

RNA Society

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RNA Journal

<http://www.rnajournal.org/>
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From the Desk of the President, Juan Valcarcel

Dear Friends,

It has been a season of important celebrations. First, it is my privilege to convey the Society's warmest



congratulations to Michael Rosbash for his Nobel Prize Award. Michael's contributions to RNA biology match in importance those of his other circadian side, and his legendary sense of humor has colored every gathering of our field for

decades. Furthermore, his [Nobel acceptance speech](#) pleading for continued generous support of basic science and in favor of diversity and immigration as the foundations of the scientific and economic success of our societies has ample resonances with values widely embraced by our Society. We are grateful to Michael for sharing his science and his humanity with all of us. (continued on p.2)

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Another important milestone in 2018 is our 25th anniversary; the Articles of Incorporation were adopted on January 22, 1993, establishing the RNA Society as a non-profit entity in the State of Colorado (see **Jim McSwiggen's** piece on this, p11, as well as the historical account of these early steps by **Olke Uhlenbeck**, p15). We welcome from you, our members, your reflections on the evolution of our Society and the RNA field in the last 25 years, as well as forecasts on how the Society will look and function 25 years from now. I dare to make some predictions: by 2043, RNA-based regulation will not only have provided unique insights pervading every field of biology; it will have generated efficient therapies and genome editing tools for genetic and non-genetic pathologies; and our favorite molecule will spread its influence beyond biomedicine to other areas of human activity, from RNA-based computer processors to art, including RNA-inspired paintings or music (e.g. a ribosome symphony, a ribozyme rap, an RNA decay blues,...). RNA will become a cultural icon and the RNA Society more than *just* a scientific society, including many other aspects of human creativity.

Getting back to 2018, I want to take this opportunity to thank the Board members who completed their terms in 2017, **Gloria Culver**, **Matthias Hentze**, and **Beth Tran** for their dedication and great ideas on behalf of the Society. And to warmly welcome the new Board members, **Jeff Coller**, **Wendy Gilbert** and **Stepanka Vanacova**. I would also like to congratulate, on behalf of the Society, **Jean Beggs** and **Beth Tran**, recipients of the Society's Lifetime Achievement Awards in Science and in Service, respectively (see p 6). Jean is being recognized for her pioneering contributions to understand fundamental mechanisms of RNA processing and their interplay with transcription and chromatin, for her ingenuity in developing transformative technologies and for her outstanding leadership. Beth is the youngest recipient of the Service Award, in recognition of her already copious contributions to the Society, including being one of the first Junior Scientist representatives to the Board and then serving as a faculty advisor to that group, establishing the career development workshops as part of the Junior

Scientist activities, taking a key role in organizing the mentoring lunches that have become a highlight of our RNA meetings and serving on the Society's Board of Directors.

A third celebration took place at Cold Spring Harbor Laboratories in late October, to commemorate the 40th anniversary of the discovery of introns and pre-mRNA splicing. Organized by **Mila Pollock**, **Phil Sharp** and **Joan Steitz**, the symposium was a wonderful opportunity to revive the history of a discovery that revolutionized our understanding of genes and gene regulation. Review of the progress achieved by several generations of scientists provided a sense of community pride. From a memorable recollection of the origin of the terms intron and exon by **Walter Gilbert**, to the standing ovation that followed the presentation of cryoEM structures of the spliceosome in action by **Reinhard Lührmann**, **Kiyoshi Nagai** and **Yigong Shi**, to the latest in the wonderful success of splicing-derived therapies for the treatment of Spinal Muscular Atrophy by **Adrian Krainer** and collaborators. It has been a long road of community effort, and a wonderful story of scientific success.

One common thread of these celebrations is the perception that there are huge opportunities opened for the future. This is a recognition that we are but scratching the surface of sophisticated—but understandable—regulatory networks supporting life on earth. These can be eventually harnessed to develop technologies and therapies, as long as we aim for ambitious goals and we are rigorous in our craft.

Conveying ambition and transferring the proper craft are classical roles of mentors; the Society's pilot phase of the Mentoring Program is well on its way, with the strong support of **Nancy Greenbaum** and **Beth Tran**. Progress will be reviewed and discussed at the time of the RNA Society Meeting to decide on future plans. One hopes for its consolidation and expansion as a way to provide standing community support, as has been the case for the continuously expanding RNA Salons (now with 4000 participants worldwide) and RNA Spotlight series, spearheaded by **Kristian Baker**, **Ute Wieden-Kothe** and **Olivia Rissland**.



