

RNA Society

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From the Desk of the President, David Tollervey



During the summer, the Society had a hot, but I think generally happy, time at the RNA 2008 meeting in Berlin. Our thanks go to the hard-working organizers of an excellent meeting. It was a great opportunity to visit a wonderful city and the introduction of a beer garden made an excellent venue for relaxed evening discussion of life, science and everything. This was the third RNA Society conference to be held outside of North America, following previous meetings in Edinburgh and Vienna. Somewhat unexpectedly, it was also our biggest ever RNA meeting, with an amazing 1215 participants. The organizers did a great job to incorporate the additional people on short notice. Such a high turnout was not really expected, because it seemed likely that fewer Americans would travel to Europe reducing total attendance. While this clearly was the case, the effect was more than offset by increases in participants from within Europe and from elsewhere in the world. This helps underline the truly international nature of the Society's membership. In recognition of this, it was agreed that that the meeting in 2011 should be held in Asia. After excellent presentations from both the Chinese and Japanese RNA Societies, it was decided that the first Asian RNA meeting would be held in Japan, with the intention of also holding a future meeting in China.

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It was a particular pleasure for me to present the Society's Lifetime Achievement Awards to two scientists whom I have long liked and greatly admired. Eric Westhof, a past President of the Society and long-standing member of the Editorial Board of the RNA Journal received the Lifetime Service Award. In addition to his formal positions, Eric enjoys the well-deserved reputation of being someone who is always generous with his time and ideas in helping colleagues and the Society. Norm Pace, who has long been a prominent character in RNA research, and at the RNA meetings, received the Lifetime Achievement in Science Award. Norm is notable not only for the quality of his work, but also for the breadth of his interests. In addition to his groundbreaking work on RNA catalysis and the structure and function of RNase P, Norm has made a notable contribution to research into the diversity and ecology of complex natural bacterial populations, and has also recently been honored for this work.

In his acceptance speech, Norm entertained the crowd in fine manner, splendidly combining the history of his own research with the history of the annual RNA meeting and the RNA Society. As he pointed out, much of the early history of the Society is retained only as an oral tradition, and would greatly benefit from being collated and recorded. I hope that a future newsletter will report the appointment of some volunteer historian, who would take on this task. We would be very happy to hear from anyone who is minded to offer their services in this capacity.

The meeting incorporated such – now almost traditional – events as the Women in Science Dinner and Mentor-Mentee lunch, as well as newer features including CV and careers workshops. The aim of these is, of course, to further increase the value of the meeting to more junior members of the Society. Successful though the meeting undoubtedly was, there may yet be room for improvement – and the officers of the Society would genuinely welcome any constructive suggestions from the membership.

One new departure was the inclusion of an initial plenary session, with an outstanding group of invited speakers working in the fields of miRNA and siRNAs. It had seemed that these rapidly developing topics were not fully represented in the RNA Society membership, or at our meetings. This is not the first time that we have acted to try to encourage participation from unrepresented fields. The initial membership of the Society reflected, in part, the history of the RNA meetings, which grew out of the Cold Spring Harbor RNA Processing conference series, and also the research interests of the group of scientist who were the founders of the RNA Society. In the past we have therefore actively tried to reach out to disciplines that fall within the broad area of RNA research by engaging researchers in the organization of the meeting and as officers of the Society. As the field of RNA



Beer Garden at the RNA 2008 meeting

research continues to develop and grow, it will no doubt be necessary to continue to engage with groups of researchers who are new to the RNA world, to help them realize the benefits of participation in the RNA Society and the annual RNA meetings.

I would just like to end by offering my personal congratulations to all the newly elected officers of the Society; Ben Blencowe, Elena Conti and Erik Sontheimer as the newly elected Directors, Angela Kramer as the new Secretary/Treasurer and, particularly, Reinhard Lührmann, who is not only President Elect of the RNA Society but was also a lead organizer of the Berlin meeting.



Norm Pace : RNA Society Lifetime Achievement in Science Award, 2008

by Brenda Peculis and Frank Schmidt

This year's Lifetime achievement award was given to Norm Pace. Norm began his presentation by giving us all a history lesson about our Society and reminding us how we (as the RNA Society) have evolved into what we currently are. He continued with a description of his examination of the evolution of life and his particular fascination with his favorite organisms in their native environments.



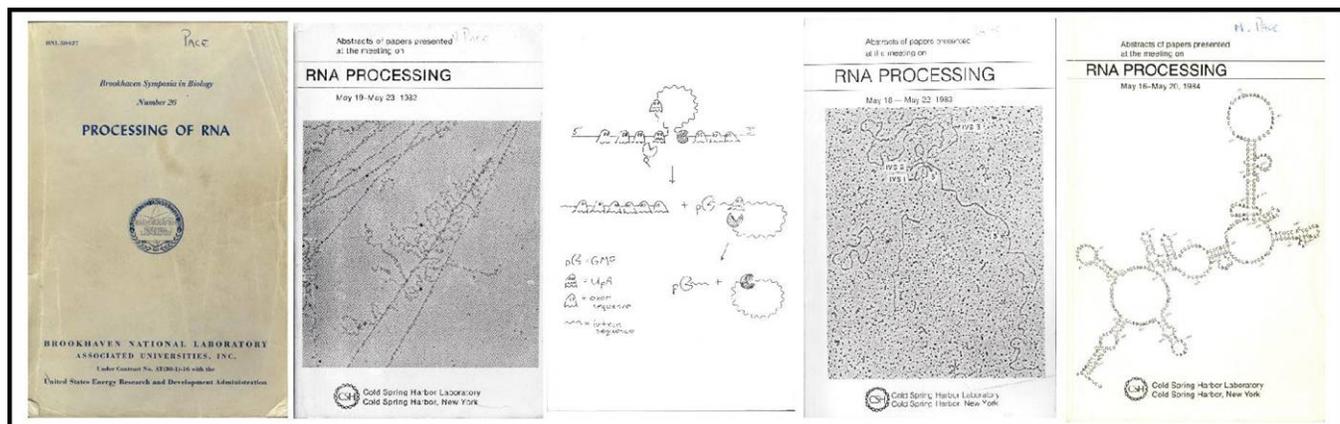
which the Society had evolved, paralleled (and driven by) development of the field of RNA research and what we as a Society defined as 'cutting edge'.

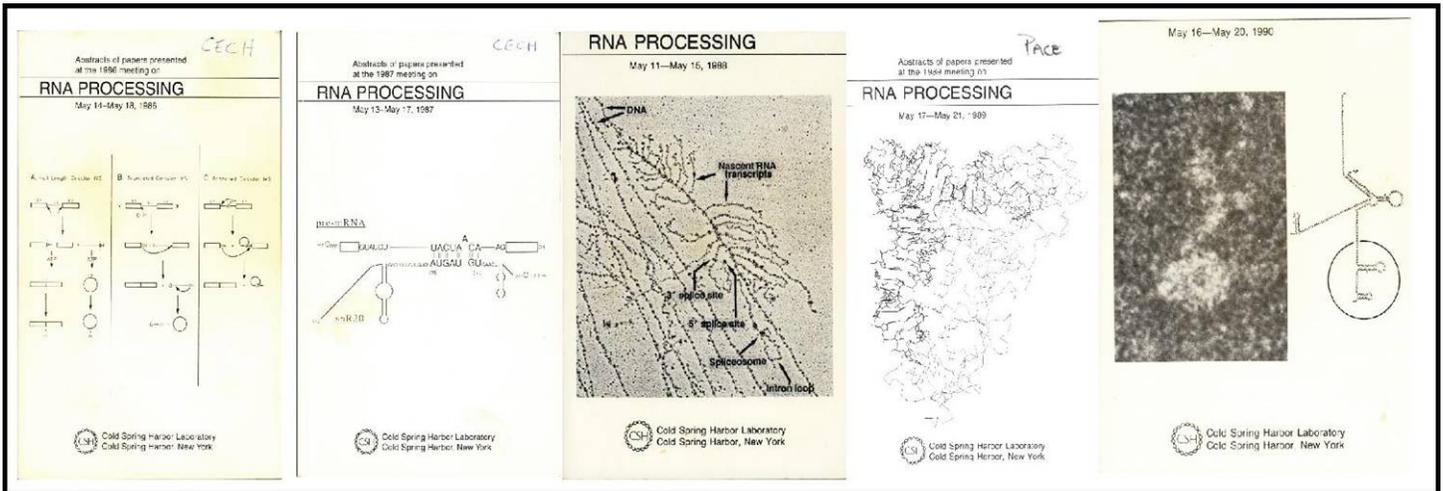
Norm attributed the 'origins' of the Society as a first meeting organized in 1974 by John J. Dunn, Peter S. Carlson, Sanford Lacks and F. William Studier. This was the first time Norm remembered hearing the term "RNA Processing" and more important he realized it identified and connected a group of people who may not have otherwise made contact but already shared a common interest.

