year of our **RNA Salons** program – providing financial sponsorship for local/regional RNA-based academic events in 2017/2018 – was a resounding success. The number of academic institutions hosting **RNA Salons** grew from 29 to 38, included over 4,000 participants, and expanded to new geographical locations including Australia, Hong Kong, and the Netherlands. Your participation in **RNA Salon** activities is key to this initiative, and drives the Society's directive to promote yearlong interactions between RNA researchers, foster communication and training opportunities in RNA research, and advance the professional development of RNA scientists. Learn more about the 2017/2018 **RNA Salon** series on the RNA Society website.

For the 2018/2019 season, I am pleased to announce that **RNA Salon** funding will increase to **\$1,500.00 USD**. This increase has been made possible through a new agreement with Lexogen, our exclusive industry co-sponsor for the 2018/2019 series. Applications for this third year are now being accepted until September 4th, 2018; please see the RNA Society website for the '*RNA Salon Guidelines for Application*' and formal '*RNA Salon Application*', or contact Dr. Ute Kothe at RNASalon@rnasociety.org for more information.

MEMBER SPOTLIGHT SERIES

This spring the RNA Society launched its **Member Spotlight Series**, highlighting the outstanding lives and accomplishments of its individual members. Each month, one student/post-doc and one full RNA Society member is profiled on the Society website. To view Spotlights and learn what inspired a 30 year career studying pre-mRNA splicing, why training in the lab of a junior PI has its benefits, and how to find a great training environment, please visit the **Spotlight** link on the RNA Society website.

We invite suggestions for members you feel have interesting stories to share and volunteers wanting to become a member of the Spotlight team that prepare member profiles (a great way to network and hone your writing skills) - contact Dr. Olivia Rissland at RNASpotlight@rnasociety.org for more information.

SOCIAL MEDIA

Recent efforts to increase our use of Social Media to communicate news and events (including Salons and Spotlights), and to boost networking between members are paying off. Followers of our **@RNASociety** Twitter account have soared to 2970, and user engagement, activity and interaction are at all-time highs. If you are not already a follower...join now, and also visit the RNA Society Junior Scientist page on Facebook or the RNA Society Group on LinkedIn to further engage with us!

Thank you all for your participation in the RNA Society. Fond regards - Kristian



Award opportunities for members

RNA Society Early & Mid-Career Awards

The RNA Society seeks nominations for two annual awards, to be presented at RNA 2019, the annual meeting of the RNA Society held in Krakow, Poland. Please note conditions for eligibility.

Early Career Award

- Eligible recipients will be within their first **7 years** as an independent investigator as of July 1, 2019.

Mid-Career Award

- Eligible recipients will be within their first **15 years** as an independent investigator as of July 1, 2019.

For both awards

- The award can be for a single important discovery or for an extended portfolio of work.
- The basis for the award must be from independent research conducted in the recipient's laboratory.
- Award applicants must be members of the RNA Society and contributions to the RNA Society can factor into the award decision.
- The winner will have the opportunity to give a short talk at the RNA meeting where the award is presented.

Nomination materials

Nominators and the nominee must be a member of the RNA Society. Self-nominations are encouraged. Nomination applications, submitted on line [here](#) (after logging in as a member) must include a complete CV of the candidate, and a letter of nomination that clearly provides an overview of the qualifications of the candidate by stating the single important discovery or summarizing the extended portfolio of work

Nomination packages must be submitted by October 1st, 2018.

RNA Society / Scaringe Award

Applications are now being accepted for **The RNA Society/Scaringe Young Scientist Award** for graduate students and post-docs. Application forms and more information on the award application process can be found [here](#).

The on-line applications can also be accessed from the RNA Society's web pages in the members only section; look under the "Make Requests" menu item.

Deadline: October 1st, 2018

Note that these deadlines are now standardized for all applications. Our goal is to make selections before the end of the year, to allow awardees to prepare to attend the annual meeting where the awards will be presented. This also gives us time to publicize the awardees and arrange for their presentations at the annual meeting.



Call for Nominations: 2019 RiboClub Life Achievement Award

On the occasion of the 20th Anniversary of the RiboClub meetings, we are pleased to announce that nominations for the 2019 RiboClub Life Achievement Award are being accepted. Eligibility for this award is open to all scientists working in Canadian Institutions, with major contributions to the field of RNA biology. Nominations can be submitted by scientists and academic institutions. Only individual nominations are accepted.

The award will include a cash prize of \$10,000 CAD. The name of the award recipient will be announced during the RiboClub 2019 meeting in a public ceremony in September 22-26, 2019 in Orford, Quebec.

The deadline for receipt of nominations is June 30th, 2019.

All nominations have to be submitted by e-mail to: sonenberg.admin@mcgill.ca

Documents necessary for submitting a nomination:

Curriculum vitae of the nominee

Nomination letter detailing the achievements of the nominee (max 2 pages)

List of the nominee's 5 most important scientific publications

Optional: Support letters (max 3, and each no more than 2 pages)

The selection committee consists of the following members: Nahum Sonenberg, Gideon Dreyfuss, Karla Neugebauer, Roy Parker, Lynne Maquat, Witold Filipowicz.

Call For Papers: Special Issue in the Journal of Structural Biology on RNA Structural Challenges, Modeling, and Design

The heightened appreciation for the central role of RNA molecules in all cellular processes — from catalysis to control of gene expression to cellular differentiation — combined with the practical applications of synthetic RNAs in biomedicine and biomolecular engineering has raised new challenges regarding RNA structure analysis, prediction, and design to both experimental and theoretical scientists. These challenges have produced many innovative approaches, including interdisciplinary efforts, to analyze, predict, simulate, and design RNA molecules. While many successes have been reported, progress in the field has been hampered by limited experimental resolution and an incomplete understanding of RNA tertiary structure, especially for large RNAs. Though RNA structure is believed to be hierarchical, the difficult problem of understanding and predicting its tertiary structure from its primary, as well as secondary, structure remains unsolved in general.

We welcome contributions from scientists working to advance the field on both the genomic and molecular levels of RNA using novel experimental, mathematical, statistical, and computational approaches.

Submit your original research or review paper in this area. To be included in this dedicated issue authors should submit directly to the journal, indicating in their cover letter that they are submitting to the special issue entitled "RNA structural challenges, modeling and design". In addition, be sure to add the following short title: "RNA Structure Modeling". All submissions will be guest edited by Tamar Schlick and Anna Pyle. All papers will be published online as soon as they are redacted and will be fully citeable. **Manuscript Submission Window: Aug.1 to Nov. 30, 2018**



Thank You, Volunteers

The RNA Society both survives and thrives because of the efforts of our many volunteers. We hire out some of our activities (to FASEB, Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory Press, and Simple Meetings), but the key creative and decision-making activities are performed entirely by Society volunteers. In this article, the RNA Society Board would like to acknowledge those efforts for the past year. Please accept our sincere apologies if we've left out anyone.

Committees and Committee Chairs

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

- **Evelyn Jabri** is our Chief Financial Officer. She acts as the interface with our business office at FASEB, requests and approves payments for Society expenses, oversees the investment committee, and generally ensures that we stay on track financially. Evelyn just started in this role in May, but she has vast experience with our society as she was the CEO from 2005-2010.
- **Benoit Chabot** is our Meetings Committee Chair. He leads the effort to find the next interesting place to hold our annual meeting, while ensuring that the venue is both workable and affordable. He then works diligently to help build a great team of organizers for the meeting. The focus right now is on 2021 somewhere in Asia, and we are already thinking about 2022 (North America) and 2023 (Europe). Benoit is assisted this year by a meetings committee that includes: **Markus Bohnsack, Michelle Hastings, Florian Heyd, Katrin Karbstein, Andrei Korostelev, Shinichi Nakagawa, Karla Neugebauer, Marie Öhman, Maayan Salton, Renée Schroeder, Erik Sontheimer, Yukihide Tomari, Rui Zhao,** and **Brenda Peculis** (Secretary, ex officio).
- **Kristian Baker** is the Chair of our Membership Committee. She works to find more and better ways to serve our membership and to encourage more people to join. She also runs our grants program for small conferences and the RNA Salons program with **Ute Kothe**. She recently recruited **Olivia Rissland** to run our member social media campaign.
- **Gianpiero Di Leva** is the Chair of our Business Development Committee. He is tasked with building better connections between the RNA Society and the RNA business community, to seek financial support from them for our activities, and to encourage their participation in the annual conference. Gianpiero has been expanding our support base with sponsors and is active in establishing new company connections.
- The Nominating Committee is appointed by the president each year to search for the best candidates to run for our elected offices of President and Board Members. Most importantly, after identifying such candidates they have to convince them to agree to run for office! This year the job was handled by: **Soo-Chen Cheng, Christian Hammann, Clara Kielkopf, Thomas Preiss**. An excellent field of candidates was identified and persuaded to run for office.
- The Scaringe Award Committee reviews and selects the winners for the annual RNA Society / Scaringe Award. The committee is composed of **Tim Nilsen**, the Editor-in-Chief of our journal, *RNA*; **Phil Bevilaqua**, as an editor of that journal; board members **Kathy Hall, Haru Siomi, and Chris Smith**; and **Brenda Peculis** as Secretary (ex officio).

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 Berkeley was a great success with attendance topping 1100. The RNA 2019 organizers are now hard at work preparing for next year's conference in Krakow.

