

## RNA Society

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## From the Desk of the President, Sarah Woodson

Greetings for 2015!

I am incredibly honored to serve you as the next President of the RNA Society, particularly as the Society has played an important role in my own career. But first, let me begin by warmly thanking



**Adrian Krainer** for his wise and steady leadership as President of the Society for 2014. Happily for me, he continues to serve as Past President, which means I can ask him for advice. A

Professor at Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory, Adrian is well known for his outstanding research on the mechanisms of RNA splicing and his efforts to translate that knowledge into new therapies. In addition to his term as President, Adrian served on the Board of Directors of the Society, and recently co-organized the 2013 meeting in Davos, Switzerland. (Continued on p2)

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I next wish to thank **Mary O’Connell** (MRC Human Genetics Unit at the University of Edinburgh), who completed her three-year term as Secretary of the RNA Society at the end of 2014. Mary and her team study the link between RNA editing and the immune system. She nevertheless found time to serve the Society with dedication, insight and good cheer. I am also delighted to announce that **Brenda Peculis** (University of Missouri) will be the next Secretary of the RNA Society. Brenda is no stranger to you, as she has done a fantastic job producing this newsletter for the past nine years. I am very happy that Brenda is willing to take on this next job.

Finally, I am particularly honored to start my term as President in 2015, because this year marks the 20<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting of the RNA Society. We have an exciting year ahead, with a special anniversary issue of the *RNA* journal and celebratory activities at the annual meeting. [The Society was born](#) with the adoption of the [Articles of Incorporation](#) in 1993, however meeting venues were still limited in size and varied in location. In 1996 the First Annual Meeting of the RNA Society was held at Madison. While I remain a bit amazed by the gumption of the early Directors and leaders who brought this to fruition, I am enormously grateful for their foresight. It was a heady time for RNA research, with rapid progress on topics such as RNA processing, catalysis, transport and many other topics. Yet the field was expanding beyond its original boundaries. Riboswitches and micro-RNAs would soon be discovered. The ribosome’s structure solved. As a new assistant professor, I recall the anxiety of getting an abstract accepted to the oversubscribed Cold Spring Harbor RNA processing meeting. The expanded format of the RNA Society meeting in 1996 was a marvel – everyone could come!

Of course, the annual meetings have been a phenomenal success. The topics have expanded over the years to encompass structural biology to neurobiology, small RNAs to long RNAs, coding or not. As a junior scientist, the annual meetings kept me in touch with RNA zeitgeist. My students met scientists passionately interested in their posters. I made friends all over the globe. As an

“experienced” scientist, the Society and its annual meetings are still important to me. Beyond old friends and great science, the meetings convey our collective belief in the power of experimentation, and a belief that those who perform exciting experiments should get to talk about the results. My students and postdocs return from the RNA meetings ready to fling themselves into their projects with new energy and ideas.

The Society had a second important effect on my career, which was the start of the *RNA* journal in 1995 just as my tenure review was looming. From its inception, the journal – under the guidance of Editor-in-Chief **Tim Nilsen** – has offered thoughtful peer review and a forum for interesting RNA-related research, but without regard to fashion or trendiness. I am delighted to say that the journal has continued to flourish in every way, with many important papers, a healthy subscription base, and dare I say it, a respectable impact factor. Next time you see Tim or another editor, thank him or her!

This year the annual meeting of the RNA Society will be held May 26-31 in Madison, Wisconsin in the newly renovated Union. Don’t miss the Meeting announcement (page 3) outlining the meeting and some events planned for **RNA 2015**. One of my favorite parts of the annual meeting is the Awards Ceremony in which we honor outstanding contributions to RNA science by our members. I am truly delighted to announce that this year’s recipients of the Lifetime Achievement Awards will be **Anita Hopper** for research and **David Lilley** for service. Please join us in celebrating their achievements and the other award recipients on Saturday May 30. Finally, don’t forget the special networking and career events for junior scientists; see page 5 and Facebook (in the “RNA Society Junior Scientist Members” group).

Feel free to contact RNA Society representatives at any time with concerns or suggestions for how the Society can serve you better. We need your input to make the next twenty years just as successful as the first twenty!

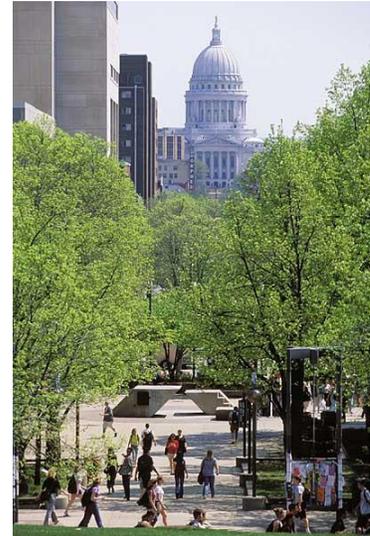
Until Madison, best wishes to all,  
Sarah Woodson ([swoodson@jhu.edu](mailto:swoodson@jhu.edu))



**RNA 2015:**  
**The 20<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting of the RNA Society**  
**May 26 - 31, 2015**  
**University of Wisconsin - Madison**

**Abstract deadlines:**

**February 27, 2015** for oral abstracts (will be considered for a platform talk)  
**March 27, 2015** for poster abstracts (may also be considered for a workshop talk)



- Keynote speakers: **Elena Conti** (Max Planck Inst.), **Narry Kim** (Seoul National Univ.), and **Harry Noller** (UC Santa Cruz)
- 5 plenary sessions, 6 concurrent sessions, and 7+ workshops covering the spectrum of RNA science, in the newly renovated [Memorial Union](#)
- Evening poster sessions and a beer hall under a single roof, across the street from the [dorms](#)
- Special events: Mentor-Mentee lunch, Junior Scientist social, Career Development workshop, panel discussion on the history of RNA research, and Science and Society dinner featuring Jon Lorsch - Director of the NIGMS
- Lakeside picnic dinner and a free evening to enjoy Madison
- Closing banquet and dance at [Union South](#) with live karaoke from [The Gomers](#).

We hope you will join us for our milestone **20<sup>th</sup> meeting**, back in Madison where it all began!

The organizing committee:

*Dave Brow, Matt Hentze, Amy Pasquinelli, and Anna Pyle*

For more information and to register, go to:

<http://www.rnasociety.org/conferences/rna-2015/greetings/>



## You can help students and postdocs attend our 20<sup>th</sup> annual meeting!

**Please consider contributing to the RNA Society fund for meeting-travel support.**

This fund allows us to waive the meeting registration fees for graduate students (\$650) or postdocs (\$750) who are Society members and who could not otherwise afford to attend the meeting. These fellowships are a great way to promote the development of our next generation of RNA scientists. Some meeting fellowships are funded by the Society, others by generous sponsors, but we always fall far short of funding all the applications we receive (typically 90 per meeting). In this time of limited grant funding, need for such fellowships is particularly strong.

As of January 7, we have received enough donations to fund 5 fellowships. Our goal is to fund at least 10 fellowships from member donations. Fellowship awards will be announced on **February 24**, so we have only a short time to reach our goal.