From 1974-1980 there were no meetings dedicated to RNA processing but the work was on-going in a variety of labs. Norm did his graduate studies and postdoc work with Sol Spiegelman, a prominent RNA scientist in the 1960s. Norm worked on viral RNA replication and was among the first labs to use polyacrylamide gel electrophoresis to resolve RNA species.

Norm narrated the history of the evolution of the Society with the use of scanned abstract covers – a bit of the Society's history that on one hand is uniquely ours and yet at the same time known only to those who attended all of the meetings, and only if they chose to participate in the meeting that year. I, for one, appreciated seeing the evolution of the abstract book covers and realized the extent to

When Norm established his own research lab at the National Jewish Hospital in Denver Colorado he continued to work on RNA. At this time the RNA people would go to the Nucleic Acid Gordon Conferences and share data but already an identity as a unique field was starting to grow. However, other than a small meeting held once in Frederick (probably in 1980) there were really no other formal



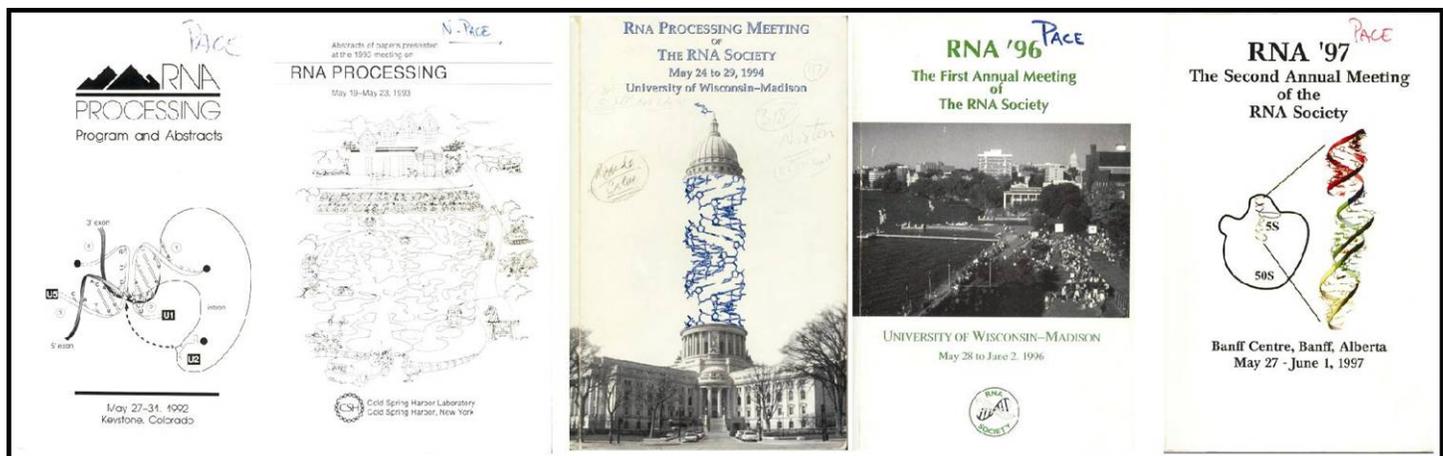


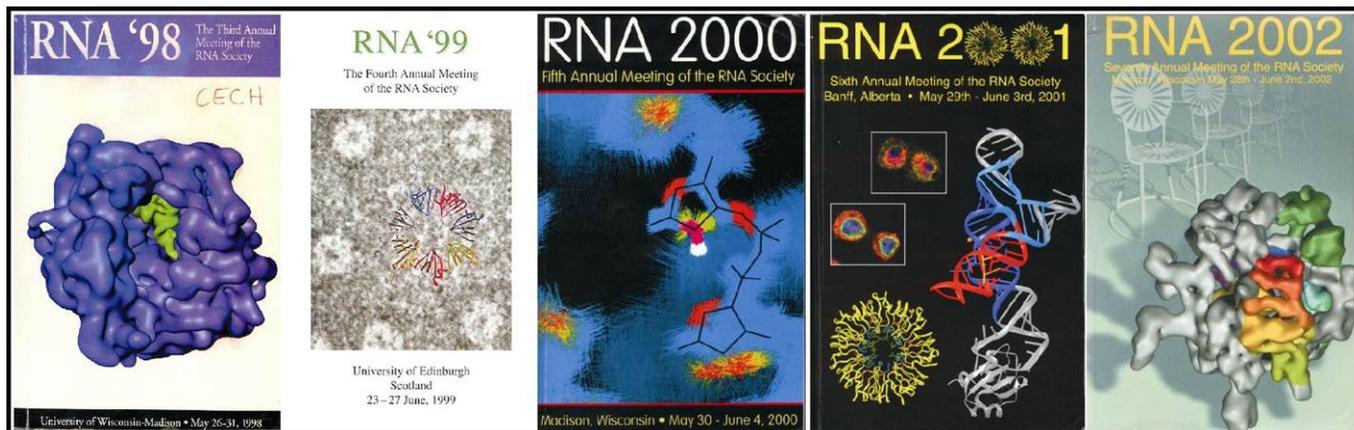
gatherings of RNA people for an extended period. Despite the lack of formal meetings, a lot was going on in the labs. There was the discovery of splicing, the development of cloning and sequencing technology. Cold Spring Harbor adopted RNA processing as a topic and the first CSH RNA Processing meeting was organized by John. J. Dunn, Michael Mathews and Joan A. Steitz. From 1982 onward yearly meetings became not-to-miss opportunities to learn what had been discovered. Tom Cech's discovery of self-splicing and the first ribozyme, was announced at the Cold Spring Harbor Symposium and the back of the 1982 abstract book held Tom's interpretation of a Pac-man splicing model.

Norm pointed out that from its inception, the RNA meeting is unique in that the presentations were by students and postdocs, and this has for the most part persisted to the current day. Another unique aspect was the annual selection of a molecule or model for

cover art for the abstract book. Norm's favorite molecule, RNaseP, made its cover debut in 1984. Norm was quick to point out that while the correct structures of the 5' and 3' ends were identified, little else in that structure turned out to be correct.

Norm's lab was busy working on the enzymology of RNA processing in *Bacillus subtilis* and yet he was intrigued by the report by Stark and Altman that claimed RNaseP in *E. coli* contained an RNA. He wondered if that was really true and decided to test whether it was true by looking at a different organism; if it was important for function all organisms should do it that way. His lab was studying the enzymology of RNA processing in *B. subtilis* at that time. His new graduate student in the lab, Kathleen Gardiner looked for RNaseP and not only found it had an RNA component but also was the first to witness RNA-alone catalysis by RNaseP. This was possible because Norm became aware that having both RNaseP and tRNA present





in close proximity would generate charge repulsion.