The function of our Society is critically dependent on the service spirit of its members; we have two key positions to find replacements for in 2018, those of the Chief Financial Officer (CFO) and of the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) –please see the ads, below and on page 12. Excellent management of our finances has been instrumental to expand our activities and **Andrew Feig** deservedly received the Society's Service Award in 2017 for his role as CFO. **Jim McSwiggen** has been doing a truly outstanding job as the Society's CEO (and soul) for the last 7 years and will step down at the end of 2019. His command of every aspect of the post, from legal regulations to budgets, from dealing with publishers to the design of Award ceremonies, will be a hard act to follow. I encourage Society members with a vision for our future to make a difference for our membership and for our field, to step forward and express their interest in taking up these unique responsibilities.

Broad and far-reaching as it is, I feel that our portfolio of Society activities should be further expanded in the area of science outreach and lobbying. Much to the surprise of most of us,

questions keep being raised about the value of the scientific method and of scientific evidence. Just this week, a minister of state for human resource development of an important country asked school and college curricula to be changed to reject evolution, because “Nobody, including our ancestors, in written or oral, have said they saw an ape turning into a man.” Such colorful statements may be just the tip of a much larger iceberg in collision trajectory with our scientific structure, whereby governments, political parties and other stakeholders, including some corporations, just ignore or even effectively challenge the value of free enquiry of nature without an application in sight. Returning to Rosbash's speech in Stockholm, we should proactively warn our fellow citizens that eroding the basis of intellectual progress puts at risk the foundations of our societies. How to use the brainpower and influence of our membership for this key task—specially for future generations—is open for debate, and I would welcome any comments, suggestions and proposals for how our Society can contribute to this complex and vital goal.

See you in Berkeley! juan.valcarcel@crg.eu

RNA Society Chief Financial Officer opening

The RNA Society is once again accepting applications for a new Chief Financial Officer (CFO). The position is currently open and available.

We seek an individual who is committed to the success of the RNA Society, who works well with others, has a critical eye for detail, and an interest in working with financial accounts. Experience in budgeting, accounting and investing are helpful, but not essential. The CFO also is a member of our Board of Directors, so applicants must be full voting members of the Society (not student or post-doc members).

The responsibilities of the CFO are outlined [here](#). The position will consume about 5-10 hrs of time per month, plus 2-4 trips per year (one of the trips being to attend the annual conference). As with all positions in the RNA Society, the CFO is unpaid, although a small honorarium and some travel funds are associated with the position.

If you are interested in being considered for the CFO position, please contact **Jim McSwiggen** at ceo@rnasociety.org, or **Juan Valcarcel** at juan.valcarcel@crg.es. Questions about the position can be addressed to Jim McSwiggen.



RNA 2018
The 23rd Annual Meeting of the RNA Society
May 29th – June 3rd
Berkeley, CA, USA

Abstract deadlines

The deadline for submitting an abstract is **March 6, 2018 (to be considered for oral presentation) or March 20, 2018 (for poster-only)**. You must be registered for the conference prior to submitting an abstract.

Registration now open: <https://www.rnasociety.org/conferences/rna-2018/registration/>

Keynote lectures will be given by:

Geraldine Seydoux (Johns Hopkins School of Medicine)
Mikiko Siomi (The University of Tokyo)
Jonathan Weissman (University of California, San Francisco)

The Organizing Committee:

Adrian Ferré-D'Amaré (National Institutes of Health, Bethesda, USA)
Atlanta Cook (Wellcome Centre for Cell Biology, Edinburgh, UK)
Anne Ephrussi (European Molecular Biology Laboratory, Heidelberg, Germany)
Don Rio (University of California, Berkeley, USA)
Mihaela Zavolan (Biozentrum, University of Basel, Switzerland)



From the Organizers of RNA 2018

Registration for RNA 2018 is open!