To make a donation to the RNA Society meeting fellowship fund, click on the following link:

<http://www.rnasociety.org/conferences/rna-2015/travel-fellowship-donations/>

The donations form takes a moment to load, so please be patient. If you have any trouble making your donation, contact me at [dabrow@wisc.edu](mailto:dabrow@wisc.edu). Your contribution will help inspire a young scientist to make a life-long commitment to advancing the frontiers of RNA research!

Dave Brow  
Lead Organizer, RNA 2015



## Jr Scientists Corner

### Grad student/Postdoc Corner: RNA Society Junior Scientists

Hello Junior Scientists! We hope everyone is enjoying a productive new year in RNA science, and is as excited as we are for what the society has in store in the coming months. Most prominently featured is the RNA 2015 meeting in beautiful Madison, WI, for which we're assembling a fantastic program for graduate students and postdocs. Read on for a description of some of the events we're excited to bring you!

On Tuesday afternoon, the Junior scientists are invited to join us on a guided tour of the Wisconsin State Capitol at 3 PM, prior to the beginning of the meeting. The Capitol is an iconic domed building that has anchored the heart of the city of Madison since 1917. It boasts an impressive granite-domed Rotunda, the only one of its kind in the United States, and is replete with historic examples of architecture, art and sculpture throughout the stately legislative and judicial chambers that we will have an opportunity to view. All that without mentioning spectacular 360 degree views from an observation deck 236 feet above the city! Check out photo and virtual



tours to see [what's in store](#).

The tour promises to offer a truly unique flavor of Madison—and **spots will likely fill up fast!** We will be updating you on details for signing up for the tour in the coming months so **stay informed by visiting our Facebook, LinkedIn and Twitter pages** (see below), and be sure to remember to **schedule your travel to Madison early enough to attend the tour!**

Wednesday afternoon brings a can't-miss Career Development Workshop, our annual signature event that brings fresh insights on RNA science from a professional development perspective.

This year, we are proud to present “A Day in the Life: Diverse Careers in Science,” which will feature a survey of scientists leading rewarding careers outside of the academic research establishment. You can look forward to a panel of participants from a range of fields, including industry, teaching, policy and consulting, among others. The panelists will offer perspectives on their own professional journeys and the threads that tie them together, and will encourage discussions designed to reflect on ways in which young scientists can prepare themselves for a range of careers in their next professional step. We're assembling an excellent lineup of panel participants, so be sure to plan on attending!

On Thursday evening before dinner, the Junior Scientist Committee will host its annual Junior Scientists' Social, at which graduate students and postdocs are invited to unwind over drinks before the free evening. The social offers an excellent opportunity to meet your peers, talk science (or not!) and find people to explore Madison with for the evening, especially for those attending the meeting on their own! Join us—we'd love to meet you all!

In the months leading up to the meeting, be sure to keep up with us on **Facebook** (in the “RNA Society Junior Scientist Members” group), **LinkedIn** (in the “Junior RNA Society Scientists” group) and **Twitter** (@jrRNAscience). We'll be regularly posting updates to our events, including **IMPORTANT** registration



information that will give us an idea of how many people to prepare for, so stay tuned! Information on our events will also be posted to the RNA 2015 website for reference. Additionally, feel free to contact us through any of those media or via email ([junior\\_scientists@rnasociety.org](mailto:junior_scientists@rnasociety.org)) with questions or suggestions, about the meeting specifically, or other ways we can represent your needs within the Society. We're here to help!



We hope to see you all in Madison, and until then, all the best in RNA science!

**Allison Didychuk** (Graduate Student Representative, UW Madison)

**Sebastian Markmiller** (Postdoc Representative, UCSD)

**Phil McCown** (Postdoc Representative, Indiana University)

**Michael Meers** (Grad Student Representative, UNC Chapel Hill)

Keep in touch with us via e-mail ([junior\\_scientists@rnasociety.org](mailto:junior_scientists@rnasociety.org)),

Our Facebook page

(<https://www.facebook.com/groups/RNASocietyJuniorScientists/>),

Or our brand new Twitter handle ( @jrRNAscientists )

We always love to hear from you!



## From the desk of the CEO

Jim McSwiggen



Welcome to 2015 and another exciting year for RNA research. This year we will hold our **20<sup>th</sup> annual meeting of the RNA Society on May 26-31, 2015** back where it all started—in **Madison, Wisconsin**. The University of Wisconsin Memorial Union just completed a two-year west wing renovation in September that makes this an even better space for our meeting. Renovation of the two theaters has produced an even more beautiful and commodious space for our plenary and concurrent sessions. An expanded theater lobby will offer a fantastic space for the between-session breaks, as will a new, additional 900 feet of Lake Mendota seawall that allows for more seating near the water. If the weather turns grey, *Der Rathskeller* and the newly renovated *Der Stiftskeller* still offer a warm environment for a pint of beer (or three) and socializing with your colleagues. You can find out more about the renovation at <http://www.union.wisc.edu/westwing>.

Those aren't the only improvements for the 2015 meeting, however. The poster sessions will take place in the spacious and attractive upper level of the newly renovated [Gordon Commons](#) (completed October 2013), just a very short distance from both the dorms and some nice hotel options. Meanwhile, the closing banquet will take place in [Union South](#), another beautiful UW space that was completely redone just four years ago. So the great talks will be accompanied by really nice conference surroundings. I hope you will be able to join us for our 20<sup>th</sup> annual meeting in Madison.

We continue to look for ways increase the exposure of the RNA Society while at the same time providing an improving benefit to our members. One interesting example of that can be seen at the upcoming RNA 2015 meeting. We have recently set up a trial “exchange” between our society and the Oligonucleotide Therapeutics Society (OTS)—a

group with a similar mandate, but focused on the therapeutic applications of oligonucleotides. The exchange involves each society providing a conference chair for one of the sessions at the other society's annual conference. Former board member **Tracy Johnson** (UCLA) has agreed to represent the RNA Society at the October 2015 OTS meeting in Leiden, and OTS President **Brett Monia** (Isis Pharmaceuticals) will be chairing a session at our RNA 2015 meeting. It is anticipated that this exchange will lead to both more therapeutic-related abstract submissions and more corporate participation in our meetings.

Last year I wrote that we had started to explore the possibility of more direct “hosting” of small RNA-related conferences that might otherwise have difficulty getting going. As a set of test cases, we had agreed to host a 2014 RNase H meeting and the 2015 Ribosome Synthesis meeting. I am happy to report that the 2014 RNase H meeting concluded successfully (page 10), on budget, and that a small number of RNA Society members were able to take advantage of a \$100 registration discount to that meeting as a result of our support. I anticipate that our support of this year's Ribosome Synthesis meeting (page 18) will also be beneficial both to our members and the larger ribosome synthesis community as well.

In other news, the RNA Society remains in very good condition. Our journal continues to attract high quality manuscripts and is the financial engine of the Society. The 2014 conference in Quebec was a huge success, both intellectually and financially, and we expect an equally successful 2015 meeting in Madison. The Society's membership levels have jumped by 15% over last year (to 1689 members). This is again at the highest number of members in our 20-year history, and is due to a combination of changes in our non-member conference registration fees and to diligent efforts by **Kristian Baker**, the membership chair. The result of all of these successes is that our society is doing very well financially, with an anticipated increase of at least \$50 K in net assets in 2014 despite a significant increase in the amount that we spent on



travel awards and small conference support in 2014.