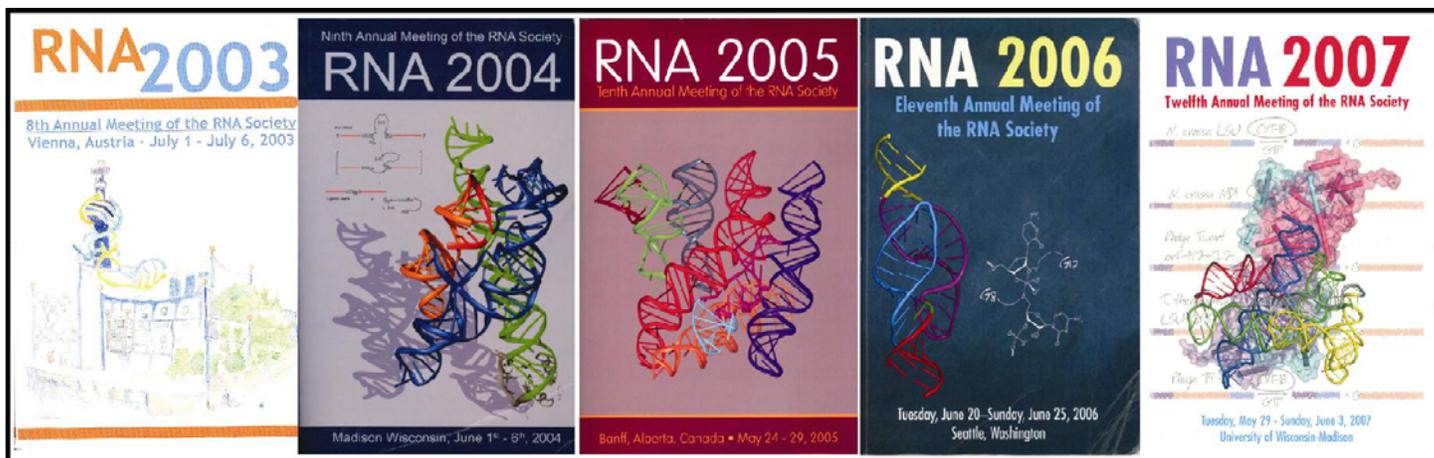
The best way to get these two molecules close enough would be to ‘sprinkle in a little salt’ and the activity was apparent. Norm shared this insight with Sid Altman who tried the same thing with Ecoli and sure enough activity was revealed. They published the work together but Kathleen was the first one to realize the RNase P was a ribozyme.

The meetings of the mid-to-late 1980s were dominated by new discoveries about splicing and the nature of the splicing machinery. Later in the 1980s, RNA-protein complexes were being examined and the cover of the 1989 abstract book boasted the X-ray crystal structure of a tRNA/amino acyl-tRNA synthetase complex determined in Tom Steitz’s lab.

While the rate at which new discoveries was accelerating, so too, was the number of people attending the meetings. Attendance was exceeding the 400 attendees that Cold Spring Harbor could accommodate. We needed to either limit attendance

by putting a cap on the admission or we needed a new venue. The choice seemed obvious to the organizers. Tom Cech made a few phone calls to Keystone and – despite the lack of an organization or affiliation – Tom secured a week for the RNA meeting at the Keystone facility. Clearly being a Nobel Prize winner does carry some weight in Colorado.

The Keystone meeting was very successful, hosting ~500 participants and a number of people talked about forming an RNA Society, similar to what the Protein Society had done recently. There was also some talk about starting an RNA Journal through such a Society. The meeting was also unique in that it did not break even – it created a cash surplus. While on one level that seemed a good thing, the thought of someone having to pay taxes on it was another thing altogether. That encouraged the organizers to invent a non-profit organization called the RNA Society. On January 27, 1993 the non-profit group was incorporated with Tom Cech as the first President, Olke Uhlenbeck as Secretary/Treasurer, Joan Steitz as Vice



President/President elect and when Chris Greer became CEO a bit later, the RNA Society was born.

The first meeting of the RNA Society was held in Madison, under the title of “RNA processing meeting of the RNA society,” organized by Joan Beggs, Elsebet Lund, Peter Moore, and Norm Pace. The RNA Society meetings began with the collective hope that other RNA fields would soon join. It wasn’t until 1996 that the annual meeting acknowledged itself as the First Annual gathering of the RNA Society. This momentous occasion provided a momentous back cover: the crystal structure of a domain of the Tetrahymena Group I intron.

“It’s not an idea or a theory, it’s a map”

The Society was always international, and we began meeting internationally early on. In 1997, the second annual meeting was in Banff. In 1998, we were in Madison, then in 1999 to Edinburgh, to Madison then Canada, to Madison then Vienna, then to Madison, by now a recurring home. And that cover showed that by now Tom’s PacMan model was a defined structure, even if we still don’t know how it works exactly. In 2005, we were in Banff, and RNase P had again made it to the cover of the abstract book, with the structure of the catalytic domain determined by Alexei Kazantsev in Norm’s lab. Then to Madison, Seattle, Madison again, and now Berlin.

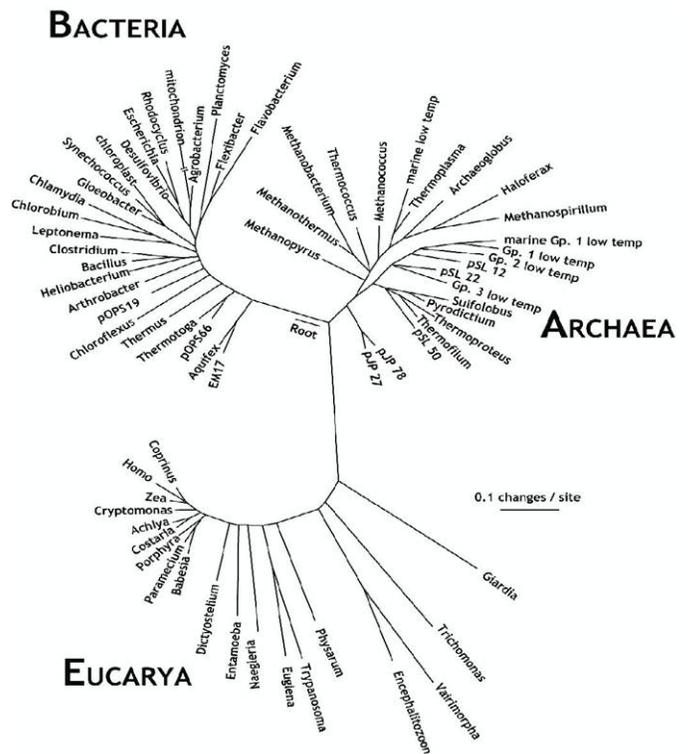
We get a community census from sequence information only – no cultures required.

While the RNA processing field was evolving between the Brookhaven and Cold Spring Harbor meetings, Norm got involved in another evolution.

Carl Woese at Illinois had started looking at ribosomal RNA as a phylogenetic marker, and showed that our picture of the Big Tree of life needed to be radically changed to account for the archaea, which forms one of (now three) major relatedness groups.

There are lessons to be drawn from this view of life: The origin of the tree is on the bacterial line of descent, with archaea and eucarya related to the exclusion of bacteria. The tree established beyond

doubt that chloroplasts and mitochondria are of bacterial origin. The eucaryal nuclear line is as old as the archaeal line – our old view of eukaryotes as “grown up procaryotes” is wrong.

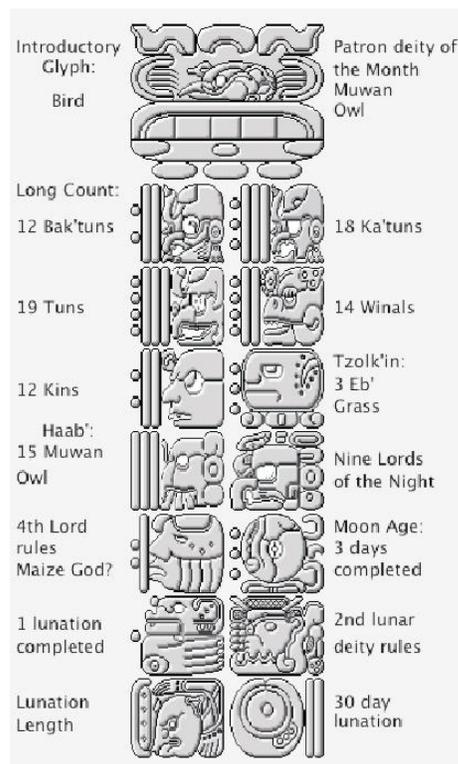


The most exciting lesson from the Big Tree view of life is where Norm has devoted so much of his career: it’s not necessary to culture microorganisms to identify them. In the molecular method, as long as one has rRNA and clones it (or uses some of the newer deep sequencing methodologies), it’s possible to characterize organisms by their place in the phylogenetic tree. We get a community census from



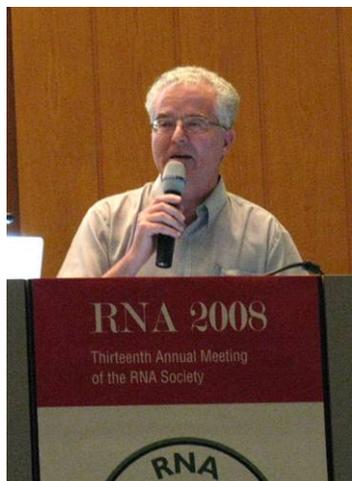
sequence information only – no cultures required. This approach puts many more organisms into the tree of life, enriching it enormously. Whereas in 1987, there were 12 (divisions) phyla of microbial life, all of them known by cultured representation, by 2007, there were about 100 (divisions) phyla, only about 30 of them with any cultured representation. Norm and his group have been latter-day explorers to find these organisms in subway tunnels, on shower curtains, under the sea, and even in the first millimeter or so of rock. Our view of life no longer has a single origin – instead, we have a host of deeply divergent organisms sharing the ecosystem.

