

Indeed they speculate that genetic repressors could be RNA molecules and that these repressors could act on mRNAs or on genes. Although the Lac repressor turned out to be a protein, fifty years of ensuing science has uncovered a near-endless variety of cellular functions for RNA, including acting as a genetic repressor. New tools and discoveries of the past year demonstrate that the rate of discovery is only increasing. Recent developments that I found particularly exciting include the identification by high density sequencing of ever more long noncoding (lnc) RNAs, the demonstration by ribosome profiling that some of these lncRNAs are not actually non-coding, the increasingly sophisticated application of single molecule methods to questions of RNA folding and RNP assembly, and the mechanistic characterization of RNA-based defense mechanisms in bacteria. Although only a small sample, these studies exemplify the range of work that the RNA Society was founded to encourage. We believe that RNA fills a central position in the understanding of biology in chemical, physical and informational terms.

The RNA community is quite broad. The study of RNA extends from physics and chemistry to cell biology and genetics, and encompasses the entire tree of life. Expanding the breadth, cohesion and inclusiveness of this community is one goal of the Society. Having grown up in the RNA world, I can say that, far from the harsh environment of the early earth, the modern RNA world has been very hospitable to me. Venturing into other fields and communities, one does not always encounter the same culture that the founders of the RNA Society sought to foster. Science is very competitive by nature. But it is also perhaps the grandest of communal endeavors, with long traditions of mentorship and the free exchange of ideas, results, and materials. My goal as president this year will be to nurture these traditions as well as my predecessors did.

...these studies exemplify the range of work that the RNA Society was founded to encourage.

community through two principal functions: the RNA Journal and our annual meeting. Founded in 1995, RNA has been a remarkable success and clear

The Society serves the RNA

demonstration of the commonality of our interests. The journal publishes original research and reviews on all areas of RNA biology, chemistry, and bioinformatics. Through the efforts of the founding and continuing Editor-in-Chief, Tim Nilsen, the journal has become a highly influential journal in our field with an impact factor above that of other society journals. The success of the journal has brought more submissions than even Tim can keep up with. So this past year the editorial board was enlarged to include 12 new editors specializing in many different areas of RNA science. The society is very grateful to this new board of truly fantastic scientists, who along with Tim, will devote many hours to ensuring that our work is reviewed critically, fairly, and rapidly. So send your papers to RNA!

The annual meetings of the RNA

Science is very competitive by nature. But it is also perhaps the grandest of communal endeavors

Society are where many of us first encounter the larger field of RNA research and get to meet many of the scientists whose work has informed our own. This meeting has a number of important traditions and events whose goal is to promote the development of young scientists. First, although there are usually some longer plenary talks, the majority of talks are given by the postdocs and students who did the work. This is a key feature of our meeting, allowing young scientists to get practice presenting their results, and for the community to get to know them as scientists. The Mentor-Mentee lunch is another traditional event, where groups of students and post-docs are seated with one or two faculty whose goal is to answer student questions about careers. Topics include how best to publish papers, how to apply for postdocs or faculty positions, grantsmanship, how to balance family and career, and of course lots of interesting science. These lunches are fun for the Mentors and hopefully fun and useful for the Mentees. In recent years, the young investigator committee has become an active part of the meeting by organizing social and informational events specifically for students and postdocs. This has been a great new development. The meeting also often has a special RNA and Society Dinner. This unique event,



initiated by past president Lynne Maquat with a talk by past president Joan Steitz, and sustained by Lynne in subsequent years, includes a special speaker who discusses ethical and social issues related to research and research careers. The dinner had its start as a means of highlighting questions of gender equity and the representation of women in science. This is still an important issue for the RNA Society, although the dinner has expanded to broader questions such as ethical conduct of research and the effect of implicit biases in many aspects of our work. It is invariably a fun and thought-provoking evening. The annual meeting finishes with a banquet and award ceremony honoring the career achievements and society service of RNA scientists, prizes for the best poster presentations, and the RNA Society Scaringe Awards to one postdoc and one graduate student for the best papers of the previous year on RNA biology. These meetings, where one meets colleagues who continue to be friends and collaborators in the future, become more like reunions for those of us approaching middle age (about 70 for RNA scientists).

The RNA Society benefits from the large number of members who... share a concern about the Society's role in the culture of our field.

The society goal of inclusiveness is seen in its efforts to hold the annual meeting in diverse locations. These efforts are important in making the meeting accessible to students and postdocs in different countries. The meeting has alternated between our historical home in Madison, Wisconsin, and various sites in the U.S., Canada, and Europe. 2011 marked our first convening in Asia, at the International Conference Center in Kyoto Japan. This meeting, organized jointly with the RNA Society of Japan, was a very exciting development. The organization of these meetings requires a large amount of volunteer labor, first by the meetings committee of the society and representatives of the host country, and then particularly by the organizing committee. Thus, I would like to thank the organizers of the

Kyoto Meeting for their remarkable efforts in making it an unqualified success, including Lynne Maquat, Jamie Williamson, Melissa Jurica, Haru Siomi, and lead organizers Eric Westhof and Yoshi Nakamura. Although most meeting expenses are covered by registration fees, the organizers raise some money to subsidize each meeting that provides travel fellowships for students and postdocs. Through the efforts of the organizing committee, the

These meetings, where one meets colleagues who continue to be friends and collaborators in the future, become more like reunions....

Kyoto meeting broke all records for fundraising. This allowed the cost of the meeting to be kept as low as possible. We were treated to a week of remarkable science that was accessible to many more than might have otherwise attended. The organizers also provided for an exceptional final banquet featuring performances of traditional Japanese music and dance, and the traditional opening of a large cask of sake. This year's meeting in Ann Arbor may not have Geisha to entertain us, but will undoubtedly have equally remarkable science.

The RNA Society benefits from the large number of members who, besides their shared fondness for two-prime hydroxyl groups, share a concern about the Society's role in the culture of our field. Several years ago, when I was an organizer of the annual meeting, we made some changes to its format. There were highly divergent views about the desirability of these changes. From the many who approached me about that meeting, I was struck by how much people cared about the RNA Society. We want to promote great RNA science, we want to support and help train young scientists, and we like to try new things. If you have thoughts or suggestions on how we can do more of this, or do it better, please contact me and share your ideas. I will look forward to seeing you in Ann Arbor.

Cheers - Doug



RNA 2012:
The 17th Annual Meeting of the RNA Society
May 29th to June 3rd, 2012
University of Michigan Campus
Ann Arbor, Michigan

Abstract Deadlines:

March 11, 2012 for oral abstracts (i.e. to be considered for an oral presentation),
March 31, 2012 for poster abstracts (i.e. to submit a poster-only abstract).

- Opening Keynotes: **Brenda Bass** (Utah), **Olke Uhlenbeck** (Northwestern) and **Jonathan Weissman** (UCSF)
- 12 diverse sessions and 4 workshops covering all things RNA
- Beer Hall, posters, Junior Scientists Social, Mentor-Mentee Lunch, Career Development Workshop, RNA & Society Dinner featuring Laurie Zoloth
- Banquet & Dance at the Henry Ford science and technology museum with a special Titanic exhibition and dancing under a vintage airplane

For more information and to register, go to:

<http://www.rnasociety.org/conference-sub-sites/rna-2012/>

The organizing committee:

Rachel Green (Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine/HHMI)

Nils Walter (University of Michigan)

Melissa Moore (University of Massachusetts Medical School/HHMI)

Gerhart Wagner (Uppsala University)



Message from The Organizers of RNA2012

The 17th Annual Meeting of the RNA Society will take place May 29th to June 3rd in Ann Arbor, Michigan. A new venue for the RNA Society, Ann Arbor is a university town with a beautiful campus to host the event that is easily reached, via an only half-hour shuttle, from the Detroit Metropolitan Wayne County Airport (DTW).