RNA 2018 Organizers (Berkeley): **Adrian Ferré-D'Amaré, Atlanta Cook, Anne Ephrussi, Don Rio, and Mihaela Zavolan**

RNA 2019 Organizers (Krakow): **Witek Filipowicz, Brenda Bass, Elena Conti, Tetsuro Hirose, Artur Jarmolowski, and Gene Yeo**



Conference Volunteers

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

- Each year the conference organizers rely heavily on the session and workshop chairs to help in selecting abstracts for oral presentations, and then for introducing the session or workshop and ensuring that talks stay on schedule. This year, as always, the session chairs did an excellent job in these tasks. Thanks to: **Sharon Aviran, Katherine Berry, Gloria Brar, Jeremie Breda, Patricia Coltri, Wendy Gilbert, Bobby Hogg, Jane Jackman, Julia Kenyon, Julian König, Markos Koutmos, Kristin Koutmou, Ayelet Lamm, Dan Larson, Mary O'Connell, Stephen Rader, Andrea Rentmeister, Julia Salzman, and Qingqing Wang.**
- The keynote speakers who agreed to give their time and a fascinating lecture are also gratefully acknowledged. They are: **Jonathan Weissman, Geraldine Seydoux, and Mikiko Siomi.**
- The Junior Scientist committee organized an excellent list of industry speakers for the session titled “Industry Session: Careers Beyond Academia”. The speakers gave an overview of working in industry then answered questions from the audience. Those speakers were: **Ron Batra, Rachel Haurwitz, James Kiefer, Joe Lewcock, Leah Makley, and Donald McCarthy.**
- Also, each year, the Society awards prizes for the best posters in various categories. This year the organizers asked all PIs to vote on posters and 56 of you did just that. Thank you to those who helped select posters: **Masahiko Ajiro, Krist Azizian, Nathan Baird, Javier Caceres, Maiwen Caudron-Herger, Guillaume Chanfreau, Patricia Coltri, John Conboy, Gianpiero Di Leva, Mark Ditzler, Anne Ephrussi, Adrian Ferre-D'Amare, Utz Fischer, Mikko Frilander, Nancy Greenbaum, Ramesh Gupta, Kathleen Hall, Tetsuro Hirose, Rastislav Horos, Aaron Hoskins, Shintaro Iwasaki, Akio Kanai, Rotem Karni, Sarah Keane, Bessie Kebaara, Marcel Köhn, Markus Kretz, John Lacava, Eleonora Leucci, Pei-Chun Lin, Akila Mayeda, Suzanne McDermott, Colleen McHugh, Mo Motamedi, Steve Mount, Andy Newman, Marit Nilsen-Hamilton, Carla Oliveira, Brenda Peculis, Anton Petrov, Sebastien Pfeffer, David Port, Donald Rio, Maayan Salton, Mikiko Siomi, Haruhiko Siomi, Chris Smith, Akihito Takeuchi, Christopher Tiedje, David Tollervey, Yukihito Tomari, Jeffrey Wilusz, Je-Hyun Yoon, Tohru Yoshihisa, Ihab Younis, and Zhi-Ming Zheng.**
- The Mentoring Lunch is one of the highlights of the annual conference for many attendees. It's a big job to organize the tables so that people sit in groups according to their topics of interest, then to make sure people find their tables and that the plan actually works out. Thanks to **Nancy Greenbaum** for making the lunch a big success.

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. This year's events were a great success due to their hard work.

Grad Reps	Julie Loiselle and Fadi Marayati
Post-doc Reps	Eleonora de Klerk and Kristopher Brannan
Faculty Advisors	Katrin Karbstein and Sam Butcher

Newsletter Editor

Our RNA Society Secretary, **Brenda Peculis**, also 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.



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. Both the 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 a journal that is highly regarded in the field. It has also made *RNA* a good, consistent source of revenue for the Society.

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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.

Juan Valcarcel, President; **James McSwiggen**, CEO; **Sarah Woodson**, Past-President; **Anna Pyle**, President-Elect; **Evelyn Jabri**, CFO; **Brenda Peculis**, Secretary; Board Members **Jeff Coller**, **Wendy Gilbert**, **Kathleen Hall**, **Haruhiko Siomi**, **Chris Smith**, and **Stepanka Vanacova**



Hello!
Will I see you at the **RNA Salon**
next month?

RNA Salon?!?
What is that?

You don't know about
the fantastic program sponsored
by the **RNA SOCIETY**?
RNA Salons are regular gatherings of RNA
researchers in our area.

That sounds interesting!
What do you do at the
RNA Salon events?

We have student
presentations, journal clubs, workshops,
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and I have met great colleagues, made
new friends, and learned a lot at the
RNA Salon events.

And how does the
RNA SOCIETY support
RNA Salons?

The **RNA SOCIETY** provides funding for pizza, snacks,
drinks, presentation awards, speakers, or anything that helps get us together.
And now we can even get more funding thanks to a new agreement
this year with Lexogen.

**Don't miss the opportunity: partner with the RNA Society and
enhance your local RNA-based scientific events!**

- Check the **RNA SOCIETY** website for application guidelines and the official application form: <https://www.rnasociety.org/rna-salons/>
- Applications for the 2018/2019 academic year are due **September 4th 2018**.
- For questions, contact Dr. Ute Kothe at RNASalon@rnasociety.org.

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RNA Society-supported meetings

Reports from recent RNA meetings supported by the Society

RNA UK 2018

January 26th – 28th, 2018
Windermere, UK

The RNA UK 2018 conference comprised 45 lectures divided into sessions about non-coding RNAs, splicing, transcription, RNA maturation and decay, RNA-protein interactions, and RNA and disease. Highlights included a high-throughput microscopy screen of the function of human lincRNAs (presented by Lovorka Stojic) and new high-throughput methods for the analysis of protein-RNA interactions (presented by the Tollervey, Lilley and Castello groups). To increase the visibility of junior scientists, most lectures were given by students and postdocs. There was a broad representation of male and female speakers from various research centres across the UK.

There were two poster sessions at which 79 posters were presented, and five poster prizes were given. The poster prize winners are: **Jihan Anderson** (Berndt Müller lab; "ASD linked aberrant eIF4E-mediated translation initiation alters neuronal cytoskeleton formation and synaptic protein expression"); **Alison Galloway** (Victoria Cowling lab; "Roles for the mRNA cap methyltransferase RNMT in T cell survival and activation");



Nikoletta Gkatza (Michaela Frye lab; "NSun2-driven m5C is required for the modulation of cellular metabolism and protein translation in response to stress"); **Katarzyna Knop** (Gordon Simpson lab; "Revealing the Arabidopsis epitranscriptome"); and, **Takayuki Nojima** (Nicholas Proudfoot lab) "Perturbation of coding and non-coding transcription induces cell cycle arrest"



Two students, **Rotimi Fasimoye** and **Francesca Vacante**, received conference fee waivers that allowed them to attend the meeting.

The next RNA UK meeting will be in January 2020, organized by Andres Ramos from the University College London.

Swiss RNA Workshop 2018

February 2, 2018
Bern, Switzerland

The 19th edition of the Swiss RNA Workshop had nearly 200 researchers participating from Switzerland and neighboring countries. Keynotes were delivered by Julius Brennecke (IMBA, Vienna, Austria) on "*The piRNA pathway: a small RNA based genome immune system*" and Sarah Woodson (Johns Hopkins University, Baltimore, MD, USA) on "*Cooperativity of bacterial ribosome assembly*". In addition, 14 short talks were selected from submitted abstracts.



Similar to the RNA Society meeting, nearly all talks were by PhD students and postdocs given the opportunity to present their research to a larger audience. The presentation of 55 posters complemented the programme and covered the entire range of RNA Biology research topics including novel technologies. The coffee breaks and lunch encourages extended discussions and networking. The support of the RNA Society through its small meeting sponsorship program was highly appreciated and allowed us to keep the meeting in its current format free of charge, which was in question after a Swiss grant scheme traditionally supporting the meeting was cancelled.

Mobile Genetic Elements

February 11th – 15th, 2018

Santa Fe, New Mexico, USA

The Mobile Genetic Elements and Genome Plasticity conference was hosted by Keystone Symposia in Santa Fe, NM USA, February 11–15, 2018. The organizers were Marlene Belfort, Evan Eichler, Henry Levin and Lynne Maquat. The goal of this conference was to bring together scientists from around the world to discuss the function of transposable elements (TEs), including retrotransposons,



and their impact on host organisms. Central themes of the meeting included recent innovations in genome analysis and the role of the DNA and RNA transposons in disease and evolution. Pictured right is a group of attendees gathered at the New Mexico home of researcher Dr. Nancy Craig, a pioneer in the field of mobile genetic elements.

Keynote Speaker, Feng Zhang (MIT, USA), launched the meeting by describing the exploration of CRISPR diversity of the Cas13 RNA targeting system. Cas13 has a curious collateral activity that degrades RNA non-specifically, an activity harnessed to provide rapid DNA or RNA detection with applications in pathogen detection.

Other presentations described the potent impact of TEs on the evolution of genomes including those of primates. Some talks described the discovery of cellular systems that inhibit TE activity, adding new insight to the evolutionary arms race between mobile DNA elements and their hosts. Retrotransposons that mobilize via RNA were prominently featured in all domains of life. Also included was new evidence of TE activity in neurons and cancer cells. The conference established relationships between scientists working on TE biology, RNA science, genome evolution, and structural variation. The TEs and hosts discussed at the meeting included a range of organisms such as eubacteria, protists, plants, fungi, animals and humans. A complete account of the meeting by Abrams et. al. has been published in *Mobile DNA* (<https://mobilednajournal.biomedcentral.com/articles/10.1186/s13100-018-0126-3>).



2018 Bermuda Principles – Impact on Splicing

February 21st – 25th, 2018

Southampton, Bermuda

The Bermuda Principles – Impact on Splicing held its second meeting in Bermuda on February 21 – 25th, 2018. The event saw one Distinguished Keynote Lecture delivered by Adrian Krainer (Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory), six keynote speakers including Robin Reed (Harvard Medical School), Franco Pagani (ICGEB, Italy), Jennifer Batson (Exonate Limited), Daniel Larson (Centre for Cancer Research, NIH), Jean Beggs (University of Edinburgh), and Diana Baralle (Univ. of Southampton). Six invited speakers including Jonathan Hall (ETH Zurich, Switzerland), Tshepiso Makhafola (Mangosuthu Univ. of Technology, South Africa), Klemens Hertel (University of California, Irvine), Steve Wilton (Murdoch University, Australia), Auinash Kalsotra (Univ. of Illinois) and Andrei Thomas-Tikhonko (Univ. of Pennsylvania) and 19 additional oral presentations were highlighted over four days. The conference played host to graduate, undergraduate and Bermuda secondary school students. Conference attendees declared again that the highlight was witnessing the Bermuda Youth Parliament, who engaged in an impressive ethics debate on the use of HeLa cells in research.