Norm closed his talk in a typical Norm way. The Mayans traditionally predicated a long life to newborn babies by casting a glyph of the date of their birth. Norm used a computer program [Chac 2.0 by Warren Anderson] to cast one for the RNA Society on January 27, 1993, wishing us all a long and productive life.



Eric Westhof : RNA Society Lifetime Service Award, 2008

The RNA Service award is given in appreciation and acknowledgement of outstanding service to the RNA Community. The overall mission of the RNA Society is to facilitate sharing and dissemination of experimental results and emerging concepts in RNA Research. Each year the Board of Directors identifies the recipient of this award as an individual who has made exemplary contributions to these goals.



This year's award for Service to the RNA Society went to Eric Westhof. Eric has a long history of very generous service to the RNA society. He is a Past President of the RNA Society (2005), Chaired the Annual RNA Meeting in 2000 and is a long-standing member of the RNA Journal's Editorial Board. Eric has been selected and served as Session Chairs at the Annual Society Meetings. He is currently hosting the RNA Society's web site on his server, with Fabrice Jossinet, a member of the Westhof lab, serving as WebMaster.

Eric's research focuses on RNA folding and attempting to determine the rules that govern the process of RNA folding. His group uses RNA modeling and simulations of RNA folding. Eric is very widely known to be very generous with his time and scientific expertise and thus collaborates widely with scientists with a wide variety of interests.

Awards to Young Scientists presented/Acknowledged at the Annual RNA 2008 Meeting

At the Awards ceremony on Saturday in Berlin, several students and postdocs were acknowledged for their contributions and discoveries.

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

- The **2008 RNA Society/Scaringe Award to a Graduate Student** was given to **Qi Zhang** in the lab of Hashim Al Hashimi at University of Michigan for his work using NMR techniques to study RNA dynamics.
- The **2007 RNA Society/Scaringe award to a Postdoctoral fellow** was awarded to **Alexi Aravin** in the lab of Greg Hannon at Cold Spring Harbor for his studies on how the developmentally regulated piRNAs regulate transposon activity.

The poster awards presented at the meeting including the following individuals :

- The **ACS Chemical Biology** poster for 'innovative use of chemical biology applied to the study of RNA' was awarded to **Stephanie Mortimer** (#573) on *Time resolved SHAPE*
- The **Nature Structure Molecular Biology prize in Molecular Biology and Biochemistry** went to **Daniel Chaves** for his poster (#256) entitled *PIR-1 is a 5' RNA phosphatase that interacts with Dicer and is essential for C.elegans development*
- The **Nature Structure Molecular Biology poster prize in Genetics** went to **Alessandro Rosa** for his poster (#301) entitled *A conserved microRNA family plays a crucial role in vertebrate early development by sustaining nodal activity.*
- The **Nature Structure Molecular Biology poster prize in Biophysics and Structural Biology** went to **Anne-Marie van Roon** (#238) for her poster entitled *Solution structure of the U2 snRNA protein Rds3p reveals a novel knotted zinc-finger motif.*
- The **Nature Reviews Molecular Cell Biology** award for “innovation and interdisciplinary research” went to **Sarah Clatterbuck Soper** (#194) for her poster on *Probing the 30S ribosome assembly with in vivo hydroxyl radical footprinting*

Congratulations to all!



Women and Science Dinner, RNA 2008-Berlin

Beth Tran and Lynne Maquat

Gender inequality is one of the many challenges facing scientists and research institutions today. At RNA 2008, past-President **Lynne Maquat** and postdoctoral representative **Beth Tran** organized the second Women in Science (WIS) dinner to discuss this issue. The dinner was well received with almost 400 faculty, students, postdocs and staff in attendance signifying the growing international community concerned with diversity in science.

Professor Mary Osborn of the Max Planck Institute in Göttingen presented this year's keynote address. Mary is a leading cell biologist known for breakthrough discoveries on the structure of the cytoskeleton. Mary,



along with her husband Klaus Weber, also pioneered critical experimental technologies including immunofluorescence microscopy and SDS-PAGE electrophoresis. In addition to her scientific contributions, Mary has been an outspoken proponent for equal gender representation in science since the early nineties. In 1992, Mary began speaking out for equality by responding to a letter that appeared in *Nature*. This letter suggested that less women scientists are in top-tier positions in academia because they choose to stay at home with children. In opposition, Mary responded to the journal by stating that the failure of women to reach top positions does not correlate with family pressures. At that time, less than 1% of the directors at the Max Planck Society were women.

Although many fields have seen a narrowing of the gender gap over the years, Mary provided documentation and statistics clearly illustrating that science has not reached gender equity. For example, from 1999-2003 approximately 50% of students in science were female while less than 15% were in faculty positions in the European Union. Additionally, gender inequality is a major problem facing society at large. In acknowledgement of this fact, Mary quoted a recent advertisement from a British newspaper: "Prepare your daughter for working life. Give her less pocket money than your son."

Instead of accepting the unequal treatment of men and women, Mary called on individuals, institutions and organizations to identify procedures and policies that impede the progress of women in science. "Why should we be concerned?" she asked the audience. She responded pragmatically that it is important to utilize all trained individuals for the sake of efficiency. This trend not to do so can be reversed through positive action programs such as fellowships and new faculty positions aimed at recruiting and retaining female scientists. "Voluntary programs don't work." she stated.

Mary emphasized that organizations and institutions should strive to correct the gender gap by working to create attitude changes towards women in science. First, family friendly policies in academia should be created and maintained to help alleviate family pressures on scientific success. Second, governments, institutions and organizations must follow guidelines outlined in the National Academies of Science "Beyond Bias and Barriers: Fulfilling the Potential of Women in Academic Science and Engineering". This report specifies strategies for increasing the representation of women in academic science. Third, programs like NSF ADVANCE should be instituted around the globe. NSF ADVANCE provides funding both to study and



document gender representation at institutions and to create programs to increase the number women in academic science and engineering fields. Finally, she invited concerned scientists to seek advice from recent publications including "At the Bench: A Laboratory Navigator" by Kathy Barker and "Success Strategies for Women in Science: A Portable Mentor" by Peggy Pritchard. In conclusion, Mary noted that even with the issues facing scientists, today's scientific community is an exciting and dynamic place to be. "Opportunities for women in science have never been greater than they are at present for this younger generation of scientists."

We hope this WIS dinner, like the first given by Joan Steitz, has illustrated how science would be well served with better gender representation. In order that we have the flexibility to broaden the scope of topics to be presented and discussed at future meetings, we are moving to modified venue for RNA 2009. Stay tuned for additional information.



Reception Opening Night at the Henry Ford Building at RNA 2008 in Berlin



From the Desk of the CEO

Evelyn Jabri

The Board of Directors meeting in Berlin was exceptional. I thank all of the officers and directors for their insightful comments. Two themes emerged from our discussions: the need to continue strengthening and evolving existing programs to meet the needs of our members, and our desire to better articulate our long-range strategic plans for the Society.



We discussed the growing membership, especially the increasing number of junior scientists joining our Society. This is in no small part to the efforts of our grad student and postdoc groups who have done a spectacular job developing social programs and workshops to develop a sense of community (see page 16-18). As many of you know, Lynne Maquat has kindly but informally managed the recruitment and mentoring of our junior representatives. Thank you Lynne! Now that both groups are established, we are seeking a committed volunteer, an established scientist with an interest in fostering student development, to continue to mentor our representatives. If you are interested, please email me.