<https://www.rnasociety.org/conferences/rna-2018/registration/>

As in previous years, a major goal of the meeting is to showcase the work of graduate students and postdoctoral scientists, and the bulk of the program will be developed from submitted abstracts. We therefore strongly encourage junior scientists to submit abstracts for oral presentations. Session topics will be finalized based on the abstracts received, and while we expect to cover the usual major research areas (such as non-coding RNAs, RNA chemistry, folding, structure and processing, and RNA's roles in development and disease, splicing, and translation), submitted abstracts may suggest new topics that should have their own session. This is what happened, for instance, at the organizers' meeting for RNA 2006 (led by Alan Weiner), where a number of excellent abstracts were put in a pile we provisionally called "nuclear blah-blah" and which eventually graced the then-new "coordination of nuclear events" session.

In addition to plenary and concurrent sessions, we plan to hold six (or more) 90-minute workshops in the afternoons. The topics we have settled on are (1) RNA structure prediction from in vivo chemical probing; (2) analysis of splicing, 3'-end, and polyadenylation patterns from RNA-seq data; (3) methods and data analysis of in vivo RNA binding from CLIP-type assays; (4) single-molecule imaging of RNAs and RNPs in living cells;

(5) transcriptome-wide methods for analysis of RNA modifications; and (6) methods for generation and analysis of single-cell RNA-seq data. These topics may evolve as abstracts are received, and we also welcome suggestions of additional topics from potential workshop organizers.



In order to maximize the number of platform presentations selected from abstracts, we have decided to have only three keynote lectures—**Geraldine Seydoux, Mikiko Siomi and Jonathan Weissman** have accepted our invitation. In addition, in lieu of more keynotes, and also as a way to honor the awardees, we will open the meeting with scientific presentations by the 2018 winners of the Early- and Mid-Career RNA Society awards, along

with the 2018 winners of the RNA Society/Scaringe awards. This will provide an evening of diverse and excellent science, and also serve as a counterpoint to the Lifetime Achievement Award science lecture on the last day of the meeting. New this year will be a session on careers in industry organized by the RNA Society Junior Scientists.

This is the first time the RNA Society meeting is being held in the University of California Berkeley campus, but several scouting trips (and the insight of our local co-organizer, Don Rio) have helped us select venues that we think will enhance the meeting. Our plenary sessions will take place in Zellerbach Hall, which is the main concert hall of the campus, and the posters—as well as the reception—will take place in the adjacent student union. The university has several large lecture halls located nearby that will accommodate our concurrent sessions and workshops. We will have the traditional reception, dinner and dance on our last evening in the beautiful UC Berkeley Faculty Club, a short walk from Zellerbach in the middle of the lush campus. The organizing committee (**Atlanta Cook, Anne Ephrussi, Adrian Ferré-D'Amaré, Don Rio and Mihaela Zavolan**) looks forward to welcoming you to Berkeley on May 29.

Awards to be presented at RNA 2018

We are pleased to announce that **Jean Beggs** has been awarded the **RNA Society's 2018 Lifetime Achievement Award**.

Jean Beggs has a long track record of innovative work, especially in examining the mechanism of the yeast splicing machinery. Her work on helicase and its interactions elegantly combined genetic, metabolic and structural analyses to provide a dynamic model of the interactions in the spliceosome complex. Recently, she has made remarkable insights into how the rate of transcription affects splicing fidelity. Combined with her identification of the splice-dependent pausing of RNA pol II these findings lead to a better understanding of the coupling between transcription and RNA processing.

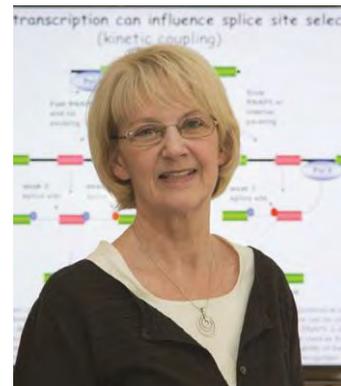


Photo by Antonia Reeve

Beth Tran has been awarded the **RNA Society's 2018 Lifetime Service Award**

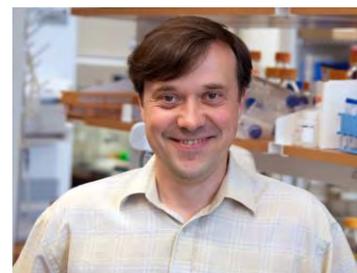


Beth Tran is the youngest member of the Society to have been awarded the Service award. Some of us feel we have 'watched her grow up' within the Society. She has worked at various levels for and within the RNA Society since about 2006. Beth was one of the first post-doc representatives and helped to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

The RNA Society is pleased to announce the winners of the **2018 RNA Society Early- and Mid-Career Awards**. Please join us in congratulating the two award recipients at RNA 2018 in Berkeley, California.