This year, we will have three plenary speakers on Tuesday night: Brenda Bass (University of Utah), Olke Uhlenbeck (Northwestern University) and Jonathan Weissman (University of California, San Francisco). Over the following days, there will be 12 sessions covering a diversity of RNA topics (Small RNAs, Non-coding RNAs, Translation, Pre-mRNA splicing, Catalytic RNAs, mRNA turnover, Regulation of gene expression, RNA Structure/Function, Disease/Pathogen/Therapeutics, Structure and function of RNA-protein complexes, and Bioinformatics/systems biology) plus 4 workshops with hot topics solicited from suggestions and abstracts. For each session, there will be an introductory (plenary) lecture of 30 minutes to showcase recent research from an individual lab. Following this, the chair will introduce the session (in 15 minutes) by providing some background on the topic of the session and perspective on some of the big remaining questions in that field. As always, other speakers in each session will be chosen from the abstracts with 5 days of rapid fire short talks presenting new and exciting results.

In addition to the purely scientific events, the program will include special events such as a Beer Hall, Junior Scientists Social, Mentor-Mentee Lunch, Career Development Workshop, Awards Ceremony, the RNA & Society Dinner, and the Banquet & Dance at the Ford Museum. The RNA & Society Dinner will host Laurie Zoloth, a well-known bioethicist, whereas the Banquet & Dance at the Henry Ford Museum near Detroit (<http://www.hfmgv.org/>) will showcase one of the premier science and technology museums in the country with a special exhibition on the Titanic and with wild dancing under a suspended vintage airplane - these are events not to be missed!

We look forward to seeing you all at another fantastic RNA Society Meeting.

Rachel Green
Nils Walter
Melissa Moore
Gerhart Wagner



THIRD RNA & SOCIETY DINNER

Lynne E. Maquat

RNA & Society Dinners serve to cover a broad range of interesting and pertinent topics for RNA Society members. Considering the importance of personal and social integrity to the future of research science, and how we can often be uncertain about what constitutes ethical behavior, our Keynote Speaker for RNA 2012 in Ann Arbor will be **Laurie Zoloth**, Ph.D. Laurie is Professor of Medical Humanities and Bioethics, Professor of Religious Studies, and Director of The Brady Program in Ethics and Public Life at Northwestern University in Evanston, Illinois.



Laurie earned a B.A. degree in Women's Studies and History from the University of California-Berkeley, a B.S. degree in Nursing from the State University of New York, an M.A. degree in English from San Francisco State University, an M.A. degree in Jewish Studies, and a Ph.D. degree in Social Ethics at the Graduate Theological Union in Berkeley. She has published extensively in the areas of ethics, family, feminist theory, religion and science, Jewish Studies, and social policy.

Among her many contributions, Laurie served as member of the NASA National Advisory Council and the Executive Committee of the International Society for Stem Cell Research. She was founding chair of the HHMI Advisory Board and a founding board member of the American Society for Bioethics and Humanities, the International Society for Stem Cell Research, The Society for Scriptural Reasoning, and the NASA International Planetary Protection Advisory Committee. Currently, Laurie is an editorial board member of *Stem Cells*, *A Journal of Bioethics*, *The Journal of Clinical Ethics*, and *The Journal of Law, Medicine, and Ethics*.

Laurie has published extensively on the topics of social policy, social ethics, science and religion, and controversies at the frontiers of medicine. Her books include *Health Care and The Ethics of Encounter*, which focuses on healthcare policy, community ethics and social justice. She also co-edited four books with one or more colleagues. The books include *Margin of Error: The Ethics of Mistakes in Medicine*, which addresses the obligation of clinicians to patients and the principles of proper professional behavior; *The Human Embryonic Stem Cell Debate: Ethics, Religion and Policy*, which discusses the nature of human life, human dignity, who should make decisions that pertain to ESC usage and regenerative medicine, and ongoing controversies over abortion; and *Oncofertility: Ethical, Legal, Social and Medical Perspectives*, which pertains to medical advances toward helping cancer patients have biological children. Laurie has also given testimony to the National Bioethics Advisory Council, the State of Illinois, and the US Senate, to list a few.

Laurie thinks about science, bioethics and religion in ways that would serve us well if we did too. How often does each of us ask difficult questions such as “Must I always tell the truth?”, “What is a socially responsible view toward the use of animals or human embryos in research science?”, “What constitutes over-interpreting my experimental results?” and “How much data are required before a model becomes a fact?” To help guide us toward making ethical decisions, Laurie’s presentation at RNA 2012 will be Thursday evening, May 31st. Please note that seating at this RNA & Society Dinner is limited. Therefore, if you are interested in attending, it is recommended you sign up for it when you register for RNA 2012, and register early!

Previous dinner speakers were **Keith Yamamoto**, Vice Chancellor of Research and Professor in the Department of Cellular and Molecular Pharmacology at the University of California-San Francisco, who discussed NIH peer review and funding reforms at RNA 2009 in Madison, WI, and **Brian Nosek**, Professor in the Department of Psychology and Director of Project Implicit at the University of Virginia-Charlottesville, who educated us about “implicit cognition” – our thoughts and feelings that exist outside of our awareness or control – at RNA 2010 in Seattle, Washington.



GradStudent / Postdoc Corner : RNA Junior Scientists

By Eric Anderson

Greetings and Happy New Year! We look forward to another great year for the junior scientist society members, including the annual meeting. With fond memories of last year's meeting in Kyoto, it is now time to get ready for the 2012 meeting in Ann Arbor. We are happy to continue the tradition of a pre-meeting tour. This has been a big hit in the past and is a fun way to meet fellow colleagues informally. We will be in Ann Arbor early on May 28th and 29th to get together for some sightseeing and socializing before the meeting starts. Aside from the lovely University campus itself, Ann Arbor boasts many promising locations, including the Kerrytown market district, several breweries, Nichols Arboretum and botanical gardens. The tour planning is still in its infancy, so if you have any suggestions or are interested in attending please contact us on our Facebook (RNA Society Junior Scientist Members group) and LinkedIn (The RNA Society group) or by email. Further details will also be provided through the RNA Society website, and via email following your meeting registration.

For this year's meeting we are excited with the prospect of hosting another Career Workshop on Friday, June 1st. Having previously covered topics such as "oral presentations", "grant writing" and "international careers", these workshops have

Eric Anderson (Graduate student representative) eric.anderson@umassmed.edu

Peter Watson (Graduate student representative) watsonp@scripps.edu

Marc-David Ruepp (Postdoctoral representative) marc.ruepp@dcb.unibe.ch

Rita Strack (Postdoctoral representative) ris2016@med.cornell.edu

Hello everyone! I am **Rita Strack**, and I am a new postdoc in Samie Jaffrey's laboratory at Weill Cornell Medical College in Manhattan. The Jaffrey lab has very diverse interests ranging from synthetic biology to gene expression in neurons. I study a novel class of RNA-based fluorescent sensors. These RNAs are aptamers that bind a GFP-like chromophore and become fluorescent. I am improving them for use in novel experimental approaches, such as FRET and *in vivo* imaging, and hope to use them to address exciting biological questions regarding protein translation and gene expression. I am very excited about the upcoming RNA Society meeting, and will do my best to represent junior scientists in our field!

become a staple of the meeting. This year's theme will be about applying and interviewing for postdoc or faculty positions. We envision the workshop covering the job talk and the interview process itself, although we are only beginning the process of recruiting speakers. If you feel that you might be able to provide insights or advice about this process to young scientists, we encourage you to get in touch with us. This workshop should be particularly relevant to young members looking to advance to the next level in academia or industry. We will also be hosting our Annual Junior Scientist Social on Wednesday, May 30th. The social is a nice setting to socialize with your fellow colleagues and talk some science over drinks.