The website continues to be a point of discussion. The results from our annual survey of members showed that most people use the Society website primarily to find meeting information, search the member directory, and update membership.

Can we use our Society web site to stay in touch (socially & scientifically) throughout the year? We continue to discuss the addition of social networking tools. However, questions were raised as to whether these additions to the web site are worth the effort as very few of our members currently engage in blogging, discussion forums, and the like. So before we invest in these features for the Society, we're going to perform two experiments.

For those of us who wish to track our professional lives and contacts, and who also wish to participate in RNA-related discussions, I have established a RNA Society LinkedIn (<http://www.linkedin.com/>) group. LinkedIn is "an online network of more than 25 million experienced professionals from around the world, representing 150 industries." When you join, you create a profile that summarizes your professional accomplishments. I use it to keep track of friends and colleagues and to help them find me. Recently, LinkedIn enhanced its Groups with a Discussions feature that allows members to ask questions of each other and provide advice on topics of their choosing. The advantage of using LinkedIn Groups and the associated discussion board is that we can evaluate, without any costs to the Society, the level of interest in discussion forums. So if you have questions about RNA-related protocols, RNA clubs in your region, etc. join us in LinkedIn and participate in the discussion. Matters that require confidentiality should be directed to the officers and directors via email.

The Graduate students are doing a similar experiment on another social networking site called Facebook (<http://www.facebook.com>). It is similar to LinkedIn in that allows people to connect and share information. Unlike LinkedIn, Facebook allows us to share photos and videos with our colleagues. It tends to be less formal and career oriented than LinkedIn but has a strong following. You can read more about that in the RNA Society Grad student Group in Facebook in a subsequent column (page 17-18). Facebook is also free to join.

We're not the first Society to use these features to reach out to scientists. The American Society for Cell Biology (<http://www.ascb.org/>) now has established a LinkedIn Group and a Facebook page (<http://www.facebook.com/group.php?gid=10717340828>). ASBMB recently announced it has also joined



Facebook. Take a look at their Facebook pages, and let me know if you think the RNA Society should establish a similar networking page.

These experiments offer members many opportunities to stay in touch. They may also help raise awareness of the Society to a broader group of scientists and professionals who may not regularly attend our annual meetings. I hope you will join one or both groups and contribute to the ongoing discussions.

Where do we want the RNA Society to be in 5-10 years? I asked this question in a previous column and received many helpful comments via email and at the Madison and Berlin meetings. The Directors and Officers review these suggestions throughout the year. Below are some of the strategic areas under discussion, as well as the related ongoing initiatives supporting our long-range plans:

- ◆ Continue to enhance the **meetings program** (see page 15)
- ◆ Encourage discoverability and citations of papers published in *RNA* (see page 13)
- ◆ Increase international **membership**
- ◆ Increase the visibility of the Society using the web
 - Experiment with social networking and discussions groups (see above)
 - Enhance historical information (stories, pictures, videos, etc.) on the Society website – ([Volunteer to be the Society Historian!](#))
 - Establish a committee to evaluate and set goals for the Society website
- ◆ Increase travel support for junior scientists to attend annual meeting and other RNA-related conferences.
- ◆ Evaluate if the Society should award seed grants for workshop and/or specific research initiatives.
- ◆ Consider the options for developing an RNA Society endowment

Many of the initiatives are a direct result of your thoughtful suggestions. Thanks to all of those members who took the time to respond to our survey and please continue to send me your thoughts.

I look forward to networking with you in LinkedIn as well as hearing your feedback and suggestions via email.

Evelyn
ejabri@gmail.com.

CALL FOR VOLUNTEERS

Want to get involved in the RNA Society? We have a few opportunities that may be of interest to you:

The RNA Society is seeking a committed volunteer, an established scientist with an interest in mentoring students, to continue to **mentor our Postdoc and Graduate Student representatives**. A 3 year commitment is requested of the volunteer.

The RNA Society is seeking a **historian**. Interested in science history, news and pictures of RNA Society members, and good stories about RNA scientists (you know they are out there)? Then this is the job for you. A 2-3 year commitment is requested of this volunteer.

If you are interested in either volunteer opportunity, please email me Evelyn Jabri (ejabri@gmail.com)



RNA

The ongoing partnership between Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory Press and the Society has resulted in making *RNA* a respected and successful international forum for publishing original reports on RNA research in the broadest sense. The journal continues to do very well.



In 2008, it is receiving an increasing number of manuscripts, achieved a 2007 ISI Impact Factor of 5.84, and continues to report strong revenues. We are pleased to announce that this success has enabled the Society to substantially reduce the costs associated with publishing in *RNA* for members.

Beginning with papers published in 2008, members of the RNA Society receive a 50% discount on page charges (\$25 instead of \$50) as well as a 50% discount on the first color figure (\$225 instead of \$450). For those members who wish to have their work immediately accessible to the entire community (Open Access), the charge will be \$1500 (a \$500 savings from the non-member fee)¹. We note that these member savings more than offset the cost of a one-year membership in the Society, which includes a subscription to *RNA* (\$160 for print and online, \$140 for online only). In addition to the benefits in publication costs, members also receive:

- Reduced registration fees for the annual meeting of the Society (more than \$100 savings)
- The RNA Society Newsletter
- Numerous opportunities for students and post-docs to become involved in the Society
- Free job postings on the Society Employment and Careers Web site
- Opportunities to request Travel Fellowship and Meeting Support for RNA-related meetings you are organizing.

If you wish to take advantage of these benefits or are considering publishing in *RNA*, take a moment to start or renew your membership for 2009 (<http://rnasociety.org/membership>).

In addition to reducing publication costs for members of the RNA Society, *RNA* started to accept Supplementary Material which will be linked to the article published online. Such Supplementary Material will be restricted to long tables of data, lists of genomic and sequence data, or videos. Submitted Supplementary Material such as gels or other simple figures as well as standard tables will not be linked to online articles and must be maintained on the author's Web site. In this regard, Supplementary Material is not intended for completing a manuscript with standard figures or tables. Appropriate Supplementary Material, as discussed above, will be peer-reviewed and must be submitted online at the same time as the manuscript. It cannot be altered after acceptance of the manuscript. Submission of Supplementary Material to the journal is not an alternative to submission to public databases (thus crystal structure coordinates, sequence data, microarray data must be submitted prior to submission to the journal and accession numbers given in the manuscript). Public databases have confidential sections to which passwords give access for editors and referees on request. The content of the files contained in the Supplementary Material should be precisely described at the end of the Material and

¹ *RNA* routinely deposits final papers in PubMed Central on behalf of authors as each full issue is published. All papers in *RNA* are freely available in PMC six months after full-issue publication, thereby complying with mandates from a wide variety of funding institutions, including National Institutes of Health, Howard Hughes Medical Institute, and members of UKPMC Funders Group, such as Wellcome Trust.



Methods section in the manuscript and referred to at the appropriate places in the text. The types of files supplied should be clearly indicated (.doc, .xls, .rtf, .mp3, .mpeg, .mov, .wav; ...).

Coming in 2009, the journal website will be migrated to a new web electronic publishing platform developed by HighWire Press. This new platform, called H2O, enhances the discoverability of the journal content in addition to providing many other benefits to the readers. To learn more about the platform, visit <http://highwire.stanford.edu/publishers/H2O.dtl> where you will find interviews with John Sack, Director of HighWire Press, and links to journals that recently migrated to the new platform.

In sum, we believe the changes outlined above will facilitate continued growth of the journal and we thank all editors, authors and reviewers for making *RNA* what it is today.

Do you use RNases? Do you need U2, PhyM, B.cereus, CL3 or V1?

It has been nearly a decade since the RNA Society initiated a custom purification of six RNases used to perform primary sequencing or secondary structure mapping of RNAs. The initial contract, intended to generate a source of material no longer commercially available, required a minimum purchase commitment to ensure the company would be able to see what it made. Once all committed 'kits' were sold, there were additional enzymes that became available to anyone wishing to purchase them. Alas, these valuable resources have been depleted from the common market a few years ago. I am trying to assess the current demand for these enzymes.