Conference organizers Carika Weldon (De Montfort Univ., Leicester), Cyril Dominguez (Univ. of Leicester), Eduardo Eyra (UPF, Spain) and Isabelle Behm-Ansmant (CNRS-Lorraine, France) thank the RNA Society for funds to support 3 travel fellowships to **Dr Ammar Naqvi** (Univ. of Pennsylvania), **Ms Irfana Saleem** (Univ. of Nebraska Medical Center), and **Ms Annemarie Brusden Villasden** (Aalborg Univ.) (left to right in photo).

A third, expanded conference, Bermuda Principles – Impact on RNA Processing and Disease, will be held February 20–24th, 2019.



2018 RNA Transport Meeting

March 3rd – 6th, 2018

Düsseldorf, Germany

From March 3rd to 6th 2018 about ninety scientists from ten different countries met in Düsseldorf, Germany to discuss new aspects of RNA localization and related topics in RNA biology. The meeting was hosted by the Research Unit FOR2333 of the German Research Foundation (DFG) “Macromolecular complexes in mRNA localization”. The meeting was opened with a keynote lecture by Dr. Christine Mayr from the Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center on the importance of the 3'UTR-mediated protein-protein interactions. This teaser was followed by an intensive poster session that lasted until midnight. With her talk on mRNA trafficking during *Drosophila* development on day two, Dr. Anne



Ephrussi from the EMBL in Heidelberg set the stage for a row of presentations on different aspects of RNA biology, ranging from RNA-protein

interactions (Dr. Jernej Ule, Francis Crick Institute, London) to imaging approaches showing RNA life and death in vivo (Dr. Jeff Chao FMI Basel). In the afternoon, PhD students from the FOR2333 research unit presented their work followed by another intensive poster round. On the third day, Dr. Erin Schumann (MPI Brain Research, Frankfurt) delivered the second keynote lecture on neuronal RNA transport. This was followed by talks on structural aspects of RNA protein interactions as well as in vitro reconstitution and modelling approaches. Amongst them was an RNA-Society sponsored presentation by the junior group leader Sebastian Maurer (CRG Spain) on *in vitro* constitution of kinesin-dependent RNA transport particles.

The evening was spent in the Neanderthal museum that was reserved for the meeting participants. In a relaxed atmosphere, the scientist learned about human evolution and also had the chance to dwell into the daily life of our predecessors by making fire or using simple drilling devices. The focus of the final day was on structural biology of RNA-binding proteins (Dr. Michael Sattler, TU Munich) and mass spectrometry analysis of RNA-protein complexes (H. Urlaub, MPI Göttingen). The final talk was given by Dr Torben H. Jensen from Aarhus University, a special guest from the Cologne Spring Meeting, talking about sorting of RNA for function or decay.

In essence, the meeting brought together different generations of scientists with an interest in topics much beyond RNA transport. The meeting setup allowed ample time for interactions at posters and during the breaks. The organisers are gracious to the RNA Society for its generous support of two poster awards and a travel grant to junior scientists.

Regulating with RNA in Bacteria & Archaea

March 19th – 22nd, 2018

Seville, Spain

This fifth meeting in the series was attended by 300 participants from all over the world - up from 200 at the previous meeting. The line-up of junior and senior speakers was outstanding, and discussions were intense throughout. The program, set up by the organizers R. Schmitz-Streit, C. Vanderpool, W. Winkler, and G. Wagner, covered current and emerging RNA topics in the field, through plenary talks, invited speakers, and speakers (mostly young scientists) chosen from abstracts. A few more general RNA-related talks were included to widen the scope – a highly appreciated addition. Sessions covered small RNAs in



diverse microbes, from deeply mechanistic studies to broadly biological/ physiological relevance, the roles of RNA binding proteins. RNA in infection biology, RNA processing, structure, antitoxin/toxin systems, CRISPR, and transcription/ translation. Discussions were lively, and many new, unpublished results were presented. Short (2 min) poster advertisement talks were implemented, and clearly helped to promote great poster sessions. In summary, this meeting showed a thriving and expanding field with many immensely talented young scientists. We are immensely grateful to the RNA Society for their sponsorship that funded travel grants for PhD students.

EMBO Workshop on Noncoding RNAs in Embryonic Development and Cell Differentiation

April 8th – 11th, 2018

Rehovot, Israel



The EMBO Workshop on Systems Biology of Noncoding RNAs at the Weizmann Institute brought together 128 junior and senior scientists from across Europe. For 3.5 days, we had talks, a keynote address by Prof. Irene Bozzoni, two lively poster sessions and an exciting excursion to Jerusalem.

The program spanned both small and long noncoding RNAs, and studies *in vivo* in mice, *C. elegans*, and sea anemone; in stem cell differentiation systems in human mouse; and in disease models, including cancer and neurodegeneration. Most speakers shared their most recent and unpublished results. The venue at the Weizmann, the nearby accommodation sites, and the excursion to Jerusalem, that the vast majority of the guests joined, allowed for plenty of discussion and communication between participants.

The great support of RNA society allowed us to provide travel fellowships to Ben Kleaveland (Whitehead Institute of Biomedical Research, Cambridge MA) and Eesha Sharma (University of Toronto) that presented their work in short talks. Pictured left to right, Eesha Sharma, Ben Kleaveland, Petr Svoboda, Igor Ulitsky, and Alena Shkumatava.



Translating Translation: From Basic Mechanisms to Molecular Medicine – 38th Blankenese Conference

May 5th – 8th, 2018

Hamburg, Germany

The 38th Blankenese Conference, “Translating Translation: From Basic Mechanisms to Molecular Medicine” took place from May 5th to May 8th, 2018 in Hamburg, Germany. The meeting explored key findings about basic mechanisms of translation, their relevance to human disease, and how this knowledge could best be translated to the clinic. Several leading scientists focused on basic molecular mechanisms of mRNA translation joined those who study diseases where effects on translation are prominent. The interdisciplinary meeting was limited to 100 participants and the intimate setting for which Blankenese Conferences are renowned provided a perfect forum for scientific exchange.

Specific topics covered were signaling pathways controlling translation in health and disease, Cis-elements and RNA-binding proteins in mRNA-specific translational control, the contribution of translation to synaptic functions and neurological disorders, non-canonical translation, RNA modifications, and specialized ribosomes in cancer and other diseases. Invited speakers included Susan Ackerman, Maria Barna, Roland Beckmann, Nancy Bonini, Matthias Hentze, Giovanna Mallucci, Laura Ranum, Davide Ruggero, Robert Schneider, and Ada Yonath. Adrian Krainer gave an inspiring closing lecture, telling the bench-to-bedside story of Nusinersin/Spinraza, the first approved treatment for Spinal Muscular Atrophy.

The meeting was organized by RNA Society member Kent Duncan (Hamburg, Germany), together with Gaia Novarino (Vienna, Austria) and Blankenese Conference Chairmen Dietmar Richter and Wolfgang Meyerhof. Major sponsors included the DFG, Thyssen Foundation, and Lexogen. RNA Society sponsorship enabled awarding of travel fellowships for junior scientists and social events for their interaction with established experts.

RNA-mediated Control of Retrotransposons

May 30th – June 1st, 2018

Whittenberg, Germany

The German Genetics Society (GfG) has been organizing small, thematically focused conferences that alternate with broader conferences of the Society. This year's GfG Summer Conference focused on RNA-based regulatory mechanisms that host cells use to defend against retroelements that parasitically populate the host's genome.

In 15 extensive lectures, mostly presented by invited international experts, the latest developments in retroelement research were discussed. Keynote lectures were delivered by Rob Martienssen (Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory), Shiv Grewal (National Institutes of Health, Bethesda) and David Garfinkel (Univ. of Georgia).

The concentrated format of the meeting gave participants ample room to really get into conversation with each other, and in the poster sessions and breaks, constructive and detailed discussions on retroelements and their control mechanisms took place. The historical Leucorea in Lutherstadt Wittenberg offered all the advantages that one would expect for a relaxed and productive atmosphere during such an event: nearby rooms for the lectures and poster sessions, for meals together and also short distances to the rooms located in the house. During a night tour the participants, accompanied by a group of torchbearers, were guided through the city by the "wives of Luther and Melanchthon".

The organizers (Marek Malicki, Monica Hagedorn and Christian Hammann, Jacobs University Bremen, Germany), want to thank all participants for their contributions and the lively discussions! Also, we would like to thank the German Research Foundation (DFG), the Fonds of the Chemical Industry (FCI) and the RNA Society for their support. The funds provided by the RNA Society allowed several PhD students to participate at a reduced conference fee.

2018 RiboWest

June 10th – 13th, 2018

Lethbridge, Alberta, Canada

The 14th annual installment of RiboWest was organized by the Alberta RNA Research and Training Institute (ARRTI) located at the University of Lethbridge. While many good traditions were



continued, new elements were also explored at the RiboWest Conference this year. The RiboWest Conference 2018 started with an excursion to the magnificent Waterton national park on June 10 and ended with a Young Investigator session on June 13. For the first time, we had a Gairdner Lecture – presented by Dr. Nahum Sonenberg (McGill University) - starting the conference. In addition, Drs. Steven Jones (BC Cancer Agency), Martin Hirst (University of British Columbia), and Jennifer Kugel (University of Colorado Boulder) presented as keynote speakers, and Dr. Michelle Scott (Université de Sherbrooke) was the RiboClub invited speaker for 2018. In addition to the scientific sessions, RiboWest 2018 included a special seminar on “Analytical Ultracentrifugation: Overview and Common Applications” and a very fruitful panel discussion on “Grant Writing and Team Building for Tri-Council Grants” which met the demands and interests of all participants.