We are quite enthusiastic over the prospects RNA 2012 holds for junior and regular members alike. As your representatives, we are happy to hear from you with any comments, questions or suggestions. We are always looking for new Reps; if you'd like to represent young RNA scientists, and share our perspectives with the meeting organizers and Society leaders, we'd love to hear from you. Please feel free to reach us through the social networking sites or through our email addresses provided below. We look forward to seeing you in Ann Arbor.



Hello fellow RNA society members! I am **Marc-David Ruepp**, a 2nd year postdoc in the lab of Oliver Mühlemann at the University of Bern, Switzerland. Our lab's primary focus is on nonsense-mediated mRNA decay, but recently we have also begun work on amyotrophic lateral sclerosis (ALS). I study the heterogeneous nuclear ribonucleoprotein *fused in sarcoma/translocated in liposarcoma* (FUS/TLS) and its role in gene expression. In addition to investigating its function in the different steps of RNA metabolism, we would like to understand the mechanism by which ALS-associated FUS/TLS mutations lead to the degeneration of motor neurons. I am excited about the upcoming exchange of scientific news and ideas at the RNA Society Meeting in Ann Arbor. As representative I hope to communicate the perspective and needs of young scientists.



From the Desk of the CEO

Jim McSwiggen

Welcome to 2012. I hope the past year has been as interesting and productive for you as it has been for me. The science of RNA continues to amaze me, and I look forward to more fascinating discoveries from you and all your colleagues in 2012.



The business of a CEO is business, so I want to give a brief update on

where we stand in the business of the Society.

Journal. The journal, *RNA*, continues to grow, both in the quality of the published manuscripts and in the income that it brings in to the Society. Last year the ISI impact factor for the journal was above 6—an increase from the previous year's very respectable value. Also last year, our Editor in Chief, Tim Nilsen, brought on board a new batch of Editors and asked them to take on a larger role in editing the journal. Tim reports that he and the editors have committed to more actively seek out review papers and perspectives articles for the journal; that should build still wider interest in the journal. *RNA* is also the society's most consistent source of income. The

finances for 2011 are not yet finalized, but our anticipated net income from the journal is \$172,000.

Conferences. The RNA 2011 conference in Kyoto was a **huge** success. Sponsored jointly by our RNA Society and the RNA Society of Japan, plans for this conference were developing smoothly until the triple disasters of earthquake, tsunami and nuclear accident struck northeastern Japan and cast a cloud of consternation and uncertainty over the event. Despite those concerns, almost 1100 people attended the conference and were treated to exciting science, great local ambience, and an amazing closing banquet. Most gratifying to me (as the money guy) was that the RNA Society actually broke even or even came out somewhat ahead for this conference, even though we had budgeted for a \$100,000 deficit to make this conference happen. The success of this conference is due largely to lead organizers Eric Westhof and Yoshi Nakamura, who worked incredibly hard to ensure a great scientific program and a financially successful conference, along with fellow organizers Jamie Williamson, Haru Siomi, Lynne Maquat, and Melissa Jurica.

I have no doubt that RNA 2012 will also be a huge success. RNA 2012 will be held on the University of Michigan campus in Ann Arbor on May 29th to June



3rd. Preparations are well under way and registration is now open. Lead organizers Rachel Green and Nils Walter, along with fellow organizers Melissa Moore and Gerhart Wagner are planning a program that includes a lot of science talks, but also an **evening beer hall** and a closing banquet at the **Henry Ford Museum**. It should be a lot of fun in addition to being scientifically stimulating. If you haven't already registered you should do so [here](#). Space is limited at some special events such as the RNA & Society dinner, so register early to make sure you have a space.

By the way, the organizers of RNA 2012 are planning to select workshop themes based on submitted abstracts, as usual, but also from ideas submitted by scientists. If you would like to suggest a workshop topic you can do so [here](#) on the meeting website.

Finances. The Society's are in good shape. The final accounting won't be available until March, but all indications are that we will again have more income than expenses for 2011. As mentioned above, the journal is expected to bring in ~\$170,000 after expenses, while the conference is expected to roughly break even. Business office expenses and our small conference grants program will add another ~\$100,000 to expenses for a net positive bottom line of ~\$50,000-\$70,000 for 2011.

Membership. The Society's membership was down about 10% compared to the previous year. I suspect that is due primarily to the struggling economy and the fact that the RNA 2011 conference was held in a location that was expensive for North Americans and Europeans to attend. The improving economy and the venue for RNA 2012 should both help to return membership to previous levels. In addition, the Society's Membership Committee has come up with new incentives to encourage scientists to become members and to stay as members. Check out Kim Dittmar's newsletter piece for more details.

Web Site. In the Fall I wrote that we were starting to update the Society web site. That task is now largely complete, and I hope that you like the result. There are, however, still some more items on my to-do list, including improvements to the member pages, adding a web search function, and providing more information on the member directory page. Most notably, I would like to build a timeline of significant discoveries and events in the RNA field. I hope you will be able to help in this endeavor; I'll say more on this later in the year when we are ready to start collecting your ideas.

So that's the state of the Society for 2011. If you have questions or comments please direct them to me at mcswigj@comcast.net. I will be happy to hear from you.

Contribute to *RNA*, our Society journal!

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

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



Chairman of the Meetings Committee David M.J. Lilley

It really doesn't seem long since we were all enjoying the wonderful hospitality of the Japanese RNA society in Kyoto last summer, yet as I write this piece the registration for RNA 2012 is about to open and I am already thinking about 2015. You can read more about what is planned for this year elsewhere in this Newsletter, but we



are all very much looking forward to our first RNA Society conference in Ann Arbor. We hope that the accessible, mid-west location will encourage US-based graduate students and postdocs (who might have found it difficult to travel to Japan last year) to participate in large numbers.

In a busy period since leaving Kyoto, Jim McSwiggen and I have site-visited the venues for both the 2013 and 2014 conferences. Next year the annual meeting will return to Europe, when we go to Davos between 11-15 June. This is a pretty Swiss ski town, though sadly we will be there firmly outside the ski season. It is also the venue for the World Economic Forum meetings, so they are well prepared to hold large conferences in some style. Our meeting is being organized by the energetic team of Frédéric Allain (lead organizer), Witek Filipowicz, Sarah Woodson, Adrian Krainer and Osamu Nureki. Davos is located in the east of Switzerland, about a two-hour drive from Zürich. It has a range of good hotels a few minutes walk from the conference, to cheaper, shared accommodation that might be preferred by our younger members and that is still very accessible. I am pleased to say that for those of us with fond memories of the excellent meeting in Berlin, Fred and coorganizers plan to bring back the biergarten next year !