If you currently use – or hope to begin experiments requiring – the enzymes listed above please contact me via Email. If your favorite RNase is NOT currently available on the open market (and not listed above) please let me know what it is and I'll add it to the list.

I would like to know what enzyme(s) people are interested in and approximate amount that would be desired, if it were available at a competitive price. Please know there is no commitment to contract a purification at this time, nor is there a commitment on your part to purchase the enzyme or the amount you might indicate. This is simply a means of assessing the demand of the community at this time.

Thanks.

-Brenda Peculis

peculisb@missouri.edu

RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP TODAY

For those who have not renewed your membership, please do so now. We have an online renewal system (www.rnasociety.org/membership) system that makes it very easy to rejoin the Society. At the same time, you can update your directory listing using the online directory. **RENEW NOW!**



Chairman of the Meetings Committee David M.J. Lilley



I could not begin this report without thanking Reinhard Lührmann and his co-organizers for a simply spectacular conference in Berlin. Every aspect of the meeting was wonderful, from the scientific organization to all the social aspects. The Biergarten was pure inspiration, and the weather came to the party too - who will forget sitting drinking in the balmy evening air in the grounds of the Harnack-Haus ! A number of new events were explored at this meeting, including the thematic and techniques-based workshops, and the more career-based sessions. These seem to have been very successful, and I'm sure they will be developed in future meetings. The opening plenary session was also very well received, and got the meeting off to a flying start. RNA2008 was a tribute to the imagination, efficiency and above all the good humor of Reinhard.

Next year we return to Madison for RNA2009 - for the last time for a few years while the site is redeveloped. The meeting will take place between May 26th - 31st. Plans are well in hand for this meeting, and Andy Feig and co-organizers will continue to experiment with the format. If you have any specific suggestions about the meeting, please send these to Andy who will welcome them.

Following the highly successful meeting in Seattle in 2006 organized by Alan Weiner, we will return there in 2010. This will be a little later than normal, running from June 22-27th. The lead organizer will be Tim Nilsen, and the full organizing committee will be put together in the near future.

In 2011 I am pleased to announce that we shall take the meeting to Japan, as guests of the Japanese RNA Society. This will be the first time we have gone to Asia, and I have been working on this goal for quite some time now. The venue for the meeting has not been fully decided yet. We must choose between meeting in the city of Kyoto (<http://www.icckyoito.or.jp/jp/index.html>), and the Phoenix Seagaia Resort in the south, on Kyushu (http://www.seagaia.co.jp/index_en.html). I would welcome opinions on either site.

In the longer term, now that we have made a commitment to Asia it is very likely that we will hold a future meeting in China, and we continue to consider further European venues.

The search for new places to take our meetings continues, but for this we really need specific suggestions from our membership, with local knowledge. If you think that your university or city could host a future RNA society meeting, I would like to hear from you. I have written a guide to bidding to host a meeting, that outlines the requirements for running a successful meeting of this size, and I can send this by return. In more general terms, we welcome discussion on all aspects of the format of our meetings, from any part of our membership. Indeed, the format of some of the non-scientific events at RNA2009 has recently resulted in what can only be described as a storm of emails already. So please keep them coming!

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



GradStudent and Postdoc Corner

RNA 2008 from the Post-doc Perspective

Daniel E. Golden and Elizabeth Tran

The RNA 2008 meeting in Berlin was an exciting and productive meeting for everyone who attended. We would like to recap some of the events that were of particular interest to the post-doctoral members of our Society.



A new event organized by the graduate student representatives this year was a pre-meeting tour of Berlin. The graduate representatives worked very hard prior to arriving in Berlin to organizing an excellent walking tour of the city. Approximately 30 meeting attendees, comprising all facets of the RNA Society, met a day early to take in some of Berlin. On the first full day of the meeting Beth Tran and I hosted the second annual post-doctoral social hour. Drinks and light snacks were provided in an informal atmosphere conducive to mingling and conversing. Beth and I both were able to meet with several of you and discuss current issues facing post-docs, ranging from obtaining funding and heading out on the all-important first interview, whether it be in academia or another scientific career path. Beth and I feel strongly that events like these strengthen not only our individual careers but also the RNA Society as a whole. We plan to continue to offer opportunities for people to network with their peers providing a chance to share ideas,

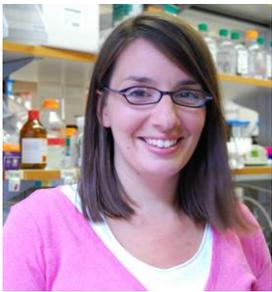
opinions, and friendships that will support us through our careers.

Other successful additions to the meeting program this year were the Career Workshops. Reinhard Lührmann, lead organizer for the entire meeting, is to thank for conceiving and bringing these events to the meeting. The hard work of countless volunteers came together to provide two unique and informative sessions dealing with topical career issues for postdocs and other Society members. The first Career Workshop dealt with obtaining funding, especially postdoctoral fellowships. Issues presented centered on funding available from either European or United States agencies and the current state of funding levels available to scientists at all levels. Lists of identified funding sources, containing basic eligibility and contact information, have been graciously made available for downloading on the meeting web site. Please visit <http://rna2008.mpg.de> and select the "Post Conference Info!" link on the left hand side to download the pdf documents. The second Career Workshop at RNA 2008 Berlin dealt with career opportunities outside of academic research. The Society is extremely grateful to the presenters that made this possible. Scientists who pursued careers in biotechnology, pharmaceuticals, and patent law provided a wealth of information. These workshops were a wonderful addition to the meeting program and were met with much enthusiasm.

The RNA meeting in Berlin proved to be yet another success, especially in providing opportunities for younger members of the Society to succeed and flourish. At the end of the meeting we all said good-bye to old friends and new contacts alike, Beth Tran also departed her position as a postdoctoral representative of the RNA Society. It has been an honor and extremely entertaining to serve with Beth as the first postdoc representatives for our Society. Beth is stepping down to focus her energies on securing an academic position. Please



join me in wishing Beth all the best in her future pursuits and thanking her for all she has giving to the Society. While I am sad to be losing Beth as my co-representative I am equally excited to introduce Kim Dittmar will be joining me in facilitating communication between Society postdocs and the governing body of the RNA Society. Kim is a postdoc in the laboratory of Gideon Dreyfuss at the University of Pennsylvania School of Medicine. I had the pleasure to speak with Kim at length about a variety of science and non-science issues alike. She brings ideas, excitement, and enthusiasm to the



position and those qualities will serve the RNA Society well.

We would like to thank everyone once again who made the RNA 2008 meeting a huge success. Kim and I are looking forward to another big year for everyone in the Society. The RNA Society is only possible through energy and support from all of its members. We are excited about the future for the RNA Society, and we look forward to continuing to work with and on behalf of Society post-doc members. Don't forget to contact us if you have any questions, comments, or suggestions.

Daniel Golden degolden@northwestern.edu & Kimberly Dittmar dittmar@mail.med.upenn.edu

RNA 2008 from the Graduate Student Perspective

Sarah Ledoux, Claudia Recinos and Tom Mullen

The yearly RNA Society meeting is a great opportunity for graduate students to present the fruits of their labor, network with peers, post-docs and PIs, catch up with old friends and hopefully make some new ones. We had a fabulous time meeting everyone in Berlin and hope you enjoyed our new ideas for bringing graduate students together.



The first thing we did once we got to Berlin was to gather a group of early arrivals and go on a day-long site-seeing tour of the city. About 30 graduate students, post-docs, and professors braved the heat to walk all over town and see historical sites such as Museum Island, the Brandenburg Gate and Checkpoint Charlie. The tour culminated in dinner and some well-earned Bier Towers. It was a really fun way for people to meet and get to know each other before the conference started, and the graduate student representatives will offer something similar for RNA 2009 in Madison, WI!

At RNA 2008 we also hosted a graduate student social on the first full night of the conference where we got to introduce ourselves to a lot more people. Participants enjoyed free drinks and munchies while making new friends and socializing with old ones. Everybody had a great time, but we all did a bunch of networking too! It's hard to put that many scientists in a room together and not get us to talk about our research, PI's, job hunting, and funding. We got to laugh, drink some beers together, and exchange a lot of ideas too.