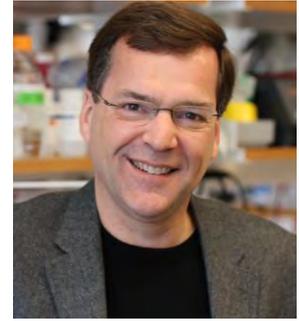
2018 Early-Career Award Winner

Andrei Korostelev – Dr. Korostelev is an Associate Professor at the RNA Therapeutics Institute, University of Massachusetts Medical School, Worcester. He was nominated for having "brought molecular cinematography to the field of ribosome function, bringing to life the detailed movements, molecular rearrangements and dynamic atomic interactions that make protein synthesis so accurate". His work is relevant to understanding viral and bacterial infections and the mechanisms of action of antibiotics. He has been a full member of the RNA Society since 2011 and has presented his work at several meetings of the Society.



2018 Mid-Career Award Winner

Erik Sontheimer – Dr. Sontheimer is a Professor at the RNA Therapeutics Institute, University of Massachusetts Medical School, Worcester. He receives the Award for his contributions to our understanding of molecular mechanisms of CRISPR-Cas RNA-guided DNA targeting, which has opened unprecedented opportunities for genome editing. He has been a member of the RNA Society since 1995, Associate Editor of RNA since 2011, served on the Board of Directors from 2019-2010, a member of the Meetings Committee since 2014, chaired the Nominations Committee in 2006 and was an organizer of the RNA Society Meetings of 2007 and 2016.



The RNA Society Announces Winners of the 2018 Scaringe Awards

The RNA Society is pleased to announce the winners of the 2018 RNA Society/Scaringe Awards. There were three awardees this year; one post-doctoral recipient and two graduate student recipients. Please join us in congratulating the award recipients at RNA 2018

RNA Society/Scaringe Post-Doctoral Award

Fuguo Jiang is a postdoctoral researcher currently in the lab of **Jennifer Doudna** at the University of California, Berkeley. He received his BS and MSc in China, then completed his Ph.D. research under the supervision of Dr. **Joseph Marcotrigiano** at Rutgers University. Since 2013, Dr. Jiang has been making great strides towards understanding the CRISPR-Cas9 genome editing complex, working alongside his colleagues in the Doudna lab. He has combined X-ray crystallographic data and single-particle cryo-electron microscopy approaches to describe the mechanism of DNA target recognition and key structural states of the Type II CRISPR-Cas9 family. These proteins are powerful tools from genome editing in a wide variety of organisms.



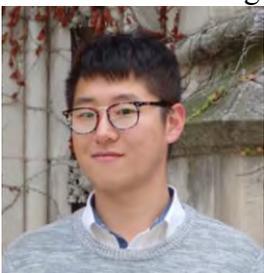
RNA Society/Scaringe Graduate Student Award

Madeline Sherlock is a graduate student completing the requirements for her PhD degree in the laboratory of **Ronald Breaker** at Yale University in New Haven CT. She received her BS degree at Pennsylvania State University at University Park, PA, where she worked as an undergraduate in the laboratory of **Phil Bevilacqua**. Her doctoral work in the Breaker lab examines orphan riboswitches. Her discoveries have allowed her to identify four distinct riboswitch classes for guanidine and identify the ligands for three of those. Her work has identified the regulation mechanisms for some of the most fundamental biochemical processes on the planet.



RNA Society/Scaringe Graduate Student Award

Boxuan Zhao is a graduate student who completed the requirements for his MS and PhD degree in 2017 in the laboratory of **Chuan He** at the University of Chicago, in Chicago, IL. He received his BS degree while working with **Peng Chen** at Peking University in China. His doctoral work at the University of Chicago is in the area of RNA epitranscriptomics: examining the biological function of RNA post-transcriptional modifications. His work has focused on m6A methylation. In a variety of studies in various model systems he has demonstrated that m6A in mRNA can directly impact translation of RNA and that the state of RNA methylation plays key roles in global transcriptome switching during cell differentiation and tissue development.