Besides several new elements, the strong student-focus was continued, for example by having two judging panels for the poster presentations, one led by the students themselves and one by the principal investigators. Also, prior to the conference, three students were selected for fellowships to attend the RiboWest Conference. The entire RiboWest community is grateful for the support by the RNA Society who sponsored the fellowships and part of the presentation awards. We have started a new tradition of RiboClub-RiboWest prize that was announced by the invited RiboClub

speaker. This prize was given to the best student presenter (oral presentation) and includes registration and accommodation for the upcoming RiboClub meeting in Orford, QC, Canada. The conference banquet was held at the Galt Museum offering a beautiful view of the sunset over the Oldman River in Lethbridge. Finally, the conference was concluded with a Young Investigator session on June 13.

RNA Society-Sponsored Travel Awards : Ewan McRae – McKenna lab, University of Manitoba; Jibin Sadasivan – Jan lab, University of British Columbia; Gabrielle Deschamps-Francoeur – Scott lab, Université de Sherbrooke

13th Microsymposium on Small RNAs

June 18th – 20th, 2018

Vienna, Austria

Once again, the annual Microsymposium on Small RNAs took place at the Vienna BioCenter (VBC). Initiated by Javier Martinez shortly after he moved to Vienna in 2006, the Microsymposium is now co-organized by group leaders from all four institutes at the VBC. Luisa Cochella (IMP), Stefan Ameres and Julius Brennecke (IMBA), Michael Nodine (GMI) and Javier Martinez (MFPL).



In recent years, the meeting has expanded its scope, and while it continues to be mostly focused on small RNA biology, it now includes presentations on other exciting aspects of RNA biology. This year, the program included 34 talks ranging from small RNAs in defense mechanisms to development and differentiation, new technologies for small RNA analysis, mechanistic studies of the link between small RNAs and chromatin, as well as sessions on RNA structure and RNA modifications. As in previous year, the Microsymposium attracted scientists from all over the world who shared three days of exciting science.

The spirit of the Microsymposium is collegial, open and supportive – discussions were lengthy and in a constructive atmosphere. In addition, this year was no exception to the strong focus on promoting young scientists. Beyond the outstanding line-up of international speakers (many of them junior group leaders), the highlights were the talks from the 6 invited postdocs and 9 invited PhD students.

The PhD student talks were selected from the highly competitive submitted abstracts and were part of a PhD Workshop, typically sponsored by the 4 institutes that make up the VBC. Thanks to the support from the RNA Society, this year we could host 9 students (pictured at below at Vienna's beautiful Belvedere) from 3 different continents. Awards for best presentations were selected by the academic presenters and awarded to Maria Louisa Vigh (EMBO Award; Brodersen Lab, University of Copenhagen, Denmark) and Mostafa El Maghraby (RNA Salon Award; Brennecke Lab, IMBA, Vienna, Austria).



This year, the Microsymposium had over 200 participants and more than 60 posters, the meeting was hosted at the new IMP lecture hall, which was vibrant for the whole three days of the meeting. Stay tuned for more information, the Microsymposium will be back next year for its 14th installment (May 15-17, 2019 at the VBC in Vienna, Austria)!

FASEB-sponsored Machines on Genes

June 24th – 29th, 2018

Snowmass, Colorado, USA

From June 24 to 29 the biannual Machines on Genes Meeting was held in Snowmass Colorado. This meeting brought together over 80 researchers from across the globe who focus on using quantitative biochemistry and/or structural or other

biophysical methods to study nucleic acid transactions. The conference was anchored by two terrific Keynote lectures delivered by Eva Nogales (UC Berkeley, HHMI) and Xiadong Zhang (EMBO-sponsored, Imperial College), but included a total of 52 talks, with ~20 selected from submitted abstracts. Two poster sessions completed a scientific program that was exciting, diverse and very timely.

As perhaps foreshadowed by the keynote lectures, the meeting was heavily influenced by the recent breakthroughs in cryo-electron microscopy, with a substantial fraction of the abstracts presenting or including structural work. In that context, a highlight of the meeting was the cryo-EM workshop, where the attending leaders in the EM field discussed not their greatest breakthroughs, but instead their biggest challenges and how to address them.

We, the organizers, Katrin Karbstein, Jens Michaelis and Scott Williams, would like to thank all participants for their terrific scientific contributions, the discussions and a fun week! We are grateful for the support from sponsors, including the RNA Society, and are looking forward to the meeting in 2020, to be held in the UK.

FASEB-sponsored Post-transcriptional Control of Gene Expression: Mechanisms of RNA Decay

June 24th – 29th, 2018

Scottsdale, Arizona, USA

This, the 11th meeting of the series, brought together 137 academic, government, foundation, and industrial researchers from across the globe to intensively discuss their latest findings on the mechanisms and biological consequences of mRNA turnover. The meeting was organized by Dr. Aaron Goldstrohm (Univ. of Minnesota), Dr. Kenneth McDowall (Univ. of Leeds) and Dr. Kristian Baker (Case Western Reserve Univ.). Novel discoveries were disseminated in keynote addresses by Dr. Lynne Maquat (Univ. of Rochester) and Dr. Joel Belasco (New York Univ.), and by fifty-three invited experts during 9 thematic scientific sessions. All attendees (who submitted abstracts) were invited to give 90 second ‘Lightning Talks’ and present posters of their work in two engaging evening poster sessions; from submitted abstracts, 19 were selected for oral presentations, many of which were presented by junior researchers and/or trainees.

This meeting focused on RNA decay - mechanisms and impact on post-transcriptional control of gene expression - and the fundamental roles RNA decay plays in biology, including development, viral and bacterial pathogenesis, and disease. A unique aspect of this meeting is that it incorporates research on all major RNA species and from all kingdoms of life – including viruses, microbes, plants, fungi, and animals. The research presented was highly multidisciplinary employing cell and molecular biology, genetics, virology, microbiology, biochemistry, chemistry, biophysics, structural biology, bioinformatics and computational approaches. The immense contributions of the late Dr. Elisa Izaurralde (1959-2018) - a leading RNA biologist, regular attendee of this meeting, and good friend - were honored on several occasions and memorialized in naming a poster prize in structural & functional RNA biology in her name.

The meeting format promoted discussions, collaborations, and networking. Half of the attendees were trainees, and scientists at all levels had networking and professional development opportunities including daily ‘Meet with Experts’ luncheons and a ‘Career Developmental Discussion Hour’ with panelists Dr. Sandra Wolin (National Cancer Institute), Dr. Trista Schagat (Promega), Dr. Anita Corbett (Emory University) and Dr. Ariel Bazzini (Stowers Institute).

Awards sponsored by the RNA Society and the Non-coding RNA journal were given to top presentations by trainees. Best poster prizes (left to right in first photo)



went to Dr. Ben Towler (Brighton and Sussex Medical School), Dr. Dhriti Sinha (Univ. of Texas Health Science Center Houston), Katelyn Doxtader (Univ. of Texas Southwestern). Dagmar Zigackova (Masaryk Univ.) won the Lightning Talk prize (second from left in first photo). Dr. Eva-Maria Weick (Sloan Kettering Institute, middle photo) was awarded the Dr. Elisa Izaurralde poster award and Dr. Anthony Mustoe (Univ. of North Carolina, right photo) the non-coding RNA

poster award. The organizers thank the following sponsors for their generosity: National Science Foundation, National Institutes of Environmental Health Sciences, Moderna, New England BioLabs, Promega, the Non-coding RNA Journal, Public Library of Science, and the RNA Society.

EMBO Workshop: RNA Structure Meets Function

July 1st – 4th, 2018

Stockholm Archipelago, Sweden

The second workshop on “RNA structure meets function” (organized by Gonçalo Castelo-Branco, Claudia Kutter, Katja Petzold and Alessandra Villa, Karolinska Institutet, Sweden) brought together ~110 enthusiastic participants from five continents, from academia



and the industry world. Jeannie Lee (Harvard Medical School, United States) and Thomas Cech (University of Colorado, United States) gave an opening lecture and an introduction to “RNA structure-function relationship”. All invited and selected speakers gave talks on RNA modifications, large RNA complexes, RNA structure and dynamics, regulatory and non-coding RNAs.

Thanks to the support of the RNA Society, 4 travel scholarships were awarded on a competitive basis to the young investigators: Omer Ziv (The Gurdon Institute, University of Cambridge, United Kingdom), Sarah Bajan (University of Technology Sydney, Australia), Uciel Pablo Chorostecki (Centre for Genomic Regulation, Universitat Pompeu Fabra, Spain) and Stephanie Oerum

(Institut de biologie physico-chimique, CNRS/Université Paris Diderot, France) from left to right in the photo.

2018 Integrative RNA Biology – Special Interest Group

July 7th & 8th, 2018

Chicago, Illinois, USA

The 15th Special Interest Group meeting on RNA Biology (RNA COSI) was held July 7-8, 2018 in Chicago, Illinois. As part of ISMB, the annual International Society for Computational Biology, the RNA COSI is designed to bring together world experts in RNA processing, non-coding RNAs, and computation, to discuss recent advances in the integrated view of RNA biology and its relation to human disease. The RNA COSI aims to bridge the gap between the different research fields to foster new research ideas for deciphering the regulation of RNA processing.

This year we had over 200 attendees participate in the two-day meeting (a subset of which are photographed, including organizers Dr. Yoseph Barash, Dr. Eduardo Eyras, and Dr. Klemens Hertel). Abstracts selected for posters and talks were combined with an exciting line-up of researchers that covered advances and challenges of small molecule targeting of pre-mRNA splicing (Dr. Michael Seiler), novel insights from the analysis of nascent transcription (Dr. Stirling Churchman), appreciating the impact of RNA binding proteins in RNA biology (Dr. Gene Yeo and Dr. Chaolin Zhang), and single cell genomics combined with novel experimental and computational tools to analyze the impact of RNA on cell homeostasis.