In 2014 we will be back in Canada for the first time since 2005. Following a very successful site visit just before Christmas, we have selected Québec (Quebec City) as the venue for this meeting. Québec is a beautiful walled town above the Saint Lawrence River, and is one of the oldest cities in North America. The conference center is large and state of the art, and directly connected to a hotel accommodation. But if you really want an authentic *vieux Québec* experience you could stay in the Château Frontenac. The bid to hold the 2014 meeting in Québec was very ably led by Martin Simard, who will be the local organizer. The full organizing committee will be put together in the next few months, and more news on this will follow.

As chair of the meetings committee I pretty much work on a three-year cycle, which means that as soon as one meeting is over I am starting to work on the possibilities four years hence. That means I am already looking into possibilities for 2015, and given the great success of our first Asian conference there is a good probability we shall want to return there. The Japanese RNA Society is interested in repeating, and we have also had interest from Australia. China has previously bid to hold the meeting, and may do so again. I hope we can make progress with deciding this when we meet in Ann Arbor, but in the meantime if anyone has any strong opinions on where we should or should not meet in 2015, please contact me. And as ever I am pleased to receive approaches from the proposers of potential new venues. I can supply a document that sets our requirements. We are always looking for attractive venues that can handle a group of our size. But it needs to be borne in mind that we are first and foremost a scientific group, and the requirements for conference facilities that enable us to meet and share our science and will also foster interactions at all levels are paramount.

I look forward to seeing everyone in Ann Arbor in the summer !

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

Chair of the Membership Committee Kim Dittmar

Happy New Year from the Membership Committee! In our first year as a committee we have focused on working with members to develop ideas to create membership growth and enhance member services. Some of our new initiatives have already been implemented and you will see others unveiled throughout the year. Based on



feedback from members, multi-year memberships were made available for the first time during this year's renewal drive. We are offering two- and three-year memberships at a discounted rate, which can save you money and the hassle of annual renewal. If you have not renewed your membership, it is not too late to take advantage of this special offer. Please visit our new website (<http://www.rnasociety.org/become-a-member/>) to learn about the many benefits of membership.

We are developing some special programs throughout the year to recruit new members. We have also been working to streamline the process of membership registration during manuscript submission in the RNA Journal and during registration for the annual RNA Society meeting to make it easier for you to benefit from publishing and registration discounts. We hope that this will encourage scientists publishing in our journal and attending our meeting to become members. For our committee to be successful, we need your help! Please get involved in the Society by providing comments or suggestions regarding ways that we can improve your membership experience. We also welcome any ideas for expanding our membership to keep the RNA Society strong in 2012.

Kim Dittmar
Membership Committee Chair
dittmar@mail.med.upenn.edu

RNA processing castaways take shelter from Irene at Cold Spring Harbor Labs By Karla Neugebauer

The 2011 Cold Spring Harbor meeting on Eukaryotic RNA Processing (23-27 August) had a lot in common with previous meetings: great science in the form of short talks given largely by junior scientists. This year's organizers – Tom Blumenthal, Kristen Lynch, and myself – were excited to implement an important change: a doubling of the number of chairs from 8 to 16 enabled short introductions to diverse topics and more expert involvement in the selection of abstracts for talks. CSHL was supportive of this proposal and helped the organizers realize their vision for the meeting in this and other ways. Tom, Kristen, and I were already counting our lucky stars.

Yet the meeting was struck by two natural disasters, beginning with an earthquake that shook airports just as many of the ~350 participants were landing. Planes and trains were delayed, threatening the timely arrival of speakers and chairs of the evening session and giving the organizers their first major worry. CSHL's Andrea Stephenson kept us abreast of transit disruptions and reported delays from the chairs and speakers. Thankfully,



the evening session went off as planned, as transit recovered and participants trickled in towards the opening of the meeting.

As the meeting progressed, we became aware that a second natural disaster might affect the meeting and the safe departure of its participants: Hurricane Irene. The news was full of predictions that Irene would cause havoc as it moved up the east coast, having developed into a forceful storm over the Caribbean. Irene was expected to hit the New York area late on Saturday the 27th, the last day of the meeting when participants generally depart after lunch. The organizers and CSHL's David Stewart began to worry that many participants would leave early to avoid the storm, jeopardizing attendance of the Saturday morning session. After conferring, Stewart and the organizers decided to compress an already full Friday to accommodate the talks scheduled for Saturday morning. A very dense schedule of sessions was punctuated by 5 minute coffee and potty breaks. The organizers are grateful to the speakers and participants for their good-natured patience and understanding, which allowed all of the scheduled talks to take place. We are sorry that these speakers had less time to get feedback on their work, due to the reduction in free time. Nevertheless, the traditional banquet was festive, with participants alternately discussing science and speculating on the weather.

As participants hit the bar Friday night, it was becoming clear that train service would be lost and most flights out of New York airports on the week-end were cancelled. Irene was predicted to pass directly over New York City; flooding and power losses were expected on Long Island. Many participants were able to juggle planes, trains and automobiles in order to escape Long Island late Friday or early Saturday. But ~50 participants – most of them Europeans whose flights could not be re-booked til much later in the week – were going to have to sit out the weekend and face Irene at Cold Spring Harbor.



Saturday morning was busy. Everybody was either preparing to leave or preparing to stay. CSHL's Stephenson arranged transport for those leaving and rooms for those staying. She produced a box of flashlights and made a car available to take participants to town, in case they needed something from the pharmacy or otherwise to get them through the extended stay. Jean Beggs was designated official driver. David Tollervey and Tom Cooper were responsible for wine and beer. Little did these chairs realize that their leadership would be called upon twice! I liaised with CSHL staff and coordinated some "summer camp" activities. Meanwhile, weekend meals were arranged for the castaways, and staff stayed in Blackford Hall in order to run the kitchen and serve us throughout the storm. We found ourselves repeatedly giving thanks for the excellent CSHL staff who cared for us. Imagine the stress and uncertainty of having to look for 50 hotel rooms in the area! We had no cars of our own, no way to store or prepare food, and we would have been split up to weather the storm in solitude instead of solidarity.

David Stewart arranged for a projectionist (his son) to show movies in Grace Auditorium on Saturday and Sunday evenings. On Saturday night, as the storm was building, we were treated to the movie "The Perfect Storm", in which everyone dies. But we were already feeling fortified thanks to an impromptu bar thoughtfully provided by Stewart so the sad fate of George Clooney and his mates did nothing to dampen our festive mood. In an early scene, one of the sailors tries to pick up a woman sitting alone in a bar. After a first few blundering passes, he finally just asks "What's your name?" She says with disdain, "I'm Irene." This brought the house down.

The worst of the storm took place in the wee hours of Sunday. We gathered for breakfast in Blackford to watch the rain pelting down over the harbor, the waters rising and the trees bending alarmingly. In the sudden calm of the eye of the storm, many of us ran unwisely down to the waters edge... the CSHL staff were out with all their



gear, monitoring the surge. As it turned out, Huntington and Syosset lost all power for several days, so it was a stroke of luck that the CSHL campus did not and we were warm, dry and fed.

There are two main points to be made in this report. First and most importantly, we are all incredibly grateful to all of the CSHL staff for helping us to weather the storm and feel safe and supported. Andrea Stephenson and David Stewart were instrumental, but the whole meetings office pitched in: the housing and dining staff were fantastic, and the CSHL maintenance guys cleaned up after the storm impressively fast. We want to extend heartfelt thanks to everyone at CSHL!