As CEO, my goal is to expand the Society's membership and income so that we can continue to expand our mission of supporting RNA research and education. I am grateful to the many, many volunteers who have helped in this endeavor, and who continue to do so. In particular, I want to thank Past-President **Rachel Green**, Secretary **Mary O'Connell**, and board members **Maria Carmo-Fonseca** and **Jonathan Staley** who have just completed their terms of office on our board of

directors. I also want to thank **David Lilley** who has stepped down as chair of our meetings committee after nine productive and successful years in that position. Serving in David's place is **Benoit Chabot**, who I introduce separately below.

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 also happy to hear from non-members who want to become members).

Jim McSwiggen, CEO  
[CEO@rnasociety.org](mailto:CEO@rnasociety.org)

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## New Staff Members

We are happy to welcome a new member to our staff of volunteers in 2015.

**Benoit Chabot** has agreed to serve as the society's Meetings chair, taking over from **David Lilley** who served in that role for 9 years. Benoit has served as a conference organizer for both the 2001 meeting in Banff and the 2009 meeting in Madison. You will likely know him best, however, as the lead organizer of last year's highly successful meeting in Quebec. Benoit is making his own introduction, as well, on page 8 of this newsletter.

The RNA Society is an all-volunteer organization; we thrive because of the efforts of Benoit and all our many volunteers (see page one sidebar). Please be sure to thank them for their service when you have the opportunity. You can contact me at [ceo@rnasociety.org](mailto:ceo@rnasociety.org).

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## Chairman of the Meetings Committee Benoit Chabot

Possibly as a consequence of my participation in the organization of three meetings of the RNA Society (Banff 2001, Madison 2009 and Quebec 2004), I was invited to take over the position of Chairman of the



Meetings Committee starting in 2015. It is with excitement that I have accepted this task, knowing full well that being a successor to **David Lilley**, who expertly led the way for 9 years, will be quite a challenge. It is nevertheless reassuring to realize that I will be taking advantage of the workings of a committee that has been well oiled with David's rigor and efficiency.

We are now gearing up to meet in **Madison**, Wisconsin, in 2015. Madison has been a preferred location, and it represents a historical destination for our Society. The first RNA Society Meeting was held in Madison in 1996, and this will be our ninth meeting there. I am looking forward very much to rediscover a campus that has undergone extensive renovations since our last RNA meeting there in 2009. The meeting is being organized by **Matthias**

**Hentze**, **Amy Pasquinelli** and **Anna Pyle** under the able leadership of **David Brow**. Registration is opened online <http://www.rnasociety.org/conferences/rna-2015/>



The meeting is from **May 26 to May 31, 2015**. The deadline for submitting oral abstracts is **Feb 27, 2015**; **March 27, 2015** is the deadline poster abstract submission.

In **2016**, we are due back to **Kyoto** in Japan for our second collaborative meeting with the **Japanese RNA Society**. The lead organizer will be **Mikiko Siomi**, with **Erik Sontheimer**, **Wendy Gilbert**, **Utz Fischer**, **Tom Suzuki** and **David Lilley** as co-organizers. We will be revisiting the Kyoto International Conference Center where the meeting was held in 2011. Kyoto was such a splendid and memorable destination for an RNA meeting that it is not surprising that we are returning. What a treat it will be, and I look forward very much to go back.

In **2017**, four years after the wonderful meeting in Davos, we will be back in Europe, this time in **Prague**, the musical and magical capital city of the Czech Republic. The complete list of organizers is not yet set, but **Andrea Barta** has graciously accepted to be the lead organizer for this meeting, while **Petr Svoboda**, who successfully presented the bid, will be a co-organizer. We visited the conference center and other accommodations recently and this will be a superlative venue.

We are now accepting bids for **2018** for sites in North America. A bid from the University of North Carolina has already been received. Although we expect bids to be led by the RNA community, a new procedure will be implemented this year to streamline the bidding process with the goal of facilitating the comparison of multiple bids and ensuring that all fees and frills are considered. The procedure will involve our partners, Kristin Scheyer and Mary McCann from Simple Meetings, who have been working with us since the 2006 Seattle meeting. As they well know our needs, their expertise and involvement will facilitate the assembly of all relevant information in preparation for discussion in the annual meetings committee meeting. If you are part of an active RNA research community, please consider submitting your city/university for consideration as a venue to welcome our annual meeting.

Benoit Chabot  
[benoit.chabot@usherbrooke.ca](mailto:benoit.chabot@usherbrooke.ca)

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## Annual Meeting Dates

The dates for the RNA Society's annual meetings are set for 2015 through 2017. Add the dates to your calendar so that you don't miss out.

**RNA 2015 (The 20<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting of the RNA Society)**  
May 26-31, 2015  
University of Wisconsin, Madison  
Madison, WI, USA

**RNA 2016 (The 21<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting of the RNA Society)**  
June 28 – July 2, 2016  
Kyoto International Conference Center  
Kyoto, Japan

**RNA 2017 (The 22<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting of the RNA Society)**  
June 13-17, 2017  
Prague Congress Center  
Prague, Czech Republic



## RNA Society-supported meetings

### Reports from recent meetings supported by the Society

#### RNase H 2014

Sept 7<sup>th</sup> – 10<sup>th</sup>, 2014

Warrenton, Virginia, USA

The 13<sup>th</sup> RNase H 2014 bi-annual meeting for the first time was hosted under the auspices of the RNA Society. The meeting focuses on all aspects of RNase H enzymes, including structure, biochemistry, and genetics, as well as the nature of their substrates. Forty one attendees participated in this exiting two and one-half day meeting September 7-10 in Warrenton Virginia. The roles of RNases H in resolving R-loops and initiating removal of ribonucleotides incorporated during DNA replication represented the majority of the 36 oral presentations. Awards from The RNA Society were presented to two graduate students, **Christine Petzold** from the University of Wisconsin and **Kyung Duk Koh** from Georgia Institute of Technology, for their outstanding work and presentations.



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#### RiboClub 2014

September 22<sup>nd</sup> – 24<sup>th</sup>, 2014

Orford, Quebec, Canada

The RiboClub meeting 2014 took place last September in Orford (Quebec, Canada). This year it was organized in partnership with the Yale University RNA Center. Alan Lambowitz (University of Texas) gave a splendid opening conference on Mobile Group II Introns, while Christina Smolke (Stanford University) was the concluding keynote on Designing Synthetic Regulatory RNAs. The flavor of the year was "The ever-expanding diversity of RNA functions". In addition to the oral presentations distributed in seven sessions, two interactive poster sessions showcased the work of students and post-docs.



Thanks to the support of the RNA Society, 2 travel scholarships were awarded on a competitive basis to **Sara Timpano** (University of Guelph, Ontario ; laboratory of Jim Uniacke) and **Raghav Poudyal** (University of Missouri; laboratory of Don Burke).