The following students received RNA Society co-sponsored financial support to attend the RNA COSI. **Carla Mann**, (PhD student, Iowa State Univ.), **Sushant Bangru** (PhD student, Univ. of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign), **Christopher Jürges** (PhD student, Institut für Virologie und Immunbiologie, Julius-Maximilians-Universität Würzburg, Germany).



2018 Gordon Research Seminar (GRS) on Post-transcriptional Gene Regulation

July 14th – 15th, 2018

Sunday River, Maine, USA

Organized by Daniel I. Dominguez (Massachusetts Institute of Technology) and Boxuan Zhao (University of Chicago/Stanford University), the GRS is a unique meeting for early career scientists (graduate students and post-docs) to share their research and build up network with peers. The theme of the 2018 GRS was “Surveys, Mechanisms and Disease” and highlighted 16 research talks selected from submitted abstracts spanning four main topics: Coupling of Transcription and Splicing, RNA Processing and Modifications, RNA Translation, and RNA Processing in Human Disease. Two poster sessions held on each day of the GRS also provided a plethora of opportunities for all attendees to present their research.

The first day ended with an evening social where all attendees mingled and chatted about their research and daily life in the lab. On the second day, a career panel discussion was held that highlighted early careers in academia and in industry (biotech/start up). The panelists included Angela Brooks (University of California, Santa Cruz), Stacy Horner (Duke University Medical Center), Razvan Nutiu (Novartis), and Eric Van Nostrand (University of California San Diego); each panelist shared intriguing stories about their career paths and provided valuable suggestions to the attendees. Overall, the meeting fostered an intimate environment for all junior scientist attendees to learn about and discuss exciting progress in the field of RNA research, as well as provided a platform for exchange of ideas and establish collaborations with their colleagues.

The RNA Society generously supported a portion of the registration fees for all speakers and discussion leaders, along with contributions from Novartis, the Burroughs Wellcome Fund, Ionis Pharmaceuticals, and New England Biolabs. Two poster awards and one oral presentation award were presented and made possible by these contributions; awardees (pictured left to right below): Maria Alexis (Massachusetts Institute of Technology), Eric Van Nostrand (Univ. of California San Diego), and Stephanie Moon (HHMI/ Univ. of Colorado Boulder). We sincerely thank the continuous and generous support from the RNA Society!



2018 Gordon Research Conference (GRC) on Post-transcriptional Gene Regulation

July 14th – 20th, 2018

Sunday River, Maine, USA

This summer the Post-transcriptional Gene Regulation Gordon Research Conference brought together 200 scientists from around the world to explore all aspects of RNA Biology at the beautiful Jordan Hotel in Newry Maine July 15-20th. An outstanding group of junior scientists kicked off the meeting with the Gordon Research Seminars on July 14-15th. The GRS and GRC were both fully subscribed, and the bucolic, intimate setting provided ample opportunity for scientists from different fields at all stages of their careers to exchange ideas about post-transcriptional gene regulation (photo of meeting participants; courtesy of Gordon Research Conferences).



This year's PTGR GRC was co-chaired by Tracy Johnson (University of California, Los Angeles, USA) and Brenton Graveley (UConn Health, USA). The meeting kicked off on Sunday evening with a keynote talk by Kiyoshi Nagai (MRC Laboratory of Molecular Biology, UK). The elegant structures of the spliceosome were the perfect backdrop for two fantastic talks about splicing mechanism and regulation by Drs. Anna Marie Pyle (Yale University USA) and Manuel Ares, Jr. (University of California, Santa Cruz USA). The Sunday opening session was followed by four days of cutting-edge research presented in the form of 49 oral presentations, approximately 70 posters, and ample lively discourse over food and drinks. With the generous support of the RNA Society and industry sponsors, two postdoctoral fellows and five graduate student presenters (two from each of two sessions) were awarded poster prizes. The post-doc awardees were **Inga Jarmoskaite** (Herschlag Lab, Stanford University) and **Stephanie Moon** (Parker Lab, HHMI/U. Colorado, Boulder). The graduate student awardees were, in first place, **Alyssa Casill** (Gamble/Query Labs, Albert Einstein College of Medicine) and Leah **Zagore** (Licatalosi Lab, Case Western Reserve University), and in second place, the awardees were **Diana Cox** (Cooper Lab, Baylor College of Medicine), **Heather Drexler** (Churchman Lab, Harvard Medical School), and **Jose Pineda** (Bradley Lab, Fred Hutchinson Cancer Research Center).

This year also marked the first PTGR GRC Power Hour (Monday July 16th), where meeting participants were invited to a session focused on challenges and opportunities facing women in science. The session was facilitated by Drs. Yue Wan (Genome Institute of Singapore, Singapore) and Tracy Johnson (UCLA). More than 90 men and women attended this inaugural and well-received event. At the conclusion of the meeting, all meeting recipients received a Power Hour summary with action items.

The Post-Transcriptional Gene Regulation GRC and GRS meetings were made possible through the generous support of The RNA Society, the GRC, and about a dozen industrial sponsors. Four first time attendees were awarded the Carl Storm Fellowship to support the participation of scientists from under-represented groups. We look forward to the next exciting PTGR GRC and GRS in 2020!

2nd International Caparica Conference in Splicing

July 16th – 19th, 2018

Lisbon, Portugal

The 2nd SPLICING Conference was held in Portugal from July 16th - 19th and gathered more than 200 participants from 27 different countries. From the networking sessions, where participants were able to discuss and initiate new collaborations, to the diversified and outstanding talks, the success of the Splicing conference was only possible due to the high performance of the scientists involved.



In this edition we had on board as Plenary Speakers Professor Benoit Chabot (Canada), Professor Peter Kloetzel (Germany), Professor Diana Baralle (UK), Professor Franco Pagani (Italy), Professor Eduardo Eyras (Spain) and Professor Vânia Prado (Canada).



As for the past edition, this year the RNA Society has promoted science among the next generation of researchers by sponsoring the participation of 8 PhD students. Such grants were given in collaboration with the ProteoMass Scientific Society and included the fees of the conference and an extra cash award of 100 € This year the awardees were (left to right in photo): **Ichcha Manipur** (Italy), **Ayla Manughian-Peter** (USA), **Zoe Blackley** (UK), **Lisa Muller** (Germany), **Adam Mol** (Germany), **Lorena de La Fuente** (Spain), **Napsugár Kavalecz** (Hungary) and **Antonio Carlos Fayos** (Spain; not pictured).

Our plenaries shared similar points of view between them about the importance of splicing, thus professor Benoit stated in his preface to this Splicing 2018 edition “Despite rapid progress in -omics approaches, we still need biochemical and molecular biological approaches to understand better the networks orchestrating splicing decisions.” Further, Professor Prado and Professor Baralle, affirmed that “a plethora of RNA binding proteins and perturbations are implicated in many human diseases, including neurodegenerative diseases and cancer.” The importance of splicing in personalized medicine was also highlighted by our plenary speakers Eduardo Eyras, Franco Pagani, and Peter Kloetzel.

On behalf of the Bioscope Team, the conference Chairs, Professor Carlos Lodeiro and Professor José Luis Capelo thank all the participants in Splicing 2018, the Editors of the International Journal of Biochemistry and Cell Biology for allowing us to launch a special issue devoted to *Alternative Splicing*, and the RNA Society for the support.

Upcoming RNA meetings of interest

Nucleic Acids, Immunity and Genome Defense **September 4th – 6th, 2018** **Czech Republic, Brno**

The third conference on Nucleic Acids, Immunity and Genome Defence, that is funded by EU FP7 project, will be held in September in Brno in the Czech Republic. This two-day conference, organized by Mary O’ Connell (CEITEC) and Liam Keegan (CEITEC) is novel as it endeavors to bring together researchers in immunity with those working on nucleic acids. This area of research is becoming very popular and this is an excellent opportunity to listen to experts from both fields. This conference has been very popular in previous years with approximately 100 participants. The RNA Society has provided funds that will be awarded to the best presentations either oral or poster from junior scientists.

The list of invited speakers is available for viewing on the meeting website. Some oral abstracts will be chosen from those submitted; the deadline for oral presentation is 28/5/2018 and for poster presentation is 18/6/2018. Please visit the website <http://www.nucleic-acids-immunity.ceitec.eu/> for more information

Fifth Biennial Meeting of the LARP Society **September 10th – 13th, 2018** **Rothenburg, Germany**

The biennial meeting of the LARP society focuses on the study of La-motif containing proteins such as the genuine La and La-related proteins (LARPs). Since their initial characterization, genuine La proteins have been shown to function in the metabolism of a wide spectrum of non-coding and coding RNAs, several of which have been implicated in challenges to human health. More recently, the study of the La-related proteins has expanded on the known functions of La-motif containing proteins in many eukaryotic species.

The 2018 meeting aims to bring together scientists from many disciplines to discuss the most recent findings in the field of LARP biology. It is expected that the small size of the attendance will foster stimulating discussions that will lead to innovative collaborations.

The LARP Society actively encourages young scientists to join the meeting and to present their data. Travel fellowships – funded in part by the RNA Society – will be available. Register on-line at our meeting website at <http://www.larp-society.com/meeting-2018-information/> where you will also find more information on how to apply for travel fellowships.



EMBO Workshop on piRNAs and PIWI proteins
September 12th – 15th, 2018
Montpellier, France

The EMBO Workshop on piRNAs and PIWI proteins will take place 12-15 September 2018 in Montpellier, in the South of France. This four day international conference is specifically dedicated to piRNA biology. It will bring together young scientists, junior and senior group leaders from all over the world to present and discuss their latest findings on all the different aspects of piRNA biology. Thus, the workshop will cover the entire field. This workshop is the second of the EMBO Workshop series on piRNA biology.

Topics will include piRNA biogenesis, piRNAs/PIWI proteins in genome defense, in epigenetic regulation, in the regulation of endogenous gene expression programs, in stem cell biology, in genome rearrangements, and in somatic tissues and cancer.

There will be a particular focus to support scientists in early career stages to foster discussions and collaborations. We highly encourage student, postdocs, and young investigators to attend. Travel grants for students and postdocs will be available. A large number of oral presentations will be selected from the abstracts.