Second, we castaways had a lot of fun at the 3-day after party of the CSHL RNA Processing meeting. We helped each other. We got to know each other. We laughed and joked and didn't talk about science the whole time. We thought this was good and that perhaps we'd like to do it more often! Perhaps friendship and collegiality don't entirely depend on the weather; but for the RNA Processing castaways, Irene was a perfect storm.



Photo credit: Miguel Coelho



RNA Society-supported meetings

Reports from recent meetings supported by the Society :

Riboclub 2011

September 19-21, 2011

The 12th edition of the RiboClub Annual Meeting took place in Orford (Québec) on September 19th, 20th and 21st, 2011. This meeting of RNA scientists from Canada and the Eastern USA covers different topics related to the chemistry, structure and biology of RNA. The meeting format is designed to encourage collaborations between the different labs and to stimulate the interest of young scientists in the field of RNA. The meeting size and the location give ample opportunity for discussions and interactions. Keynotes speakers this year were Gary Ruvkun from the Massachusetts General Hospital and Jennifer Doudna from the University of California, Berkeley. The 13th edition of the Riboclub meeting is already scheduled and will take place from Monday September 24th to Wednesday September 26th, 2012. For more information, visit <http://www.riboclub.org>.

This year, the two \$500 travel scholarships from the RNA Society were awarded to two Ph.D students: **Caijie Zhao** is a graduate student in the group of Nancy L. Greenbaum at Hunter College of the City University of New York (CUNY) and **Jamie Van Etten**, a graduate student in the group of Aaron Goldstrohm at University of Michigan.

8th International Nucleocapsid Protein Meeting

September 19-21, 2011

The 8th International Nucleocapsid Protein meeting was successfully held at the Caixa Forum in Barcelona, September 18 -21, 2011. The meeting was organized by Gilles Mirambeau, and approximately 100 PIs, students, and postdocs attended and made insightful oral and poster presentations.

Funds from the RNA Society were used to support the participation of **James Munro**, a postdoctoral associate from the Walther Mothes lab (Section of Microbial Pathogenesis, School of Medicine, Yale University), who gave an oral presentation on "Monitoring HIV Assembly with Single-Molecule Sensitivity".



2011 International Conference on Aminoacyl-tRNA Synthetases September 25-30, 2011

The 2011 International Conference on Aminoacyl-tRNA Synthetases was held from September 25-30, 2011. More than 100 participants arrived from 18 different countries to discuss their work. Sixty-four oral and more than 50 posters were presented in the beautiful setting of Snowbird Ski Resort outside of Salt Lake City, Utah. The weather cooperated for the entire week and so there was plenty of time for scientific discussions while hiking or simply sitting outside in the sun with a cup of coffee.

Andres Palencia received an award of \$250 from the RNA Society for his design of the artwork for the cover of the conferences abstract book. He was also presented with a poster of his artwork (shown bellow, right). Andres also presented his work in an oral presentation and a poster. The title of his talk was "*Structural studies on the resistance and inhibition mechanisms associated to the toxic moiety of Agrocina84 (TM84).*" The rest of the money

was put into a general fund that was used to reduce the registration costs of all student and post-doctoral attendees.



Biomolecular Structure and Function Symposium at ACS Midwest-Great Lakes Joint Regional Meeting October 21, 2011

The RNA Society sponsored a special symposium at the ACS Midwest-Great Lakes Joint Regional Meeting in St. Louis, MO entitled "Biomolecular Structure and Function". This daylong symposium was held on Friday, October 21, 2011 and was co-chaired by Dana Baum (Saint Louis University), Cynthia Dupureur (University of Missouri – St. Louis), and Juliane Soukup (Creighton University). The well-attended talks featured speakers using a wide range of techniques, including mass spectrometry, NMR, fluorescence, CD, computational modeling, and probing, to study nucleic acids and proteins.

Charles Johnson, a graduate student in the lab of Dr. Brent Znosko at Saint Louis University, was selected from the submitted abstracts as a student speaker sponsored by The RNA Society. His talk was entitled "Computational Model for Predicting Experimental RNA and DNA Nearest-Neighbor Free Energy Rankings". The co-chairs thank the RNA Society for their support of this symposium. Many students and postdocs were in the audience and three junior scientists (two graduate students and one postdoc) were included in our slate of speakers.

RNA Society of North Carolina Symposium on RNA Biology IX: RNA Tool and Target October 21-22, 2011

The RNA Society of North Carolina biennial symposium, entitled “Symposium on RNA Biology IX: RNA Tool and Target”, was held October 21-22, 2011 at the North Carolina Biotechnology Center in Research Triangle Park. The symposium featured 10 invited speakers and eight additional speakers selected from submitted abstracts.

The national RNA Society contributed \$1000 toward the six travel awards (\$250 each) that were made to students and post-docs based on the quality of their presentations.

The four poster awards were given to:

- **Dan Hodges and Emily Spurlin (co-first authors)**, Rebecca Alexander laboratory, Wake Forest University, “SHAPE analysis of complementary viral RNA transcripts”
- **William Jeck**, Norman Sharpless laboratory, University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill, “Expression of linear and novel circular forms of an *INK4/ARF*-associated non-coding RNA correlates with atherosclerosis risk”
- **Gary Kapral**, Jane Richardson laboratory, Duke University, “Refined parameters for crystallographic refinement of RNA”
- **Daisuke Yamane**, Stanley Lemon laboratory, University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill, “miR-122 stabilizes hepatitis C virus RNA by an Ago2-dependent mechanism”
- The two speaker awards were given to:
- **Rebecca Skalsky**, Bryan Cullen laboratory, Duke University, “The microRNA targetome in Epstein-Barr virus infected B cells”
- **Justin Low**, Kevin Weeks laboratory, University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill, “SHAPE-directed identification of potent shRNA inhibitors of HIV-1”



2011 Rustbelt RNA Meeting October 20-21, 2011

On October 20-21, 2011, RNA researchers from Illinois, Indiana, Kentucky, Michigan, New York, Ohio and Pennsylvania met at the Crowne Plaza Hotel in downtown Dayton, Ohio. The 2011 Rustbelt RNA meeting had a record attendance of 230 participants, including 52 PIs and 172 trainees. Topics highlighted in the program included nucleic acid structure and regulation, gene regulation and expression, tRNA modification and processing, pre-mRNA splicing and miRNA-mediated gene regulation. The meeting was organized by co-Chairs Paula Bubulya (Wright State University) and John Means (University of Rio Grande), and co-Vice Chairs Subha Das (Carnegie Mellon University) and Ahmad Khalil (Case Western Reserve University).

The 2011 Rustbelt RNA Meeting emphasized trainee presentations, including 24 trainee talks and 92 trainee posters. The keynote lecture “Long non-coding RNAs involved in nuclear organization and function” was given by Dr. David Spector (Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory). Two new investigators, Dr. Michael Markey (Wright State University) and Dr. Elizabeth Tran (Purdue University) also presented their work.