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#### 25<sup>th</sup> tRNA Conference

September 21<sup>st</sup> – 25<sup>th</sup>, 2014

Kyllini, Greece



The 25<sup>th</sup> tRNA Conference 2014 was held for the first time in Greece, celebrating almost 50 years of tRNA research and was organized by Prof. Constantinos Stathopoulos and Prof. Denis Drinas of the University of Patras. Studies on tRNA were always in the spotlight, during and after the elucidation of genetic code. From the first scientific meeting which took place in Cambridge, UK (1969), 24 Conferences have been organized and

during the last decades many discoveries unraveled the essential role of the “adaptor molecule” not only in the flow of the genetic information and the evolution of the contemporary translational machinery, but also on the regulation of many essential cellular events.

More than 230 scientists in the field of RNA biology, protein synthesis, genetic code, synthetic and systems biology from 25 countries presented their latest findings. The Conference included sessions with a special focus on the role of the dynamic networks of tRNA-related proteins in numerous diseases in human and the regulatory role of tRNA fragments in both cytoplasmic and mitochondrial translation and beyond. Among the speakers were prominent members of the RNA Society including Paul Schimmel, Paul Agris, Dieter Söll, Andrian Ferré D-Amaré, Susan Ackerman, David Engelke, Paul Fox, Anita Hopper, Sidney Kushner, Michael Ibba, Susan Martinis, Eric Phizicky, Henri Grosjean, Marina Rodnina and Marat Yusupov.

Detailed information on the history of the Conference, the scientific program and the abstract book can be found at the Conference’s official website



(<http://www.trna2014.gr>). The 26<sup>th</sup> tRNA Conference will be held in Jeju Island (Korea) organized by Prof. Sunghoon Kim of Seoul National University.

The organizers would like to thank the RNA Society for their overall generous sponsorship and for supporting **Lin Chen** (Ohio State University, USA), **Anna Domańska** (Polish Academy of Sciences, Poland), **Kien Nguyen** (Northeastern University, USA) and **Hugo Vitor Serrão** (University of Sao Paulo, Brazil) to attend the meeting.

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## 2014 IMB Conference - Nuclear RNA in gene regulation and chromatin structure

October 9<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup>, 2014

Mainz, Germany

The topic of the 2014 conference of the Institute of Molecular Biology (IMB) in Mainz, Germany was the role of nuclear RNA in gene regulation and chromatin structure. Delegates gathered in October for a wide array of talks on this cutting edge field, in sessions on small RNA pathways, splicing, lncRNAs, dosage compensation and telomere biology. Among the 26 expert speakers, were two excellent keynote lectures from **Steven Jacobsen** (Howard Hughes Medical Institute and UCLA, USA), who opened the meeting with a talk about RNA-directed DNA methylation, and from **Ruth Lehmann** (Skirball Institute and New York School of Medicine, USA) on mRNA regulation in the *Drosophila* germline. See [www.imb.de/2014conference](http://www.imb.de/2014conference) for the full programme.



Support from the RNA Society generously funded two Junior Researcher Travel Awards for the presenters of two of the short talks, who were selected based on submitted abstracts: **Manvendra Singh** (Max-Delbrück Center for Molecular Medicine, Berlin, Germany), who spoke about “Cross-talks between human endogenous retroviruses derived lncRNA and host factors: re-wiring cell-type-specific transcriptional networks in humans”; and **Josep Duato Botam** (University of Oxford, UK) with his talk on “Gene expression regulation through



DICER1-mediated transcriptional gene silencing (TGS) in normal and breast cancer cells”. The society also funded an award for the best poster, which went to **Anja Holz** (Max Planck Institute for Developmental Biology, Tübingen, Germany). Photographed at right are RNA Society Junior Researcher Travel Award winners, Mavendra Singh and Josep Duato Botam (from left), enjoying the sights of the Rhine valley with fellow IMB conference delegates.

As well as a strong scientific programme of talks, there were plenty of opportunities for networking including two poster sessions and the conference dinner. Additionally, the conference excursion on the Saturday afternoon was a particular highlight of the meeting. Delegates were taken on a boat trip up the romantic Rhine gorge from Bingen to the historic town of Oberwesel, where they had the option of a guided city tour before enjoying an on-board dinner on the return journey.

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## RRM 2014

October 17<sup>th</sup> & 18<sup>th</sup>, 2014

Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, USA

The 16<sup>th</sup> Annual Rustbelt RNA Meeting (RRM) meeting was held October 17-18<sup>th</sup>, 2014 at the Pittsburgh Marriott City Center. The RRM is a regional scientific meeting that gathers scientists from throughout the Midwestern and Mid-Atlantic United States to discuss RNA-related biomedical research. The meeting is designed to encourage the sharing of ideas and the development of new collaborations. The primary mission of the RRM is to provide unique opportunities for junior scientists. The meeting predominately features oral and poster presentations by undergraduate, graduate and postdoctoral trainees. Held annually since 1998, the RRM attracts top-quality participants from prestigious research-intensive schools. Although the RRM draws regional participation from the Midwestern and Mid-Atlantic United States, it welcomes participation from anywhere.



Held annually since 1998, the RRM attracts top-quality participants from prestigious research-intensive schools. Although the RRM draws regional participation from the Midwestern and Mid-Atlantic United States, it welcomes participation from anywhere.

Session topics this year included: transcription, mRNA processing, and regulation; RNA at the chemistry-biology interface; RNAs in translational control; and RNomics, noncoding RNAs, and diseases. In total, there were 300 attendees. The meeting included a Keynote Address by Dr. Manny Ares (University of California, Santa Cruz), as well as 36 talks presented by graduate students and post-docs, and two talks by assistant professors Andrea Berman (University of Pittsburgh) and Sarath Chandra (Indiana University, Purdue). In addition, there were two poster sessions with 161 posters in total. We are also pleased to note that 22 undergraduates were in attendance. The meeting also featured a Career Round Table for the first time, which was generously hosted by Professor Ares and Professor Marcel Bruchez (Carnegie Mellon University).

The awards, which were sponsored by the RNA society, were as follows.

Oral Presenter Awardees:

**Sanjaya Abeysirigunawardena** (Johns Hopkins University)

**Vivek Advani** (University of Maryland, College Park)

**Vladimir Presnyak** (Case Western Reserve University)

**Sandy Tretbar** (University of Wisconsin, Madison)

Poster Presenter Awardees:

**Yicheng Long** (The Ohio State University)

**Sophie Martin** (Case Western Reserve University)

**Spencer Gardner** (The Ohio State University)

**Daniel Comiskey** (The Ohio State University)

**Janelle Gabriel** (The Ohio State University)

**Catey Dominguez** (The Ohio State University)

We are very grateful to the RNA Society for their support of trainee participation in this conference. Lastly, we note that the 17<sup>th</sup> Annual Rustbelt Meeting will be held in Sandusky, OH at the Sawmill Creek Resort on October 23<sup>rd</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup>, 2015. For more information about the meeting, please visit the website at <http://www.rustbeltrna.org>.