For more information and to register, please visit the web site: <http://meetings.embo.org/event/18-pirna>. Registration and Abstract submission deadline: June 4, 2018. We are looking forward to welcoming you in Montpellier. The organizing committee: Julius Brennecke, Haifan Lin, Kazufumi Mochizuki, and Martine Simonelig.

27th International tRNA Conference
September 23rd – 27th, 2018
Strasbourg, France

The 27th International tRNA Conference “tRNA at the crossroad” will bring together researchers from around the world studying the many aspects of tRNA biology. The conference will be held at the “Palais de la Musique et des Congrès” in the heart of the beautiful historic city of Strasbourg, France.

The session topics include: tRNA biogenesis in evolution, tRNA modifications, tRNA in translation, non-canonical functions of tRNA, functions of tRNA derived fragments, tRNA in synthetic biology, aminoacyl tRNA synthetases biology, tRNA biology and diseases.

Speakers include Michael Levitt (Nobel Prize in Chemistry, 2013) Susan Ackerman, Juan Alfonzo, Zofia Chrzanowska-Lightowers, Valérie de Crécy-Lagard, Anita Hopper, Michael Ibba, Pavel Ivanov, Sebastian Leidel, Eric Phizicky, Jody Publisi, Lluís Ribas de Pouplana, Paul Schimmel, Costas Stathopoulos, Tsutomu Suzuki, Xiang-Lei Yang. Talks from young researchers will be chosen upon abstract submission.

We are glad to announce that with the support of the RNA society, we are able to offer travel or accommodation support for early career researchers. Registration is scheduled to open on March 24th, 2018 and is limited to 300 participants. Deadline for abstracts submission to be considered for short talks on the conference program is June 24th. Closing of registration is August 24th. For more information, please see : <https://trna2018.sciencesconf.org/>

19th Annual RiboClub Meeting
September 24th – 27th, 2018
Orford, Quebec, Canada

RNA scientists in Sherbrooke have organized the 19th RiboClub Meeting to be held in Orford at Hotel Chéribourg (in the vicinity of Sherbrooke, Quebec, Canada).

The program includes keynote lectures by Matthias Hentze and Maria Barna, poster sessions and invited speakers on plenary sessions (Cari Vanderpool, Davide Ruggiero, Maude Guillier, Quaid Morris, Yoseph Barash, Manuel Irimia, Nuno Barbosa-Morais, Scott Blanchard, Sander Granneman, Alan Hinnebusch, Joel Belasco, Christine Clayton, Joseph Wade, Jack Keen, Shona Murphy, Nicholas Conrad, Lydia Sohn, Eric Brown, Hanah Margalit, Uwe Ohler, Jernej Ule, René Ketting, Samuel Margerat) that will include eukaryotic and bacterial non-coding RNA, RNA processing, splicing and maturation, Ribosome and translation regulation, RNA Degradation, Transcription and 3' end formation, Epigenetics and



RNA modifications, Single cell analysis, RNA-seq, system biology and networks. The flavor of the year is “RNomics: Bigdata, analysis and mechanism of action. Additional talks will be selected from submitted abstracts.

The RiboClub Society, in collaboration with the RNA Society, has set aside a limited amount of funds to provide travel fellowships for graduate students and postdoctoral fellows who otherwise would not be able to attend the meeting for financial reasons. If you wish to apply for a fellowship, please fill the pdf form at our web site and send it as file attachment by email to fellowship@riboclub.org. The application needs to be submitted before June 1st and the results will be sent to applicants by mid-June.

Registration and abstract deadline are until June 30, but late registration is accepted until September 2nd. <http://main.riboclub.org/annual-meeting/#upcoming>. Looking forward to welcoming you in Orford next September. Benoit Chabot (for the organizing committee: Sherif Abou Elela, Raymund Wellinger, Brendan Bell, François Bachand, Jean-Pierre Perreault, Michelle Scott, Eric Massé, Daniel Lafontaine, Martin Bisailon)

2018 EMBO|EMBL Symposium: The Complex Life of RNA
October 3rd – 6th, 2018
Heidelberg, Germany

We are pleased to invite you to the 2018 EMBO|EMBL Symposium: The Complex Life of RNA in Heidelberg, Germany. This biennial symposium covers the life of RNA, from synthesis to decay.



Before the genetic information stored in DNA can be used to direct cell growth and metabolism, it has to be transferred into RNA. Messenger RNAs (mRNAs) that code for proteins and noncoding RNAs are key components in the transmission of genetic information in all life forms – from viruses to complex mammalian organisms. Exciting recent findings now reveal a new layer of information added to RNAs in the form of chemical marks (the epitranscriptome) that play a critical role in gene expression control. This remarkable complexity in the lives of RNAs will be discussed at this meeting. The meeting will bring together research leaders in these topics and will feature presentations from students and postdocs selected from submitted abstracts.

Keynote Speakers - Reinhard Lührmann (Max Planck Institute for Biophysical Chemistry, Germany), Geraldine Seydoux (Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine, USA), Robert H. Singer (Albert Einstein College of Medicine, USA)

Conference topics include - Transcription, RNA processing, export and localisation, mRNA surveillance and decay, translation and the control of gene expression by small RNAs, RNA modifications, and noncoding RNAs.

Abstract deadline: 11 Jul 2018. Registration deadline: 22 Aug 2018. For more information about the symposium, including on financial assistance, and to register, please visit the website:

<https://www.embo-embl-symposia.org/symposia/2018/EES18-10/index.html>

The 2018 RNA Biology and Processing Meeting in Memory of Prof. Yossi Sperling
October 8th, 2018
Ramat Gan, Israel

This one day meeting will include keynote talks by Reinhard Lührmann and Dónal O’Carroll, invited speakers, flash talks by students and postdocs, and a poster session. Register at:

<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/1IsWUJ5Ra9c0QHRyqCKnTCIXZfDP8CcEf6CGDqLHcCSE/viewform?editrequested=true>

Meeting organizers: Gil Ast, Eran Hornstein, Yaron Shav-Tal. For further information please contact Yaron.Shav-Tal@biu.ac.il



EMBO Workshop: RNA and Genome Maintenance: Cooperation and Conflict Management
October 10th, - October 13th, 2018
Mainz, Germany

Meeting website: <http://meetings.embo.org/event/18-rna-genome>
Registration deadline: 1 July 2018; Abstract deadline: 1 August 2018.

About the Workshop - Genomes of living organisms are exposed to damage arising from different sources. To maintain genome integrity, cells and organisms have evolved elaborate mechanisms and signaling pathways that regulate different processes including DNA repair and cell cycle. Recent findings highlighted the intricate interplay between genome stability maintenance and RNA metabolism: Transcription can interfere with DNA replication and thus pose a serious threat to genome stability. Conversely, DNA damage activates signaling pathways that globally affect transcription, splicing and RNA stability. Moreover, non-coding RNA and RNA-binding proteins play an integral part in DNA repair and DNA damage response. This EMBO Workshop will gather established scientists and junior researchers that study the mutual interactions between the DNA damage response and RNA metabolism.

The workshop will provide a forum for open and inspiring discussions between the scientists that shaped and the ones that recently joined this exciting and rapidly progressing field on the following topics:

Replication-transcription conflicts and transcription-associated DNA damage.

RNA-binding proteins in genome stability maintenance

Non-coding RNA in the DNA damage response

Interplay between the DNA damage response and RNA metabolism

Twentieth Annual Rustbelt RNA Meeting – RRM 2018
October 26th & 27th, 2018
Columbus, Ohio, USA

The Rustbelt RNA Meeting (RRM) brings together nearly 300 scientists from the Midwestern and Mid-Atlantic United States and Canada to share exciting developments in all things RNA. The primary mission of the RRM is to showcase research performed by undergraduate, graduate and postdoctoral trainees. The 2018 meeting will continue the long-standing tradition of oral presentations by junior scientists, and a poster session that highlights the work of all other trainees. Topics covered will span RNA-protein complexes, non-coding RNA, RNA-based regulation during development and disease, RNA nanotechnology, RNA therapeutics, bioinformatics, and RNA systems biology.

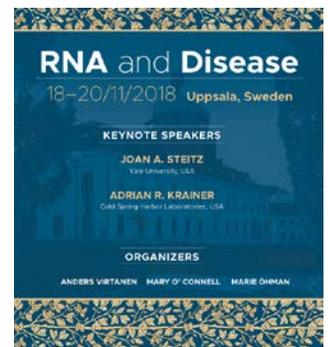
The Keynote lecture will be by Professor Thomas A. Cooper (Baylor College of Medicine), who has made exceptional contributions to the field of pre-mRNA splicing and human disease. The meeting will also feature a technical workshop on "RNA structure visualization and analysis" and a special workshop for graduate school-bound undergraduates "You'll go far with a PhD! How to start the journey—a workshop on graduate school applications". The meeting will conclude with a Career Mentoring Lunch.

For more details, visit <http://rustbeltRNA.org> or contact the meeting Co-Chairs: Guramrit Singh (The Ohio State University) and Auinash Kalsotra (The University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign) or Co-Vice Chairs: Hua Lou (Case Western Reserve University) and Peng Yao (University of Rochester).

Registration will open on August 27th and is limited to 300 participants, so register early!

RNA and Disease 2018
November 18th – 20th, 2018
Uppsala, Sweden

A three day conference on RNA and Disease will be held in Uppsala, Sweden from the 18-20th November, 2018. This conference, organized by Anders Virtanen, Mary O'Connell and Marie Öhman, will focus on how different aspects of RNA biology can influence both the mode of action and outcome of different diseases.



Speakers will include Professor Joan Steitz, who will give the 7th Lennart Philipson Memorial Lecture, and Professor Adrian Krainer who will give the SciLife Lab Svedberg Seminar. The full list of invited speakers and deadlines for registration is on our website <http://rnadiseases2018.com/>.