The RNA Society and the University of Rio Grande sponsored trainee awards this year. The best talk awardees were:

- **Natalie Merlino** (graduate student, Paul Gollnick’s Lab, University at Buffalo)
- **Michael Gamalinda** (graduate student, John Woolford’s Lab, Carnegie Mellon University)
- **William Swinehart** (graduate student, Jane Jackman’s Lab, OSU Biochemistry)



The best poster awardees were:

- **Aishwarya Jacob** (graduate student, Dawn Chandler's Lab, OSU Nationwide Children's)
- **Twisharsi Dasgupta** (postdoctoral fellow, Andrea Ladd's Lab, Cleveland Clinic)
- **Lisa Lojeck** (undergraduate student, Jeff Collier's Lab, CWRU)

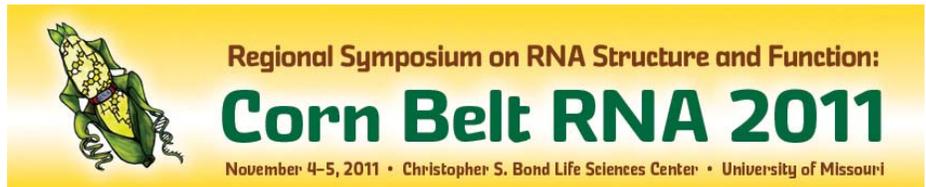
The Rustbelt RNA meeting will return to the Crown Plaza Hotel in Dayton, Ohio on October 19-20, 2012. If you wish to learn more about the Rustbelt RNA Meeting, please visit www.rustbeltrna.org. The organizers of the 2011 meeting would like to acknowledge funding from academic sponsors including the RNA Society, the National Science Foundation, The Ohio State University Center for RNA Biology, Nationwide Children's, Case Western Reserve University School of Medicine, Carnegie University CNASt, the University of Rio Grande and Wright State University.



Winners of the RRM2011 RNA Society Trainee Awards

Pictured from left to right: Dr. Paula Bubulya (Co-Chair), Michael Gamalinda, William Swinehart, Lisa Lojeck, Twisharsi Dasgupta, Aishwarya Jacob, Natalie Merlino and Dr. John Means (Co-Chair).

CornBelt RNA 2011 November 4-5, 2011



The first CornBelt RNA mid-west regional RNA meeting was held at the University of Missouri in Columbia MO, Nov 4 – 5th 2011. This meeting, organized by Frank Schmidt, Brenda Peculis and Don Burke, drew approximately 75 participants from eleven universities in six neighboring (or slightly more distant) states, to interact with each other and the RNA researchers at MU. The Keynote speaker was **John Abelson** who was given a t-shirt with the CornBelt RNA2011 logo, and a matching baseball hat! All other talks were given by students and postdocs, at least one to represent each of the participating laboratories. The student and postdoc talks were of very high caliber and enhanced – or in some cases established – collaborations among these relatively local venues. Poster sessions were very well attended by participants with enthusiastic discussions continuing well past the posted “closing time”.

The RNA Society funds were used to help defray costs of students who were participating (no registration costs to participants and meals were free to those who registered). Poster awards were chosen by a committee of Principal Investigators who attended. These selected students/postdocs received a free t-shirt or a baseball hat, like that given to John Abelson.

Students acknowledged by the selection committee included:

- **Samantha Corber** (an undergraduate in Lisa Sharpe Elles lab) from Washburn University, “Exploring the roles of DbpA and RrmJ in Ecoli ribosome assembly”
- **Anthony Fischer** (grad student in Wendy Olivas lab) from University of Missouri-St Louis, “Post-translational regulation in *Saccharomyces cerevisiae* Puf3p activity”



- **Margaret Lange** (postdoc in Don Burke's lab) from University Missouri-Columbia, "Increasing the antiviral potency of intracellularly expressed aptamers targeted to HIV RT"
 - **Eric Osman** (grad student in Chris Lorson lab) from University Missouri-Columbia, "Delivery of bifunctional RNAs that target the intronic splicing silencer (ISSN1) and increase SMN levels"
 - **Hsiao-Lin Wang** (in Julia Chekanova's lab) from University of Missouri-Kansas City, "Comparative analysis of small RNA populations in *Brachypodium distachyon*"
-

Upcoming Meetings of Interest :

ESF-EMBO Symposium "Antiviral RNA: From Molecular Biology Toward Applications"

June 11-16, 2012

Pultusk, Poland

<http://www.esf.org/index.php?id=9152>

Viral diseases not only form a major threat for human health, but also have a detrimental impact in livestock and agricultural economic activities. RNA interference (RNAi) and RNA silencing are terms denoting an ensemble of regulatory pathways mediated by different families of small RNAs. RNAi is not only important because of its widespread physiological roles, but also because of its high potential as laboratory tool and therapeutic weapon. In this regard, RNAi-based strategies have been used to engineer plants that resist a large variety of viruses, and administration of antiviral small RNAs has been demonstrated to be highly efficient in inhibiting viral infections in mammals, and a number of clinical trials are currently ongoing to assess the safety and efficacy of this therapeutic strategy. The objective of the proposed conference is to review recent advances and to foresee future trends at the interface between RNAi and virus infection, covering the complete range from basic mechanistic RNAi to antiviral clinical trials. We are especially interested in bringing together research conducted in different organisms, since this could raise refreshing new ideas for the participants in the meeting. The conference is mainly devoted to promote European Science. For this reason most of the participants will be from academia, however, some speakers from companies will be invited to bring issues on socio-economic impact of potential applications in the discussion. Our main objective is to offer foremost European research groups a forum to interchange results and ideas among them, but also with leading groups from abroad. Another important goal of the conference will be to provide research groups of European countries where this research field is not yet highly developed the opportunity to have direct access to most vanguard results and technologies, serving as a catapult for further development.

Organizers: Dr. Juan Antonio Garcia, Ben Berkhout, Jens Kurreck

FASEB Summer Research Conference: Nucleic Acid Enzymes

June 10-15, 2012

Snowmass Village, Colorado

<https://secure.faseb.org/FASEB/meetings/summrconf/>

Organizers: Barbara Golden, Caroline Kisker, Mark Szczelkun



RiboWest 2012

June 10-13, 2012

Alberta, Canada

www.uleth.ca/~ribowest

This annual meeting highlights RNA research across disciplines including molecular biology, biochemistry, cell biology, biophysics, virology, bioinformatics. Scheduled events include: two poster sessions including many awards, career workshop & method seminar, ample opportunities for networking, and dinner in Galt Museum. Affordable costs and reduced student rates available. Keynote speaker: Marina Rodnina, Max Planck Institute.

Organizers: Ute Kothe, Hans-Joachim Wieden, Steven Mosimann

FASEB Summer Research Conference: Post-Transcriptional Control of Gene Expression: Mechanisms of mRNA Decay

June 24-29, 2012

Steamboat Grand Resort, Steamboat Springs, Colorado

www.faseb.org/SRC

Organizers: Paul Anderson and Sydney Kushner

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

July 15-20, 2012

Salve Regina University

<http://www.grc.org/programs.aspx?year=2012&program=posttrans>

The 2012 Gordon Research Conference (GRC) on The Biology of Post-Transcriptional Gene Regulation will be the fifth in a series that is held every other year. The emphasis will be on the post-transcriptional transactions during the elongation, splicing, polyadenylation, transport, translation, and decay of mRNA as influenced by regulatory proteins and non-coding RNAs including microRNAs. A broad cross section of methodological approaches including genomic and bioinformatic strategies, single molecule and single cell-based studies, *in situ* localization, including genetic approaches with model systems as well as molecular phenotypes associated with human disease states. The meeting will convene approximately 45 speakers, with a total of 150-180 participants. Small (<50 posters) poster sessions on four late afternoons will enable all participants to contribute and learn. Free early-afternoon and late-evening periods, and meal times, will also stimulate discussion. While the quality of science will be high, the atmosphere is aimed to be relaxed and interactive. Four poster prizes will be awarded: two to graduate students, and two to post-docs.