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### **NEPG 2014: The Northeast Postgraduate Conference**

October 31<sup>st</sup>, 2014

Newcastle upon Tyne, United Kingdom

NEPG represents a conference organised by postgraduate students for postgraduate students that covers the broad field of biomedical sciences. This year at a new venue the Civic Center in Newcastle upon Tyne, UK, the once small meeting has now reach a new height with nearly 600 registered delegates from 18 different Universities. In a friendly, but professional environment students could gain first hand experiences in presenting their research to a scientific audience with 36 oral and 51 poster presentations. To support the professional and career development of the delegates, we offered keynote speeches and workshops on science communication, careers outside of the field of science and on how to survive those last few months before handing in your thesis and the doctoral viva itself. Without the funding of our sponsors, not the least the RNA society, none of this would have been possible. The funds have been used to cover costs of equipment and thereby, allowing the conference to be free to attend for all delegates. Finally the NEPG committee would like to thank and congratulate everyone for their hard work, especially those who won the prize for the oral and poster presentations.

Oral Presentation Winners:

1<sup>st</sup> - **Adam Hirst** (Prof Norman J Maitland and Dr. Deborah O'Connell labs, University of York) and

2<sup>nd</sup> - **John Cleland** (Prof Doug Turnbull and Dr. Amy K Reeve labs, Newcastle University)

Poster Presentation Winners:

1<sup>st</sup> - **Pippa Harvey** (Dr. Jeremy Brown Lab, Institute for Cell and Mol. Biosciences, Newcastle University) and

2<sup>nd</sup> - **Richard O'Sullivan** (Prof Richard Edmondson and Prof Nicola Curtin labs, Northern Institute for Cancer Research, Newcastle University)

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## Zing Meeting on Nucleic Acids

December 5<sup>th</sup> – 9<sup>th</sup>, 2014

Cancun, Mexico

The 4th Zing conference on Nucleic Acids took place in Cancun, Mexico last December, organized by David Lilley and Wei Yang. This has now become established as a top flight meeting for the discussion of nucleic acid structure and function, divided approximately equally between DNA and RNA studies. The venue was a beautiful resort on the beach of a translucent turquoise-colored Caribbean sea (thanks to the physics of light scattering !). The format has become established now with plenary talks, slightly shorter invited talks from younger investigators on a rising trajectory (an excellent category for which Zing should take credit), and a significant number of short presentations selected from abstracts.

The RNA interest in the conference divided into a number of areas. The meeting was opened in some style by Joan Steitz who discussed viral ncRNA species, including an interesting motif based upon a triplex RNA structure. A novel knotted RNA structure was shown by Jeff Kieft. RNA-based regulation featured prominently, including structural studies on the CRISPR-Cas system (Ai Long Ke and Scott Bailey) and Argonaute (Ian McRae), and the kinetics of the required search process in bacteria was investigated by Taekjip Ha using single-molecule experiments. The structure of the nine-subunit structure of the exosome Exo9 complex was discussed in two plenary talks by Chris Lima and Elena Conti. Helicases featured prominently, both in DNA (James Berger, Mark Dillingham) and RNA; Anna Pyle presented the structure of RIG-I helicase bound to dsRNA. A series of new ribozymes were discussed by Ron Breaker, and the structure and mechanism of one shown by one of the organizers (Lilley). The ribosome continues to fascinate, with its complex dynamics shown by Jody Puglisi, and a number of structural vignettes from Tom Steitz. Lastly, RNA splicing at the single-molecule level was presented by Jeff Gelles. There were of course many interesting DNA-based lectures that fall outside the scope of this short report.



The meeting was distinguished both by the uniformly high standard of the lectures, and by the discussion that followed each one. RNA society fellowships were awarded to three rising-investigator speakers, **Marcin Nowotny**, **Mark Dillingham** and **Christian Hammann**. The conference has become widely recognized to be one of the very best in the field, and both Zing and the organizers intend to re-run it in two years time.

## Upcoming RNA-related Meetings of Interest

### RNA Control of Gene Expression in Amoebae

January 29<sup>th</sup> – 31<sup>st</sup>, 2015

Wesendorf, Germany

This meeting will discuss the pathways, by which RNA molecules exert control over all levels of gene expression in amoebae, with special emphasis to the processes in the model organism *Dictyostelium discoideum*.

We welcome particularly young scientists to contribute to the meeting by oral presentations. Thanks to the support by the RNA Society, registration fees for advanced PhD students and young Postdocs will be reduced. For more information, please contact organizer Christian Hammann ([c.hammann@jacobs-university.de](mailto:c.hammann@jacobs-university.de))

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### Gordon Research Conference: RNA Nanotechnology - Principles for Inter-RNA Interactions

February 1<sup>st</sup> – 6<sup>th</sup>, 2016

Venture, California

Chair: Peixuan Guo, University of Kentucky, USA

Co-Chair: Neocles Leontis, Bowling Green State University, USA

<http://www.grc.org/programs.aspx?id=16896>

Online application is currently open at the meeting website. Several oral presentation slots have been reserved for outstanding abstracts. Similar to all other GRC conferences, due to the limitation of meeting size, prior approval for application by the meeting chair is required before formal registration. For more information, please contact Hui Li at [h.li@uky.edu](mailto:h.li@uky.edu)

Preliminary program topics:

1. RNA Computation and Modeling
2. RNA Nanoparticles in Therapeutics
3. Importing from DNA Nanotechnology
4. Structure and Folding of RNA Nanoparticles
5. Physical and Chemical Approaches in RNA Nanotechnology
6. Extracellular RNA for Biomarker Development
7. Extracellular RNA for Therapeutic Development
8. Nanotechnologies Relevant to RNA Research
9. Nanoimmunology and RNA Nanotechnology

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### Gordon Research Conference: RNA Editing and Modification

March 8<sup>th</sup> – 13<sup>th</sup>, 2015

Lucca, Italy

We are pleased to invite you to attend the Gordon Research Conference (GRC) and associated Gordon Research Seminar (GRS) on RNA Editing and Modification (<http://www.grc.org/programs.aspx?id=12665>). This year's



conference will be held for the first time in Europe on March 8-13, 2015 at the Renaissance Tuscany Il Ciocco Resort in Lucca, Italy. The GRC brings together researchers at the forefront of the field of editing and modification of nucleic acids and will include ~50 invited speakers, as well as selected speakers from submitted abstracts, representing all areas of RNA and DNA editing and modification systems. Registration is open and applications will be accepted until February 8, 2015.

This year's meeting will include a special focus on a combination of chemical and biological approaches to understanding the overall diversity of the genome and transcriptome, and the consequences of this diversity for development and disease. Meeting chairs are Michael Jantsch (University of Vienna, Austria) and Jane Jackman (Ohio State University, USA). The associated GRS (organized by Ashanti Matlock, Ohio State University) takes place at the same location on March 7-8, 2015, and will provide an additional opportunity for junior researchers to present their work in oral and poster sessions.