The RNA Society has generously provided funds that will be awarded to the best presentations either oral or poster from junior scientists. A number of oral abstracts will be chosen from those submitted; deadline for applying for oral presentations is October 22nd, 2018.

RIBOSOME 2019 meeting
January 6th – 10th, 2019
Mérida, Mexico

The Ribosome 2019 meeting continues the series of triennial scientific conferences bringing together researchers from around the globe working on the mechanisms of protein synthesis. The meeting focuses on the ribosome: its structure, function, dynamics and role as a therapeutic target. The goal of the Ribosome 2019 meeting is to bring together new and established investigators working on all aspects of translation, exploiting different experimental approaches and using a variety of experimental models.

Among the invited speakers are: Joachim Frank (USA), Alexey Amunds (Sweden), John Atkins (Ireland), Nenad Ban (Switzerland), Maria Barna (USA), Erik Bötger (Switzerland), Berndt Bukau (Germany), Allen Buskirk (USA), Jamie Cate (USA), Christine Dunham (USA), Kurt Fredrick (USA), Ning Gao (China), Wendy Gilbert (USA), Rachel Green (USA), Claudio Gualerzi (Italy), Yaser Hashem (France), Vasili Haurlyiuk (Sweden), Zoya Ignatova (Germany), Toshifumy Inada (Japan), Axel Innis (France), Sebastian Klinge (USA), Andrei Korostelev (USA), Isabella Moll (Austria), Harry Noller (USA), Tatyana Pestova (USA), Norbert Polacek (Austria), Yury Polikanov (USA), Venki Ramakrishnan (UK), Marina Rodnina (Germany), Suparna Sanyal (Sweden), Petr Sergiev (Russia), Tom Steitz (USA), Takuya Ueda (Japan), Jonathan Weissman (USA), Eric Westhof (France), Jamie Williamson (USA), Frances Yap (USA), Ada Yonath (Israel), Marat Yusupov (France), Hani Zaher (USA) and others.

The Meeting will feature 10 platform and 2 poster sessions. Registration and abstract submission deadline: August 31, 2018. Further details can be found at: <https://www.ribosome2019.com/>

Organizers: Alexander Mankin (University of Illinois, Chicago, USA), Nora Vázquez-Laslop (University of Illinois, Chicago, USA), Karissa Y. Sanbonmatsu (Los Alamos National Laboratory, Los Alamos, USA).
Program Committee: Daniel Wilson (University of Hamburg, Germany), Scott C. Blanchard (Weil Cornell Medical College of Cornell University, New York, USA).

2019 Gordon Research Seminar (GRS) and Conference (GRC) on RNA Nanotechnology
January 12th – 18th, 2019
Ventura, California, USA

The 2019 RNA Nanotechnology Gordon Research Seminar will take place in Ventura, California, January 12th & 13th, 2019. The Gordon Research Seminar brings together early-career scientists from graduate students to junior faculty members in the field of RNA nanotechnology. The meeting offers participants an exceptional environment to discuss their latest research, exchange ideas, initiate collaborations, and network with peers. The seminar will focus on four pillars of RNA nanotechnology: structure, diagnostics, therapeutics, and delivery. The keynote speaker is Dr. Marina Dobrovolskaia, who heads the Immunology Section of the Nanotechnology Characterization Lab (National Institutes of Health). The seminar will also include a career panel. The registration deadline is December 15th, 2018. For more information, please visit the meeting website: <https://www.grc.org/rna-nanotechnology-grs-conference/2019/>.

The 2019 Gordon Research Conference on RNA Nanotechnology (January 13th & 18th) will bring together scientists working in diverse disciplines ranging from chemistry and biophysics of nucleic acids to materials science, RNA synthetic



biology, RNA-based therapy and RNA diagnostics, including the rapidly expanding fields of noncoding RNA and nucleic acids in extracellular vesicles.

Sessions will include Nucleic Acid Folding and Structure, Nucleic Acid Modeling and Computation, RNA Nanostructures and DNA Nanotechnology, Nucleic Acid Sensors and Devices, RNA Synthetic Biology, Biological RNA Nanoparticles, Extracellular RNA Based Diagnostics, and Nucleic Acid Nanotherapeutics.

The GRC will be preceded by a GRS organized by young researchers who are encouraged to also participate in the main conference. A Power Hour discussion during the GRC will be held for both men and women attendees to discuss topics and challenges of diversity and inclusion in the sciences.

ptRNA2019
January 24th & 25th, 2019
Porto, Portugal

We are pleased to invite you to the VIII Portuguese Meeting: ptRNA2019. The meeting will bring together at the i3S, Porto, on the 24-25th January 2019, national and international scientists interested on RNA. The meeting aims to promote scientific discussions and synergies in the most recent advances and cutting-edge technologies in RNA, gathering established and young scientists from the country, and also leading international guest speakers. The meeting will feature talks from invited speakers and from young scientists, as well as talks selected from submitted abstracts, a poster session, awards to best poster and short talk, and also activities to promote discussion and interaction between the participants. The topics will include RNA and chromatin dynamics, RNA processing, RNA modifications, RNA stability and decay, non-coding RNAs, tRNAs biology, RNA function in gene expression regulation in health and disease.



Keynote Speakers:

Christine Mayr, Memorial Sloan Kettering, Cancer Center, USA; Maria Carmo-Fonseca, IMM, Portugal; Manuel Santos, iBiMED, Portugal; Nicholas Proudfoot, University of Oxford, UK

Organizing Committee

Alexandra Moreira, i3S/IBMC; Margarida Gama-Carvalho, BIoISI-FCUL; Isabel Pereira-Castro, i3S/IBMC; Jaime Freitas, i3S/IBMC

Important dates to remember:

17 September 2018: Start of Abstract Submission/ Online Registration

17 December 2018: End of Abstract Submission

31 December 2018: End of Online Registration

Please visit the meeting website <https://www.i3s.up.pt/content/event?v=52> for more information.

Looking forward to welcome you in the beautiful city of Porto!

Employment Opportunities

If you are a member and would like to have your employment opportunity listed on this page, follow the instructions on [this page](#) (you must log in to view the page). If you are interested in applying for a position, please see the web site for more information (below is an abbreviated version). Please contact the person listed in the advertisement on the web site.

Sign up for our [jobs feed](#) and receive email notification when we post to this page.

[Postdoctoral Position Available Immediately, Lab of Dr. Rui Zhao, University of Colorado School of Medicine](#)

Posted on [August 13, 2018](#)

I am seeking a motivated, independent, creative entry level post-doctoral researcher to join my laboratory at the University of Colorado School of Medicine. My lab is interested in understanding the molecular mechanism of pre-mRNA splicing and its role in disease processes, including cancer, as well as developing potential therapeutic approaches targeting splicing in these processes. We use a combination of structural (cryoEM and crystallography), biochemical, genetic, molecular biology, and cell biology approaches. Below are two examples of our recent publications: CryoEM structure of *Saccharomyces cerevisiae* U1 snRNP offers insight into alternative splicing. *Nat Commun.* 2017; 8:1035. PMID 29051543.

To apply, please send an email with a cover letter summarizing past research accomplishments, research interest, long term plans, and start date availability; CV; and contact information of three references to Rui.Zhao@ucdenver.edu.

[Postdoctoral Position Available Studying Molecular Mechanisms of RNA Quality Control, Natl. Heart, Lung & Blood Institute](#)

Posted on [August 8, 2018](#)

Position Title: Mechanisms and regulation of human nonsense-mediated mRNA decay A postdoctoral position studying the molecular mechanisms of RNA quality control is immediately available in Dr. J. Robert Hogg's group at the National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute, National Institutes of Health, Bethesda, MD. Our laboratory investigates multiple facets of the NMD pathway, including novel positive and negative regulators of RNA decay.

To apply: Please email a cover letter indicating preferred start date and research area, CV, summary of research accomplishments, and names and contact information for at least three references to: Dr. J. Robert Hogg Email: j.hogg@nih.gov

Lab Website: <http://www.nhlbi.nih.gov/research/intramural/researchers/pi/hogg-robert/>

Employer Name: National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute Bethesda, MD

The NIH is dedicated to building a diverse community in its training and employment programs.

[Postdoctoral Position Available – Wilusz Lab, University of Pennsylvania](#)

Posted on [August 7, 2018](#)

A postdoctoral position is available in the laboratory of Dr. Jeremy Wilusz at the University of Pennsylvania in Philadelphia, PA. Our multi-disciplinary laboratory aims to reveal new modes of gene regulation, especially novel mechanisms that regulate circular RNAs, RNA stability, pre-mRNA splicing, transcription, or translation.

Applicants should have a recent Ph.D. in molecular biology or relevant field and have demonstrated research productivity through publications. Interested applicants should apply to wilusz@pennmedicine.upenn.edu by sending (i) a cover letter summarizing research interests and accomplishments, (ii) a complete CV, and (iii) contact information for three references. Start date is flexible.

Please visit www.med.upenn.edu/wiluszlab for more information.

[FACULTY POSITION, YALE UNIVERSITY, DEPARTMENT OF MOLECULAR BIOPHYSICS & BIOCHEMISTRY](#)

Posted on [July 31, 2018](#)

The Department of Molecular Biophysics & Biochemistry (<http://mbb.yale.edu/>) at Yale University seeks applicants for a faculty appointment at the Assistant Professor level. The research area is open. The Department, which is located both in the Faculty of Arts & Sciences and in the School of Medicine, defines biochemistry and biophysics broadly to mean the molecules and mechanisms of life. Current research areas include protein translation and homeostasis, RNA biology,



genomics and DNA repair, cytoskeleton and membrane biology, and molecular neuroscience. The Department employs a range of approaches including structural (X-ray and cryoEM), genetic, cell biological and computational.

Applicants should create a profile at Interfolio (<http://apply.interfolio.com/52496>) arrange for three referees to upload their letters of recommendation by the due date. Review of applications will begin on September 3, 2018 and will continue until the position is filled. To ensure full consideration, please submit all materials by September 17, 2018. Address questions to mbbfacultysearch@mailman.yale.edu. Yale University is an Affirmative Action/Equal Opportunity employer.