Everyone we talked to had great ideas for what the graduate students could do in the future, but the one idea we kept hearing over and over was that it's hard to get to know other graduate students and it would be nice if there



were a way to socialize outside of the conference. To try to address this we've started a Facebook group called [RNA Society Graduate Student Members](#). It's free, and anyone can join and upload photos, ideas, questions, and link to other graduate students. There are already a bunch of photos uploaded and we're hoping people will also find it a useful way to ask for experimental/career advice and find roommates or make travel plans for future conferences!



Heather Miller



Rea Lardelli



Melanie Baker

Even though this year's conference is over, keep sending us your ideas for how we can make your RNA life better! Looking toward the future, we congratulate Dr. Tom Mullen and wish him luck in his new postdoc! Claudia and Sarah would like to introduce the new additions to the graduate student representatives: Heather Miller, Rea Lardelli and Melanie Baker. If you would like to participate in events being planned for RNA 2009 in Madison, contact one of us to volunteer your time!

Claudia Recinos	crecinos@med.miami.edu
Sarah Ledoux	s-ledoux@northwestern.edu
Heather Miller	heather.n.bennett@duke.edu
Rea Lardelli	realardelli@mail.utexas.edu
Melanie Baker	melanie_baker@urmc.rochester.edu

Award opportunities !

The American Society for Microbiology (ASM) administers 27 scientific achievement awards. These are annual awards given at the ASM's two large meetings where scientists are honored for their outstanding accomplishments in research, mentoring, education, leadership, and other practices of microbiology.

We are trying to promote the awards for next year's General Meeting in areas outside of ASM. Many subspecialties of microbiology are included in these awards, and we feel that some awards will be of interest to members of the RNA Society. Specifically:

- **Abbott-ASM Lifetime Achievement Award:** ASM's premier award for sustained contributions to the microbiological sciences.
- **Eli Lilly and Company Research Award:** ASM's oldest and most prestigious prize, it rewards fundamental research of unusual merit in microbiology or immunology by an individual who has not reached his/her 45th birthday.
- **Merck Irving S. Sigal Memorial Awards:** Recognizes and awards excellence in basic research in medical microbiology and infectious diseases.

More information on this award and the rest of the ASM's scientific achievement awards can be found online at www.asm.org/ASMawards/e09. **Nominations are due on October 1.**

People, places and sights around Berlin from the boat trip and on the meeting site



Meetings Sponsored by the Society

RiboWest Conference 2008 at the University of Lethbridge

This year, the 4th Annual RiboWest Conference was hosted for the first time by the University of Lethbridge located in southern Alberta, Canada, after being established in Prince George, British Columbia three years ago. From June 15th to 18th 2008, this regional RNA Meeting attracted more than 100 researchers representing 30 laboratories from western Canada and northwestern USA, demonstrating its role as an important RNA meeting for this region. Particularly for students, the RiboWest meeting turned out to be an interesting annual event where they can present their RNA research and share their interest in science. This year, we had five sessions with high-quality oral presentations mainly from students and more than 50 poster presentations with topics ranging from splicing to translation to new tools in RNA research. Thanks to the support from the RNA Society, several students obtained fellowships to participate in RiboWest 2008 and won awards for their presentations. The highlight of the RiboWest Conference 2008 was without doubt our AHFMR-sponsored keynote lecture by Rachel Green from Johns Hopkins University, Baltimore. Not only did she impress everybody with her lecture on ribosomal fidelity, she also inspired the students during our traditional career workshop. In addition, Sherif Abou Elela from Sherbrooke, Quebec, was our invited lecture. Thus, we are further strengthening the connection between the RNA communities in western and eastern Canada. Also, the presentation award winner from this year's RiboWest meeting was invited to present his work at the RiboClub Meeting in Sherbrooke, Quebec. In summary, the RiboWest Conference 2008 showed the growth and the dynamics of the RNA community in western Canada. In future, the annual RiboWest meetings will alternate between Prince George, British Columbia, and Lethbridge, Alberta.

(Ute Kothe & Hans-Joachim Wieden, organizers of RiboWest 2008)

Fellowship and Award Winners:

1. Poster Award: Brett W. Clelland (M Schultz lab, UofA)
2. Poster Award: Andrew Hudson (T Russell lab, UofL)
3. Poster Award: Matthew W.L. Lau (P Unrau lab, SFU)

Presentation Award: Evan Mercier (HJ Wieden lab, UofL)

Fellowship Recipients: Yun-Young Lee (E Jan lab, UBC), Elizabeth Dunn (S. Rader lab, UNBC), Renaud Tremblay (D. Lafontaine lab, U of Sherbrooke)



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

The conference held at Colby College in Waterville ME from June 29-July 4th 2008 was organized by Chair, Adrian Krainer and Vice Chair, Lynne Maquat. Funds from the RNA Society were used for four poster prizes were awarded to students and postdocs based upon interactions with the many judges, who were PIs attending the meeting. It was clear that while the award was greatly appreciated, the students and postdocs really enjoyed the interactions with the PIs/judges.

Awards were given to :

Jason M. Casolari, Stanford University, Department of Biochemistry

Rahul N. Kanadia, Harvard University, Department of Genetics

M. Elizabeth Stroupe, Brandeis University, Department of Molecular Biophysics and Biochemistry

Shobha Vasudevan, Yale University, Department of Biochemistry

Employment – positions available

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

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

Faculty positions

Position available in Dept. of Biology of the University of Kentucky , Lexington, United States

Position posted on Sunday, September 07, 2008

The Department of Biology at the University of Kentucky invites applications for a tenure-track Assistant Professor position in the area of epigenetic or post-transcriptional gene regulation. Preference will be given to candidates who use a genetically tractable model system to address mechanistic questions in cell or developmental biology. Candidates for this position are expected to have a Ph.D. or equivalent degree and appropriate postdoctoral experience. Successful applicants are expected to develop a vigorous, extramurally-funded research program and participate in undergraduate and graduate instruction. The startup package includes a competitive salary, a generous budget, and an outstanding collegial environment. The review of applications will begin October 20, 2008 and continue until the position is filled.

Contact :

[Dr Brian C Rymond](#)

Tel : 859 257 4973

Fax : 859 257 1717

Email : aaburk00@email.uky.edu

Position available in Dept. of Biological Sciences of the University of South Carolina , Columbia, United States
Position posted on Tuesday, August 26, 2008

Plant Molecular Biologist

The Department of Biological Sciences at the University of South Carolina invites applications for a tenure-track position at the Assistant Professor level in the area of plant molecular biology. This position is part of a hiring initiative in the area of Plant Signaling that will strengthen existing research in Plant Biology (<http://www.biol.sc.edu/~plant/PlantBiology/>). The candidate is expected to establish and maintain an extramurally funded research program and to teach undergraduate and graduate courses.

Candidates should submit curriculum vitae, description of research and teaching interests and three letters of reference to Dr. Erin Connolly, Plant Molecular Biology Search Committee Chair, Department of Biological Sciences, Coker Life Sciences Building, 700 Sumter St., University of South Carolina, Columbia, SC 29208 (phone 803-777-8753; email: pbsearch@biol.sc.edu, fax 803-777-4002). For full consideration, applications must be received by November 1, 2008.

The University of South Carolina is an affirmative action, equal opportunity employer. Women and minorities are encouraged to apply. The University of South Carolina does not discriminate in educational or employment opportunities or decisions for qualified persons on the basis of race, color, religion, sex, national origin, age, disability, sexual orientation or veteran status.

Contact :

[Dr Lewis Bowman](#)

Tel : 803-777-5157

Email : bowman@biol.sc.edu

Position available in Dept. of Biology of the University of Rochester , Rochester, United States
Position posted on Tuesday, August 26, 2008

Assistant Professor of Biology

The Department of Biology at the University of Rochester is continuing its major hiring initiative. This year we intend to fill a tenure track position at the junior level in Cell, Developmental, and Molecular Biology. Highly qualified candidates in all areas, including but not limited to functional genomics, developmental and cell biology, and/or biochemistry, are encouraged to apply. The Department offers a supportive academic environment that promotes interactions across the life sciences. Our research and graduate programs are integrated into a larger research campus, which includes the School of Medicine and Dentistry, and the Departments of Brain and Cognitive Sciences, Physics, Chemistry, Biomedical Engineering, and Computer Sciences. For detailed information on the department, visit <http://www.rochester.edu/College/BIO/index.php>.