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### Post-transcriptional gene regulation course: mechanisms at the heart of networks

March 23<sup>rd</sup> – 27<sup>th</sup>, 2015

Orsay, France

The aim of this course is to provide an overview of post-transcriptional gene regulations at multiple steps, including notably (pre-)messenger RNA splicing, polyadenylation, stability and translation. This course will particularly address 3 aspects: underlying molecular mechanisms, genome-wide analyses of post-transcriptional regulatory networks and the involvement in cancer, with a special session entitled “RNA towards the clinic”. In addition to lectures given by international experts in the field, the course will also rely on the active contribution of participants and on their interactions with speakers. Each participant will present his scientific project with a poster, as well as an article chosen by the speakers.

The 1st course “Post-Transcriptional Gene Regulation: Mechanisms at the Heart of Networks” takes place March 23-27, in Orsay (near Paris, France). To register and to learn more about the conference, please visit the website (<http://enseignement.curie.fr/en/content/1st-course-post-transcriptional-gene-regulation-mechanisms-heart-networks-2014>)

The deadline for registration is December 20<sup>th</sup>, 2014

Scientific Organizers:

Marie-Claire Daugeron, CNRS and Paris XI University, Gif, France

Martin Dutertre, CNRS and Institut Curie, Orsay, France

Stéphan Vagner, CNRS and Institut Curie, Orsay, France

The poster features a central image of a green spider web on a dark background. Text on the poster includes: 'March 23-27, 2015', '1st course', 'post-transcriptional gene regulation: "mechanisms at the heart of networks"', 'A TRAINING UNIT INTERNATIONAL COURSE', 'institut Curie' logo, 'SPEAKERS' list (Reuven Agami, Frédéric Allain, Didier Aubourg, Edouard Bertrand, Jeffrey Chao, Reini De Luca, Martin Dutertre, Fátima Gebauer, Roderic Guigo, Matthias Heizler, Ola Larsson, Hervé Le Hir, Olivier Namy, Jemelle Ule, Stéphan Vagner, Juan Valcarcel), 'FOCUS SESSION "RNA TOWARDS THE CLINIC"' list (Andreas Kulozik, Caroline Robert, Marc-Henri Stern), 'ORGANIZERS' list (Marie-Claire Daugeron, Martin Dutertre, Stéphan Vagner), 'APPLICATION DEADLINE December 20, 2014', 'REGISTRATION' information, and logos for 'Paris Lodron Universität Salzburg', 'CNRS', 'thermoFisher', and 'training.curie.fr/course/post-transcriptions2015'. At the bottom, it says 'Together, let's beat cancer.' and 'www.training.curie.fr'.

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### Gordon Research Conference: Nucleic Acids 2015

May 31<sup>st</sup> – June 5<sup>th</sup>, 2015

University of New England, Biddeford, Maine, USA

The Gordon Research Conference on Nucleic Acids was established more than 50 years ago. The Nucleic Acids GRC has a long tradition in bringing the RNA and DNA fields together and providing a critical forum for the discussion of new ideas in nucleic acids research.



The 2015 meeting of the Nucleic Acids GRC will highlight recent advances in the areas of RNA and DNA biology, biochemistry and biophysics with a view toward identifying emerging concepts and technologies in these fields. Keynote speakers are Tom Cech and Stephen Kowalczykowski. Specific topics of discussion include: RNA/DNA Structure and Dynamics; Chromatin and Transcription; RNA/DNA in Cellular Defense; Post-transcriptional Regulation; RNA/DNA Conflicts; Non-Coding RNAs; Telomere Structure and Function; DNA Replication and Genome Integrity.

Particular emphasis is placed on encouraging young scientists to attend and present at this meeting, with time allotted in the schedule for short talks selected from submitted abstracts and four poster sessions.

More information about the conference can be found at:

<http://www.grc.org/programs.aspx?id=11792>

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### **RNA Stability 2015 – RNA stability with an Altitude**

June 1<sup>st</sup> - 4<sup>th</sup>, 2015

Estes Park, Colorado, USA

The RNA Stability 2015 ‘RNA Stability with an Altitude’ meeting will take place June 1-4, 2015 at the beautiful and historic Stanley Hotel at the doorstep of

Rocky Mountain National Park in Estes Park Colorado. The hotel provides fantastic accommodations, comfortable meeting rooms, and stunning views.



This will be the sixth in a very productive series of meetings which took place previously in Florence, Italy (2003), Arolla, Switzerland (2005), Asheville, North Carolina (2008), Montreal, Canada (2010), and Strasbourg, France (2013). As has historically been the case, the research presented at this meeting will cover a wide range of aspects related to RNA stability, particularly as it applies to basic and applied areas of science

Over 25 invited speakers have been recruited to ensure cutting-edge science is presented in all aspects of the RNA Stability field. Additional oral presentations will be selected from the submitted abstracts. Abstracts that are not selected for oral presentations will be presented as posters. This conference historically attracts between 125 and 150 principal investigators, postdocs and students from North America, Europe and Asia. Thus the meeting will provide ample opportunity for networking and one-on-one discussions with attendees. For more information, please visit <http://rnastability2015.com/>

We look forward to seeing you in Colorado in June!

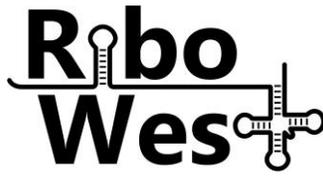
Jeff Wilusz and David Port (Lead Organizers)

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## 11<sup>th</sup> Annual RiboWest Meeting

June 8<sup>th</sup> & 9<sup>th</sup>, 2015

Edmonton, Alberta, Canada



The 11th Annual RiboWest Meeting will be held in Edmonton, Alberta on June 8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup>, 2015. RiboWest aims to promote interaction amongst RNA researchers and provide trainees the opportunity to participate in these activities. This year we are excited to have three invited speakers:

Dr. Ron Breaker - Yale University and Howard Hughes Medical Institute

Dr. Roy Parker – Univ. of Colorado, Boulder and Howard Hughes Medical Institute

Dr. Daniel Lafontaine - Université de Sherbrooke

For the 2015 meeting, we will continue the tradition of selecting the vast majority of abstracts for oral presentation from trainees and highlight the work of other attendees at two poster sessions. A number of awards for oral and poster presentations will be presented. In addition, the conference will include career development sessions organized and moderated by students. Reduced accommodation costs and travel awards will also be provided to trainees to aid in their participation. Registration for this meeting will begin in April 2015. For more details and to register, please visit our website: <http://ualberta.ca/ribowest-2015>.

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## 2015 EMBO Conference on Ribosome Assembly

August 19-23, 2015.

Hotel Metropole, Brussels, Belgium

The meeting will focus on the mechanisms of ribosome assembly in eukaryotes and prokaryotes, the molecular basis for ribosomopathies, the role of specialized ribosomes. Two exciting Keynote presentations from Nenad Ban and David Tollervey will focus on the structural and molecular cell biology of ribosome assembly. Oral presentations will be selected from submitted abstracts.