[Postdoctoral Positions Available, Lab of Dr. Junjie Guo's at Yale University](#)

Posted on [July 31, 2018](#)

Postdoctoral positions are available in Dr. Junjie Guo's laboratory at Yale University. Taking a combination of computational, biochemical, genetic, and genomic approaches, the Guo lab studies questions at the intersection between RNA biology and neuroscience, including: Biochemical properties of repeat RNAs and their roles in neurological disorders; RNA transport and translational control in neurons; Noncoding RNA functions and mechanisms

Please email your application to junjie.guo@yale.edu, including: A cover letter describing your past training, research interests and career goals, A detailed CV, Contact information of referees. For more information, please visit www.guo-lab.com or contact by email.

[Industrial Postdoctoral Position, Laboratory of Erbay Yigit, PhD, New England Biolabs \(NEB\) in Ipswich, MA](#)

Posted on [July 26, 2018](#)

An industrial postdoctoral position is available in the laboratory of Erbay Yigit, PhD at New England Biolabs (NEB) in Ipswich, MA. Projects will be a part of a research program that aims to identify and characterize novel enzymes that post-transcriptionally modify RNA using genetic, biochemical and chemical approaches. Research will be undertaken in a highly collaborative environment where publication of results is expected. Duration is 3 years.

Preferred Qualifications: Expertise in RNA binding proteins or RNA structure; Expertise in protein purification; Experience with analysis of large datasets and high-throughput sequencing

Contact: Erbay Yigit E-mail yigit@neb.com URL <https://www.neb.com/>

[Two senior RNA biochemist positions available at our startup – Sixfold Bioscience](#)

Posted on [July 23, 2018](#)

Engineer RNA in innovative ways to cure disease. At Sixfold we're building a better way to deliver cures. We see the huge potential of CRISPR and CAR-T therapies being limited to how effectively they can be delivered in people. Our scientists are creative and iterate fast because they want to see what they do in the lab make a difference in the clinic.

Our goal is to create a company culture that promotes ideas and the inclusion of scientist and engineers from all backgrounds.

Location: London For more info see: <https://www.sixfold.bio/careers> Informal enquiries email: careers@sixfold.bio

[Postdoctoral Positions in RNA Biology at UNC Chapel Hill](#)

Posted on [July 23, 2018](#)

We have at least two new postdoctoral positions available in Prof. Greg Matera's laboratory, located within the Integrative Program for Biological and Genome Sciences at the University of North Carolina. Salary commensurate with experience. The Program is devoted to model-organism biology and it provides a highly collaborative environment, along with exceptional interdisciplinary opportunities for pre- and post-doctoral trainees.

Contact: Applicants should send a single PDF file containing a cover letter, curriculum vitae, and a short summary of previous research experience and future goals.

Email: matera@unc.edu



[Fully Funded Postdoctoral Position Working on Viral Epitranscriptomics](#)

Posted on [July 14, 2018](#)

The field of viral epitranscriptomics, while clearly important for understanding viral gene regulation, is nevertheless currently at a very early stage of development. As a result, this area of research offers a tremendous opportunity for an ambitious individual to contribute to an emerging but clearly important area of research that they eventually will be able to take with them when they start their own research group.

Candidates should be less than two years out from their Ph.D and should have documented expertise in the fields of virology and/or molecular biology. I will require three letters of reference and a copy of the applicant's CV. Candidates must apply online at <https://academicjobsonline.org/ajo/jobs/11295> to be considered.

[The Ke Lab at JAX – Two Post-Doc Positions](#)

Posted on [July 14, 2018](#)

The Ke Lab has two postdoctoral associate openings (one in computational biology, and the other in RNA biology) at The Jackson Laboratory in Bar Harbor, Maine.

1) Computational Biology Postdoc:

https://jax.silkroad.com/epostings/index.cfm?fuseaction=app.jobinfo&jobid=221943&company_id=15987&version=2&source=ONLINE&JobOwner=968714&startflag=1

2) RNA Biology Postdoc:

https://jax.silkroad.com/epostings/index.cfm?fuseaction=app.jobinfo&jobid=221616&company_id=15987&version=2&source=ONLINE&JobOwner=968714&startflag=1

[Postdoctoral Fellow Position Available, Nelson Lau Lab, Dept of Biochemistry, Boston University School of Medicine](#)

Posted on [July 11, 2018](#)

The Nelson Lau lab in the Dept of Biochemistry is looking for a candidate with a PhD and prior molecular biology and biochemistry experience, a record of publications, and some proficiency with bioinformatics. Skills with Drosophila fly genetics or mosquitoes will also be highly considered. Genomics and deep sequencing experience will also be a plus.

<https://www.bumc.bu.edu/biochemistry/profiles/nelson-lau/>

Candidates should send a CV, list of publications, and arrange for three recommendation letters to be sent nclau@bu.edu

[Postdoc Position Available, Lab of Dr. Elizabeth Tran, Dept of Biochemistry at Purdue University](#)

Posted on [July 2, 2018](#)

A postdoc position is available in the laboratory of Dr. Elizabeth Tran in the Department of Biochemistry at Purdue University to explore connections between RNA helicases and specific cancers that have been historically resistant to chemotherapies.

Interested applicants should send a cover letter, CV, and a list of the contact information for three references to Elizabeth Tran at ejtran@purdue.edu. Please visit www.TranLabRNA.com for more information.

[Postdoc Position Available, Dept of Microbial Pathogenesis & Immunology, Texas A&M Health Science Center](#)

Posted on [June 28, 2018](#)

A postdoctoral position is available in the Department of Microbial Pathogenesis and Immunology at Texas A&M Health Science Center to study post-transcriptional regulation of the innate immune response to bacterial infection.

Applicants should submit a cover letter, describing ones background and goals, a CV, and contact information for 3 references. Apply at: https://tamus.wd1.myworkdayjobs.com/TAMHSC_External/job/Bryan-TAMHSC/Postdoctoral-Research-Associate_R-008154

[Postdoctoral Position to Investigate the Molecular Mechanisms of Regulation of Alternative pre-mRNA Splicing](#)

Posted on [June 21, 2018](#)

A postdoctoral position is available to work on a Wellcome Trust funded project to investigate the molecular mechanisms of regulation of alternative pre-mRNA splicing with Prof. Chris Smith (<https://www.bioc.cam.ac.uk/research/uto/smithc>).



Interested candidates are welcome to make informal enquiries to cwjs1@cam.ac.uk Any enquiries relating to the application process please contact the HR team – personnel@bioc.cam.ac.uk.

[Senior Postdoctoral Fellow in Bioinformatics within the UK Dementia Research Institute \(DRI\) at King's College London](#)

Posted on [June 21, 2018](#)

The Ruepp group is seeking to appoint a senior postdoctoral fellow in Bioinformatics within the UK Dementia Research Institute (DRI) at King's College London. Funded by the Medical Research Council, Alzheimer's Society and Alzheimer's Research UK, the UK DRI is a national consortium focused on cutting-edge dementia research.

The post is fixed-term for three years, start date ideally between 01. August to 01. October 2018 or upon mutual agreement. All applications must be submitted online here:

https://www.hirewire.co.uk/HE/1061247/MS_JobDetails.aspx?JobID=79293 Closing date is the 19th of July 2018

[Postdoctoral Positions to study RNA-Mediated Stress Responses, Biology of tRNA-derived RNAs and RNA Granules](#)

Posted on [June 21, 2018](#)

Postdoctoral positions are available to study RNA-mediated stress responses, biology of tRNA-derived RNAs and RNA Granules. We focus on two major overlapping topics. The first is investigating stress-induced adaptation of mRNA translation and functions of novel non-coding RNAs derived from tRNAs. The second is investigating Stress Granules, RNA granules with multiple functions in cellular physiology and pathophysiology.

Interested individuals should send a CV, names of three references, and a cover letter with a brief statement of future research interests and career goals to: pivanov@rics.bwh.harvard.edu Pavel Ivanov, PhD Assistant Professor of Medicine / Associate Immunologist Brigham and Women's Hospital & Harvard Medical School

[Two Postdoctoral Positions Available at the University of California, Davis](#)

Posted on [June 21, 2018](#)

Two postdoctoral positions are available at the University of California, Davis to work on an interdisciplinary research grant within the Montpetit, Fraser, and Shah laboratories focused on positive-strand RNA viruses, including Zika, Dengue, and Hepatitis C. Research will involve investigating aspects of viral RNA transport, viral protein translation, and viral RNA interactions with host cell factors that are required for infection.

To apply, please email a single pdf containing a cover letter and CV with the contact information for three referees to benmontpetit@ucdavis.edu.

[RNA Editing and Genome Stability: Postdoctoral Positions Available](#)

Posted on [June 12, 2018](#)

RNA Editing and Genome Stability: Postdoctoral positions are available to study the biology of RNA editing and the functions of ADAR (adenosine deaminase acting on RNA)

Send a cover letter describing your research interests, curriculum vitae, and names of three references to: Dr. Kazuko Nishikura (<https://wistar.org/our-scientists/kazuko-nishikura>): The Wistar Institute, 3601 Spruce Street, Philadelphia, PA 19104. E-mail: kazuko@wistar.org.

[Postdoctoral position in post-transcriptional regulation – Boston University School of Medicine](#)

Posted on [June 6, 2018](#)

A funded postdoctoral position is available for immediate incorporation in the Cifuentes laboratory at Boston University School of Medicine for a talented and extremely motivated candidate willing to address fundamental questions in post-transcriptional regulation of RNA using zebrafish and viruses as model systems.

Additional information can be found at: <http://www.bumc.bu.edu/biochemistry/people/faculty/daniel-cifuentes/>

To apply please send to Dr. Cifuentes a cover letter stating research interests and accomplishments, CV, and contact information for three references in a single PDF document by email to cifulab@bu.edu with the subject "Postdoc RNA BU". Applications will be reviewed until position is filled.