Organizers: Manny Ares and Melissa Moore



International Conference on Riboregulation

September 10-12, 2012

Shanghai, China

<http://riboregulation.org/>

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

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

Jennifer Doudna UC Berkeley, USA

Hong Li Florida State University, USA

Scott Strobel Yale University, USA

Eric Westhof Strasbourg, France

Keqiong Ye, NIBS, Beijing, China

Narry Kim SNU Seoul, Korea

Dinshaw Patel Sloan-Kettering New York, USA

Jamie Cate UC Berkeley, USA

Adrian Ferré D'Amaré, NIH, USA

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



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

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

Organizers: David Lilley, Alastair Murchie

XXIV tRNA Conference

December 2-6, 2012

Olmue, Chile

<http://www.trna2012.cl/index.html>

The 24th tRNA Conference (formerly tRNA Workshop) will be held in Olmue, Chile in December 2012. We cordially invite all members of the international tRNA community to attend this meeting, which will bring together a wide range of scientists from all over the world whose work touches on protein synthesis and translation, providing an exciting and stimulating forum for discussion. This is the first tRNA conference to be held in a Latin American country, and we particularly encourage local scientists and researchers from the rest of Latin America to participate and share their findings with tRNA experts from around the world.

Organizers: Michael Ibba and Omar Orellana



Positions available

Postdoctoral Research Scientist MRC Human Genetics Unit

Posted on December 22, 2011

We have one Postdoctoral research opportunity working within the laboratory of Prof. Javier F. Caceres at the MRC Human Genetics Unit in Edinburgh, funded by the Wellcome Trust for three years.

We are interested in the role of RNA-binding proteins (RNABPs) in microRNA (miRNA) biogenesis and function. We aim to understand how miRNAs are post-transcriptionally regulated and also how signalling pathways influence processing and function of miRNAs. This position is part of a multidisciplinary team working on the molecular, biochemical, and cellular aspects of RNA processing in eukaryotes.

The MRC Human Genetics Unit is a highly multidisciplinary environment and is part of the Institute of Genetics and Molecular Medicine (IGMM) at the University of Edinburgh. Further details of the Research group's work are available at: http://www.hgu.mrc.ac.uk/people/j.caceres_2011.html

Qualifications required : Prospective candidates should hold a Ph.D. degree or equivalent in a relevant science subject and have proven previous experience in molecular and cell biology and/or biochemistry with a keen interest in gene expression. Full details of the position can be found at

http://www.jobs.ed.ac.uk/vacancies/index.cfm?fuseaction=vacancies.detail&vacancy_ref=3015219&go=GO

Informal enquiries can be made to recruitment@hgu.mrc.ac.uk or to Javier.Caceres@hgu.mrc.ac.uk

Closing Date: 31 January 2012

Biologist with Good Computing Skills

Posted on December 14, 2011

We are looking for a biologist with good computing skills to apply and develop tools for the analysis of high-throughput sequence data generated from RNA-protein and RNA-RNA crosslinking studies. Applicants should have a PhD and at least one first author publication in a good international journal.

The position is available from January 2012 and is funded for three years.

Contact David Tollervey, University of Edinburgh, Wellcome Trust Centre for Cell Biology

Email: d.tollervey@ed.ac.uk

Four Tenure Track Faculty Positions in RNA Research

Posted on December 9, 2011

Four Tenure Track Faculty Positions in RNA Research – University At Albany-SUNY

The University invites applications for four tenure track Assistant Professor positions in RNA science and technology.

CELL/DEVELOPMENTAL BIOLOGIST, Department of Biological Sciences: conducting research on the role of RNA, including but not exclusive to non-coding or microRNA molecules, in post-transcriptional gene regulation or other cellular and/or developmental processes.

CHEMIST/BIOCHEMIST, Department of Chemistry: conducting research in RNA science and its applications in areas such as, but not limited to, modified nucleosides, synthesis, imaging, and analytical chemistries as it pertains to RNA structure/function relationships, including interactions with proteins and other RNAs.

RNA VIROLOGIST, Department of Biological Sciences: conducting research with mammalian RNA viruses in any one or more areas including but not exclusively: genome structure, mechanisms of genome replication and packaging, gene expression and regulation, host-range and cell specificity, evolution of emerging diseases.

BIOINFORMATICIST, Department of Chemistry: conducting research on the structure/function of RNA molecules through both computational and wet-lab research.

or **MACROMOLECULAR X-RAY CRYSTALLOGRAPHER**, Department of Chemistry: conducting research on solving nucleic acid/protein structures particularly that of RNA. The successful candidate will be expected to collaborate with RNA Institute researchers studying RNA structure and RNA-protein interactions.



The Department plans to add researchers in both areas over the next two years and will fill the position this year with the best candidate.

All positions will be affiliated with the RNA Institute (<http://www.albany.edu/rna>) with state-of-the-art laboratories housed in the Life Sciences Research Building (<http://www.albany.edu/lifesciences>).

The Institute brings together more than 35 investigators from the College of Arts & Sciences, the College of Nanoscale Science and Engineering, the School of Public Health, and regional institutions including the Wadsworth Center, Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute, and Albany Medical College. This creates an outstanding environment for research collaborations. Instructional responsibilities will be consistent with the position and those of the faculty in the home department, and the interests of the candidate.

Submit applications for CELL/DEVELOPMENTAL BIOLOGY at:

<http://albany.interviewexchange.com/jobofferdetails.jsp?JOBID=27938>

Submit applications for CHEMIST/BIOCHEMIST at

<http://albany.interviewexchange.com/jobofferdetails.jsp?JOBID=27907>

Submit applications for RNA VIROLOGIST at

<http://albany.interviewexchange.com/jobofferdetails.jsp?JOBID=28449>

Submit applications for BIOINFORMATICIST or MACROMOLECULAR X-RAY CRYSTALLOGRAPHER at

<http://albany.interviewexchange.com/jobofferdetails.jsp?JOBID=28447>

Applications must include a CV with publications cited in detail and any present or past grant funding, statement of research interests, statement of teaching interests, and a minimum of three references with contact information.

The successful candidates for both positions will be offered a competitive salary, start-up package, and research space in the Life Sciences Research Building.

Qualifications for all Candidates: Ph.D. from a college or university accredited by the U.S. Department of Education or an internationally recognized accrediting organization and a strong publication record reflecting significant scientific accomplishments. Applicants must address in their applications their ability to work with and instruct a culturally diverse population. Preferred qualifications include productive post-doctoral training and the potential or demonstrated ability, to obtain independent extramural funding.

Review of applications will begin on November 15, 2011 and continue until the positions are filled.

The University at Albany is an EEO/AA/IRCA/ADA employer.

[POSTDOC – RNAI, Small RNA Biologist – Brandeis University](#)

Posted on [November 28, 2011](#)

A postdoctoral position starting in July 2010 is open in the laboratory of Nelson Lau, at Brandeis University, in Waltham, MA, near Boston. We are 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 mouse genetics, *Xenopus* biology and tissue culture will also be highly considered.

Our group studies basic gene regulation mechanisms by small RNAs and the RNA interference pathway in animals.

Specifically, we are interested in dissecting the molecular mechanisms of Piwi proteins and piRNAs, and to compare their functions with microRNAs, siRNAs and Argonaute proteins.