Planned sessions include:

- Ribosome assembly (Prokaryotes and Eukaryotes)
- Structural aspects of ribosome biogenesis
- rRNA transcription, epigenetics and growth regulation
- Animal models to study ribosome biogenesis and ribosomopathies
- Quality control of ribosome assembly
- Subcellular trafficking of assembly intermediates
- Nucleolar structure and dynamics
- Specialized ribosomes in development and cell differentiation

Registration for this meeting will open in March 2015. Further details can be found at:

<http://events.embo.org/15-ribosomes/>

*Note : this is one of the “smaller” RNA meetings co-hosted by the RNA Society. Active members of the RNA Society qualify for a \$100 discount on registration. See meeting website for more information when available.*



## Employment

### [Explore the Role of mRNA Expression and Distribution in Cancers Caused by Genetic Re-arrangements](#)

Posted on [January 12, 2015](#)

One position is available immediately to explore the role of mRNA expression and distribution in cancers caused by genetic re-arrangements. This is accomplished using single molecule fluorescent in situ hybridization, commercially called “Stellaris probes”. Studies involve working with cancer cell lines and patient samples, in situ hybridization, fluorescence microscopy and image analysis and interpretation using MATLAB software. The project is supported by an early independence award from NIH (2012-2017)

Job requirements: Recent Ph.D. in Life science or basic science. The candidate should be self-motivated and hard working with a strong background in molecular biology. Hands on working experience in basic molecular biology techniques like cloning, culture of immortalized and primary cells, microscopy and image analysis is desired. Candidate will be responsible for designing, performing experiments, compiling and analyzing data and providing necessary help in preparation of materials for publications and grant proposals. Ability to write and submit proposals for fellowships will be a plus.

Interested candidates who are willing to join immediately, should email their CVs and contact information of three references to Mona Batish, Ph.D. Assistant Professor, Email: [batishmo@njms.rutgers.edu](mailto:batishmo@njms.rutgers.edu)

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### [2 Postdoctoral positions available in RNA NMR at Karolinska Institute \(Stockholm\)](#)

Posted on [January 12, 2015](#)

Background: More than 50% of the human genome codes for non-coding RNA. These RNAs are ubiquitous among all life forms and the mechanisms how non-coding RNAs regulate these cellular functions are largely unknown.

Our research group is interested in understanding how RNAs change their structures in order to perform function. We employ liquid-state Nuclear Magnetic Resonance (NMR) and other biophysical and biochemical techniques, to investigate the molecular mechanism of RNA function ( Nature 2012 & 2015). When function of these molecular machines becomes apparent, it also provides a variety of unique new drug targets. The lab also develops methods in NMR and RNA biochemistry to address these questions.

Projects (each one year with possibility to extend another year):

One Postdoc will work on development of NMR experiments and/or simulations for RNA dynamics parameters. The second Postdoc will develop biochemical methods to produce larger RNAs or RNAs in environment of larger proteins (e.g. partial labeling, specific modifications). Both postdocs will work on RNAs addressing biological questions studied in the lab (microRNAs and ribosomal RNAs). You will work in a team together with other lab members and regularly present the research work in lab-meetings, seminars and at international conferences.

The projects will be supervised by Dr. Katja Petzold, deadline 31st of January 2015. Please apply directly via the netrecruiter system:

<https://ki.mynetworkglobal.com/en/what:job/jobID:48803/where/>

For more information please visit the website:

<http://www.nature.com/naturejobs/science/jobs/480937-two-highly-motivated-postdocs-for-research-projects-in-rna-structural-biology-using-nmr>

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### [Investigate the Mechanisms and Regulation of Pre-mRNA Processing by the U12-dependent Spliceosome](#)

Posted on [January 5, 2015](#)

The RNA splicing group at the Institute of Biotechnology, University of Helsinki, Finland is looking for a post-doctoral researcher in a project that investigates the mechanisms and regulation of pre-mRNA processing by the U12-dependent



spliceosome.

A successful candidate has a PhD and strong background in molecular biology, cell biology or in a related field as shown by solid publication record in international peer-reviewed journals. Good communication skills and fluency in spoken and written English are required. An experience in RNA biology/biochemistry, bioinformatics/high throughput sequencing, and/or genome editing is an asset.

The specific projects will depend on the previous experience and the qualifications of the successful applicant but is likely include mammalian genome editing with CRISPR/CAS system combined with high-throughput sequencing to investigate the regulatory aspects of the U12-type intron splicing.

Application:

Further information of the research group and the research topic and the application form can be found from the group web site <http://www.biocenter.helsinki.fi/bi/SPLICING/index.html> In addition to the application form, the application should include a motivation letter, a CV and a list of publications (max. 1 page), all combined to a single pdf that should be attached to the application form. The deadline for applications is January 15th, 2015. The position is available immediately.

The funded position is initially for 2 to 3 years, depending on the start date.

For further information please contact [Mikko.Frilander@Helsinki.Fi](mailto:Mikko.Frilander@Helsinki.Fi)

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### **[Postdoctoral Position Available from Spring 2015 in the Yap Lab](#)**

Posted on [January 5, 2015](#)

A postdoctoral position is available from Spring 2015 in the Yap Lab ([biochem.slu.edu/faculty/yap](http://biochem.slu.edu/faculty/yap)) at the Edward A. Doisy Department of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology at Saint Louis University School of Medicine. The research project will focus on the mechanism by which ribosome undergoes translational stalling in response to ribosomal antibiotics and arrest peptides. A variety of experimental methods will be employed, including genome-wide sequencing, molecular genetics and fluorescence-based biophysical and biochemical analyses.

The candidate must have a Ph.D. in Microbiology, Biochemistry, Bioinformatics, or related field from an accredited college or university. The ideal candidate also must have a deep interest and demonstrated capability in microbial genetics and biochemistry.

Please apply online at <https://jobs.slu.edu> (Requisition number 20140877) or send your CV and the names and contact of three referees to Frances at [myap1@slu.edu](mailto:myap1@slu.edu).

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### **[Postdoctoral Position in the Laboratory of Dr. Xin Li, Assistant Professor at the University of Rochester Center for RNA Biology](#)**

Posted on [December 23, 2014](#)

A postdoctoral position is available starting from Feb 15, 2015 in the laboratory of Dr. Xin Li, Assistant Professor at the University of Rochester Center for RNA Biology, Genome to Therapeutics, Department of Biochemistry and Biophysics. Research in the Li Lab ([www.zhaohuashan.com](http://www.zhaohuashan.com)) is at the interface of reproductive and RNA biology. We thrive to understand how information is perpetuated and diversified through generations from an RNA perspective.

Some RNAs complex with PIWI proteins to become piRNAs essential for fertility. Yet, the mechanism(s) that determine which RNAs make piRNAs is unknown. We are looking for a creative individual, driven by scientific curiosity, to lead an inter-disciplinary project focused on answering the question “what defines a piRNA?”. This project is funded by NIH and will employ high-throughput sequencing, biochemistry, molecular biology, mouse genetics, and microscopy.

Being one of the founding members of the lab, the position will have the unique opportunity to work side by side with the



PI, and help direct development and application of high-throughput sequencing methodologies. Ideas and data generated by the “dry” component of the lab will be tested rapidly and efficiently by “wet” bench members, and vice versa.