Candidates with a strong record of accomplishment should submit a CV, statement of research and teaching interests, pdfs of two or three publications, and arrange to have three letters of recommendation sent to: biosearch2008@rochester.edu. Review of applications will begin November 1. The University of Rochester, an Equal Opportunity Employer, has a strong commitment to diversity and actively encourages applications from candidates from groups underrepresented in higher education.

Contact :

[Dr Gloria Culver](#)

Tel : 585-276-3602

Email : gculver@mail.rochester.edu



Postdoctoral positions

Position available in Dept of Cell Biology of the Cleveland Clinic Foundation , Cleveland, United States
Position posted on Sunday, September 07, 2008

Postdoctoral Position in the Department of Cell Biology, Lerner Research Institute, Cleveland Clinic

A postdoctoral position is available for a scientist with training in molecular and/or developmental biology. Research will use a combination of molecular and embryological approaches to investigate the role of pre-mRNA alternative splicing regulatory programs in vertebrate heart development. Good English language skills and a Ph.D. or M.D. in a relevant discipline are required. Recent graduates and those with US citizenship or permanent residence status are encouraged to apply. The position is available immediately and will remain open until filled. The Cleveland Clinic offers an excellent work environment with competitive benefits. Initial appointment is for one year, with the expectation of annual renewal for two to five years contingent upon review. Interested applicants should send a cover letter summarizing research interests and career goals, curriculum vitae, brief description of research experience, and contact information for three references to Dr. Andrea N. Ladd via email to: ladda@ccf.org. For more information, please visit: <http://www.lerner.ccf.org/cellbio/ladd/>

Contact :

[Dr Andrea N. Ladd](#)

Tel : 216-445-3870

Fax : 216-444-9404

Email : ladda@ccf.org

Position available in Dept of Chemistry of the Wayne State University , Detroit, United States
Position posted on Sunday, September 07, 2008

A NIH-funded postdoctoral position is currently available in the Rueda laboratory at Wayne State University (Department of Chemistry). We develop and use single molecule fluorescence to study the correlation between structural dynamics and biological function of RNA and protein-RNA complexes. The pursuit of independent ideas is strongly encouraged in our lab, and we offer state-of-the-art single molecule facilities and a copiously equipped RNA center.

Applicants should possess a Ph.D. in Chemistry, Biochemistry, Biophysics or a related discipline. The successful candidate will be an ambitious, independent thinker with strong written and oral communication skills. He/she must work effectively in a team environment and will be expected to assume some leadership responsibilities. Experience in molecular biology and single molecule spectroscopy is desirable but not required.

The initial appointment is for 1 year and will be renewed annually based on scientific accomplishments. Applicants should e-mail a current CV, a letter of motivation and arrange for three references to be sent to: rueda@chem.wayne.edu. For further information, please visit: <http://www.chem.wayne.edu/ruedagroup/>

Contact :

[Dr David Rueda](#)

Tel : (313) 577-6918

Fax : (313) 577-8822

Email : rueda@chem.wayne.edu



Position available in Department of Cell Biology of the University of Geneva , Geneva 4, Switzerland
Position posted on Sunday, September 07, 2008

Post-doctoral position in mammalian Pre-mRNA Splicing

A post-doctoral position is available immediately to join a research project aimed at analyzing in vivo pre-mRNA targets of proteins involved in splice site recognition. Identified targets will be validated with in vitro and in vivo approaches.

Applicants will have a strong background in molecular and cell biology. Excellent skills in experimentation with RNA and mammalian cell culture are essential. Candidates with previous experience in RNA biology are strongly preferred. A good command of English is indispensable.

Motivated individuals should send a CV with publication list, a description of research experience and interests, and the names and contact information of three references to Angela Kraemer at angela.kraemer@unige.ch.
Starting date: as soon as possible.

Contact :

[Dr Angela Krämer](#)

Tel : +41-22-379 6750

Fax : +41-22-379 6727

Email : angela.kraemer@unige.ch

Position available in Molecular Biology and Microbiology of the Tufts University School of Medicine , Boston,
Position posted on Tuesday, August 26, 2008

A funded postdoctoral position is available for three years to study the molecular mechanism of mRNA polyadenylation in yeast, its regulation, and its interaction with other processes involved in mRNA synthesis and utilization. Experience in yeast genetics, biochemistry, and/or the molecular biology of nucleic acid/protein and protein/protein interactions is preferred. The start date is flexible. To apply, please send a CV and 3 reference contacts by e-mail to Dr. Claire Moore.

Contact :

[Dr Claire Moore](#)

Tel : 617-636-6935

Fax : 617-636-0337

Email : claire.moore@tufts.edu

Position available in Department of Molecular biology of the Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences (SLU) , Uppsala, Sweden
Position posted on Saturday, June 28, 2008

A post-doc position is available in the RNA Biology Group at the Department of Molecular Biology/Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences (SLU). The aim of the research is to further understand the function of small RNAs, i.e. microRNAs (miRNAs) and small interfering (siRNAs) and their associated proteins during growth and development. The genetically tractable social amoeba *Dictyostelium discoideum* is used as a model for these studies. *Dictyostelium* is a well-established model organism for studies of different developmental processes. It is also of interest from an evolutionary perspective, branching out after plants but before the



animal/fungi lineages and positioned in the interface between uni- and multicellularity.

We have recently identified a large number of small RNAs in Dictyostelium and demonstrated that their biogenesis is dependent on different RNA interference related genes (Hinas et al, 2007, NAR). We are now entering the next exciting phase – to understand their function during growth and development! This will be analyzed using a number of different biochemical, molecular, and cell biological tools, e.g. targeted gene disruptions, isolation of protein-RNA complexes, localization studies using in situ and gene-fusion techniques.

You will be part of the Linneaus/Swedish Research Council supported center of excellence (URRC - Uppsala RNA Research Center) where ten research groups at Uppsala University and SLU, situated at the Biomedical Center (BMC), study different aspects of RNA biology.

The applicant should hold a PhD and have a strong background in molecular biology. Experience in RNA research, e.g. RNA-protein interaction and mi/siRNA studies is a great advantage. You must be able to work independently but also interact/collaborate with group members and collaborators. Strong written and oral English communication skills are required. The projects involves national and international collaborations.

The application must include your CV, list of publications, previous research accomplishments (1 page) and names and contact information of at least two academic references.

The position is for up to two years.

Contact :

[Dr Fredrik Söderbom](#)

Email : fredde@xray.bmc.uu.se

Position available in Intramural Program on Genomics of Differentiation, NICHD of the NIH, USA , Bethesda,
Position posted on Saturday, June 28, 2008

The Fellow will investigate molecular mechanisms involved in RNA metabolism, including links between transcription, RNA processing and nuclear transport. A major focus of the laboratory is RNA polymerase III and the La protein. Fission yeast serve as a model system to study human as well as yeast La protein function. We also use mammalian tissue culture and genetically altered mice. Laboratory approaches integrate cell biology, molecular biology, genetics, biochemistry and structural biology.

Candidates must hold a Ph.D. and have less than 5 years postdoctoral experience. Expertise in molecular biology, genetics and/or biochemistry is required, as are strong letters of personal recommendation. The successful candidate will confer regularly with the principal investigator but must incorporate self-directed research, excellent technical, presentation, and communication skills as essential parts of the job. As an applicant, you should submit a cover letter that details your specific interest in the specific research areas described above and as reflected by the publications from the Maraia lab. A PubMed search link of these publications can be found on the URL listed below. Send your cover letter, C.V., and the names of three references with their email addresses and telephone numbers by Email to: Richard J. Maraia, M.D. **Contact :**

[Dr Rich Maraia](#)

Tel : 301 402-3567

Email : maraiar@mail.nih.gov



eJobs with the RNA Society



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

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

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

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

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

Contact information (*required*)

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

Organization

Dept.

Address

City

State/ Prv.

ZIP/Postal Code

Country

Tel.

Fax (*optional*)

E-mail

URL (*optional*)

Signature (*electronic signature of available*)

Date

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