Candidates should send an email to nlau@brandeis.edu with a CV, list of publications, and three references.

[The Department of Biology at the University of Rochester](#)

Posted on [November 12, 2011](#)

The [Department of Biology](#) at the University of Rochester invites applications, at all levels, for a tenure-track faculty position. Our multidisciplinary biology department affords opportunities for intellectual interactions across diverse research disciplines. We are seeking candidates with interests in either of the broad disciplines below, and in particular those who bridge across these disciplines.

Cell, Molecular and Developmental Biology: We encourage applications from outstanding candidates that address fundamental questions in cellular, molecular, and developmental biology. Candidates working in both basic and biomedical areas are encouraged to apply.



Evolutionary Biology & Ecology: All areas of evolutionary biology and ecology will be considered; candidates with interests in evolutionary or ecological genomics, computational biology, and evolutionary developmental genetics are especially encouraged to apply.

We are seeking candidates whose research programs address basic biological problems and who have demonstrated excellence, originality, and productivity in research. Our research and graduate programs are integrated into a world-class life sciences research campus that also affords ample opportunities for interactions and collaborations with the adjacent University of Rochester Medical Center. Research activities across the University are supported by core facilities including Imaging, Proteomics, Functional Genomics, and Flow Cytometry cores.

Application materials should be uploaded at <https://www.rochester.edu/fort/bio/index.php>. Complete applications include: a cover letter; curriculum vitae including publication list; statement of research accomplishments and future plans; statement of teaching experiences and interests. Instructions for supplying 3 letters of recommendation are on the application website. Review of applications will start December 1 and continue until the position is filled.

The University of Rochester is an Equal Opportunity Employer, has a strong commitment to diversity and actively encourages applications of candidates from groups underrepresented in higher education.

[Baylor College of Medicine Seeking Postdoctoral Fellow](#)

Posted on [November 12, 2011](#)

We seek a postdoctoral fellow with strong research skills to join our lab at Baylor College of Medicine. Successful candidate must have a Ph.D. degree (or a Ph.D. degree by the starting date) in biological sciences, and proficiency in molecular biology methods. RNAs have rapidly emerged as the key players in fundamental biological processes, as well as the bridge to future medicine. Our laboratory is interested in the roles of RNA mutational events in human prostate and ovarian cancer, and their utilities for diagnosis/therapy. The RNA events under investigation include chimera, alternative splicing, RNA editing, and alternative polyadenylation /miRNA targeting, and encompass both coding and non-coding RNA. We use cutting-edge next generation sequencing of patient cancer samples, in combination with cell cultures and animal models in pursuit of our goals. Successful candidate will work closely with the PI and other team members, and coordinate all phases of study. Baylor College of Medicine is a world-renowned research institution located in the heart of the Texas Medical Center. Ample opportunities exist for scientific interaction with neighboring institutes such as MD Anderson Cancer Center, Rice University, the Texas A&M Institute of Bioscience, and many research hospitals. The breadth and quality of biomedical science in the Texas Medical Center rivals that of any biomedical research center in the world. Our lab interacts regularly with several other labs in the Texas Medical Center including joint lab meetings and a weekly RNA journal club. The lab is funded by grants from NIH and Department of Defense. We offer competitive salary based on experience.

Interested applicants please send a CV to:

Laising Yen, Ph.D. Assistant Professor

Department of Pathology & Immunology Department of Molecular & Cellular Biology

Baylor College of Medicine Houston, Texas 77030 yen@bcm.edu

<http://www-qa.bcm.edu/pathimmuno/yen/?pmid=14409>

<http://www.texasmedicalcenter.org/root/en/GetToKnow/FactsandFigures/Facts+and+Figures.htm>

[Postdoctoral Position in the Laboratory of Sandra Wolin at the Yale University School of Medicine](#)

Posted on [November 12, 2011](#)

A postdoctoral position is available in the laboratory of Sandra Wolin at the Yale University School of Medicine (http://wolin-lab.com/Wolin_Lab/Welcome.html). Projects are available to study the mechanisms by which mammalian cells handle aberrant noncoding RNAs and modulate RNA populations during environmental stress. We are seeking a candidate with significant experimental training in molecular biology or biochemistry who seeks to benefit from the extremely strong and highly interactive RNA community at Yale. Please send a cover letter discussing your interests in the laboratory, your CV and a list of 3 references and their contact information to sandra.wolin@yale.edu.



[Position available in Dept of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology of the University of Chicago , United States](#)

Posted on [October 3, 2011](#)

Postdoctoral positions are available in the laboratory of Tao Pan at the University of Chicago (http://openwetware.org/wiki/Pan_Lab) to investigate mis-translation of proteins as a new stress response mechanism. A central tenet of biology is the accurate flow of information from nucleic acids to proteins through the genetic code. It is commonly believed that translation deviating from the genetic code is avoided at all times. We have discovered that mammalian cells can deliberately reprogram the genetic code through tRNA misacylation upon innate immune activation and chemically triggered oxidative stress. This reprogramming is regulated by fluctuating levels of reactive oxygen species (ROS) in the cell. The postdoctoral researcher will investigate how regulated mis-translation is used as a mechanism for stress response in mammalian systems.

Candidates with expertise in standard molecular biology techniques and mammalian cell cultures preferred. Candidates should not have more than three years of postdoctoral experience. To apply, send a cover letter, CV including a list of publications, names and contact information of three references in a single pdf file to taopan@uchicago.edu.

Contact :

[Dr Tao Pan](#)

Tel : 773-702-4179

Email : taopan@uchicago.edu

[Position available in Dept of Cellular Structural Biology of the CCRI-UTHSCSA , San Antonio, United States](#)

Posted on [October 3, 2011](#)

We are looking for a post-doctoral fellow to work on a NIH funded project that will be carried out as part of a collaboration between Luiz O. Penalva's (<http://ccri.uthscsa.edu/LPenalva.asp>) and Andrew Smith's (<http://smithlab.cmb.usc.edu/plone>) labs. Our research will focus on RNA binding proteins and mechanisms that regulate their binding and function. In this project, we will be using a combination of RNAseq analyses, CLIP, RIP, cell culture, molecular biology and computational biology.

We expect candidates to have a solid experience in RNA biology, genomics and molecular biology techniques and strong publication record in the field. Candidates should submit curriculum vitae and contact information for three references. Please describe in a separate letter your career goals, research experience and interests. We expect the selected candidate to join the lab as soon as possible. The position is for a minimum period of three years. Salary will be according to experience and the NIH pay scale will be followed.

All post-doctoral appointments are designated as security sensitive positions. The UTHSCSA is an Equal Employment Opportunity Affirmative Action Employer.

Applications should be sent by e-mail to: Luiz Otavio Penalva, Ph.D

Children's Cancer Research Institute – UTHSCSA

penalva@uthscsa.edu

Contact :

[Dr Luiz O Penalva](#)

Tel : 210 5629049

**For all jobs, including those posted in the past week,
see the RNA Society's web site**

<http://www.rnasociety.org/post-type/jobs/>



eJobs with the RNA Society



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

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

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

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

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

Contact information (*required*)

Name (*Must be a member to post on this site*)

Organization

Dept.

Address

City State/ Prv.

ZIP/Postal Code Country

Tel.

Fax (*optional*)

E-mail

URL (*optional*)

Signature (*electronic signature if available*)

Date

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