**REQUIRED QUALIFICATIONS:**

A recent Ph.D. or equivalent experience

At least one first-author publication

Good communication and organization skills

A background on reproductive biology or RNA biology

Please provide a cover letter describing your past projects and career goals. Please also describe what you hope to get out of this position and what you hope to bring to the Lab. Enclose your detailed CV with names and contacts of three referees to [Xin\\_Li@URMC.Rochester.edu](mailto:Xin_Li@URMC.Rochester.edu).

Rochester Center for RNA Biology is a mecca for RNA researchers, with a long history of nurturing RNA biologists and discoveries. The University of Rochester was ranked one of the top 15 institutions in the nation for scientists to work according to The Scientist magazine’s annual survey of “Best Places to Work for Scientists in Academia”. It should be noted that the University of Rochester outranked every other research institution in New York State. The environment is very collaborative and congenial and has an infrastructure that allows me and others to recruit outstanding lab members. Moreover, the city of Rochester is safe, beautiful and affordable.

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**[PhD Students in Molecular Biology or Bioinformatics](#)**

Posted on [December 23, 2014](#)

The Faculty of Biology of Adam Mickiewicz University in Poznań, Poland, is looking for 6 PhD students to participate in research projects of the international PhD program of the KNOW RNA Research Centre in Poznań. The research topics are focused on the molecular biology and bioinformatics of ribonucleic acids. The detailed descriptions of the individual projects and information about how to apply are available at the webpage <http://know-rna.amu.edu.pl/konkursy/>. The applications should be sent to [rnaschool@amu.edu.pl](mailto:rnaschool@amu.edu.pl) by January 15th 2015.

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**[Group Leader for Young Investigator Program](#)**

Posted on [December 17, 2014](#)

The Research Center for Infectious Diseases (ZINF) at the University of Würzburg seeks a new group leader for its young investigator program. We are looking to recruit a researcher with outstanding postdoctoral experience and international recognition in the general fields of microbiology, cell biology, mycology, parasitology, immunology, RNA biology, single cell analysis, or host-pathogen interactions. Candidates using emerging technologies to study new aspects of pathogenesis are preferred, but all outstanding scientists are encouraged to apply.

The appointment will be for a period of 5+2 years. Salary (E14/15) will be commensurate with training and experience. The position includes laboratory operating expenses and salaries for additional personnel (postdoc, graduate student, and technician), and laboratory space in a new 9,000 m<sup>2</sup> state-of-the-art research building with bio-containment, molecular imaging, high-throughput genomics, and animal facilities. The building is specifically designed to foster collaborative research, and is home to nine additional young investigator groups as well as laboratories run by faculty members. See [www.imib-wuerzburg.de](http://www.imib-wuerzburg.de) for more information. Informal inquiries can be made to Prof. Jörg Vogel ([joerg.vogel@uni-wuerzburg.de](mailto:joerg.vogel@uni-wuerzburg.de)).

Interested individuals should send a one-page description of their research interests and future directions, CV and publication list, and the names of three academic references by January 31st, 2015. We may request that short-listed candidates provide a more detailed research proposal at a later date. Preference will be given to people with disabilities in the case of otherwise equal aptitude. The University aims to increase the proportion of female employees, therefore applications from qualified women are particularly welcome. Applications should be sent as a single pdf.file via email to Dr. Stan Gorski ([stan.gorski@uni-wuerzburg.de](mailto:stan.gorski@uni-wuerzburg.de)), and addressed to the Spokesperson of ZINF, Prof. Jörg Vogel.

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## [The University of Texas at Houston Medical School – Assistant Professor in the field of Bioinformatics/Genomics](#)

Posted on [December 12, 2014](#)

The University of Texas at Houston Medical School invites applications for a full-time, tenure-track faculty position at the Assistant Professor level at the Department of Biochemistry & Molecular Biology. The Department seeks candidates who use genomic, bioinformatic and systems biology approaches to understand gene regulation and other contemporary problems in biomedical sciences. Of particular interest are those with expertise in analyzing next-generation sequencing data to make novel biological discoveries.

Candidates must hold a Ph.D. and/or M.D. and have extensive experience in Bioinformatics, Genomics, or Computational Biology and a track record of scientific excellence. The successful candidate will collaborate with experimental biologists in the Department who generate large-scale genomic datasets. An experimental component to the candidate's research program would be viewed as a positive but is not necessary.

The Department offers a highly collegial and interactive research environment and robust graduate programs for training Ph.D. and M.D./Ph.D. students. Researchers have the opportunity to interact with biomedical, clinical, and computational researchers across the UT Health Science Center as well as the Texas Medical Center at Houston, the largest biomedical and health research center in the U.S. An adjunct appointment in the School of Biomedical Informatics at the UT Health Science Center at Houston can be arranged for the successful candidate. Please visit our website (<https://med.uth.edu/bmb>) for additional information about the Department.

Applicants should prepare a single PDF file that includes a cover letter, CV, two-page summary of research accomplishments and plans and names/contact information of at least three individuals who agree to write a supporting letter. Please email the PDF file directly to Dr. Ann-Bin Shyu, Chair of the Search Committee, at [BMB.Search@uth.tmc.edu](mailto:BMB.Search@uth.tmc.edu). Review of complete applications will begin in January, 2015 and will continue until the position is filled. Salary is commensurate with experience.

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## [Postdoctoral Research Position in the Lab of Dr. Aaron Goldstrohm](#)

Posted on [November 10, 2014](#)

A postdoctoral research position is available immediately in the lab of Dr. Aaron Goldstrohm in the Department of Biological Chemistry at the University of Michigan Medical School.

Dr. Goldstrohm seeks a highly motivated postdoctoral candidate to perform research on the roles of RNA binding proteins, microRNAs, and long non-coding RNAs in cancer biology. Candidates should hold a Ph.D. in biochemistry, genetics, cellular and molecular biology or related field. They should have strong interests in cancer biology, gene regulation, RNA biology, and genetics. Individuals with experience in cancer research and molecular and cellular biology techniques are preferred. Candidates must have independent research skills including designing and executing experiments, interpreting data, and the ability to communicate results, as demonstrated by previous publications and presentations.

Initial support for the postdoctoral scientist will be provided by the American Cancer Society. Candidates will also be expected to apply for fellowships. Dr. Goldstrohm will provide guidance in developing fellowship proposals.

The University of Michigan and the Goldstrohm Lab provide an outstanding training environment with state-of-the-art facilities and instrumentation. The training environment is enhanced by participation in the multidisciplinary RNA Supergroup consisting of 17 labs from across the campus. In addition to abundant scientific and intellectual resources, the post-doctoral fellow will benefit from career and professional development opportunities. Compensation will correspond with the NIH NRSA payscale, commensurate with experience, and will include health care benefits.

The University of Michigan is located in Ann Arbor, a vibrant, affordable university town located in southeastern



Michigan.

To apply, candidates should submit their curriculum vitae with publication record and contact information for three references to Dr. Aaron C. Goldstrohm at [acgold@med.umich.edu](mailto:acgold@med.umich.edu).

Please include a cover letter describing career goals, research experience, accomplishments, and interests. To learn more about the Goldstrohm lab and research, please visit: <http://medicine.umich.edu/dept/biochem/aaron-goldstrohm-phd>

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