RNA 2018 Travel Award Application

We are pleased to announce that travel awards to our annual meeting are once again available.

The RNA Society provides travel fellowships in support of researchers who are constrained financially from attending our conference. In most cases, the fellowships will be made in the form of reduced or waived registration fees, although it is possible that some contribution toward travel costs could be made in addition to the fee waiver. Travel reimbursement, if awarded, will be presented in the form of a check that you pick up with your conference materials, or as a credit card reimbursement, or an electronic funds transfer from the RNA Society shortly after the close of the conference.

Please note:

- Fellowships are restricted to RNA Society members. To become a member, go to: <http://www.rnasociety.org/become-a-member/>. To renew your membership, go to: https://www.rnasociety.org/members/members-only/?url=arssainvpay.pay_page
- Abstracts submitted with this travel fellowship application will NOT be entered into the conference registration system. You will need to make a separate conference registration, followed by a separate abstract submission once you have registered for the conference.
- The application for travel fellowships should be submitted by **February 26, 2018** for those who want to be notified in time to make the orals application deadline **or want to be considered in the first round of funding**. We will continue to accept applications after this date, until **March 13th**, but available funds are likely to be diminished substantially in a second round.

Questions can be addressed to travel@rnasociety.org

If you wish to apply for a fellowship, please complete the application at the following link:

<https://www.rnasociety.org/members/travel-fellowships/>

We look forward to seeing you in Berkeley this summer.

Group Registration Incentive

The RNA Society wants to encourage as many members as possible to attend our annual meeting. To that end, we are offering a new discount to our members who bring three or more lab members to the conference.

Here are the requirements:

- This offer is only for **overseas** labs (i.e. outside of North America) whose lab head is an RNA Society member. To become a member, go to: <https://www.rnasociety.org/become-a-member/>. To renew your membership, go to: https://www.rnasociety.org/members/members-only/?url=arssainvpay.pay_page
- There must be at least **three** paid registrations from the same lab—excluding individuals who receive travel fellowships from the Society—and the **lab head must be a conference attendee**. We want to encourage participation by more senior researchers, as well as grad students and post docs.
- Only one registration refund per lab – the lowest of the three paid fees will be refunded. Travel fellowship recipients cannot be included among the three.
- Refunds will be in the form of a check when you arrive at the conference, or as a credit card reimbursement or electronic funds transfer shortly after the close of the conference.



- Due to foreign exchange fluctuations, the refund received may vary somewhat from the original payment sent. We will, however, make every effort to minimize the difference.
- This offer **expires on May 1, 2018**. Three participants must be identified, registered and paid prior to May 1, 2018 for the lab to be eligible for a refund.

We look forward to seeing you in Berkeley this summer.

News from the RNA Society Junior Scientists

Happy New Year, Junior Scientists!

We are busy planning for this year's annual meeting at UC Berkeley and are excited to be hosting three events during which you will have the opportunity to get to know your fellow RNA Society junior scientists and explore various career paths! See <https://www.rnasociety.org/junior-scientists/> for more information!

Our first event will be a pre-meeting activity on Tuesday, May 29th, during which you will have the opportunity to explore the beautiful environmentally-friendly city of San Francisco by bike! Please visit <https://www.rnasociety.org/junior-scientists/events/> for more information and to register. We will also be hosting our junior scientist-only social on Wednesday, May 30th. This event is a great opportunity to meet your peers, unwind, socialize! We hope you will be able to join us for a drink!

We are also particularly excited to be hosting our career development workshop entitled "Careers Beyond Academia". This workshop will bring leading scientists from the biotechnology sector representing various career stages and trajectories. Confirmed session speakers include **Dr. Rachel Haurwitz**, CEO of Caribou Biosciences, **Dr. Leah Makley**, president and CEO of Viewpoint Therapeutics, **Dr. Donald McCarthy**, Co-founder of Empire Biotechnologies, **Dr. James Kiefer**, Senior Scientist and Associate Director, Structural Biology, Genentech, and **Ron Batra**, Genomics Scientist with Verily Life Sciences focused on developing novel methods to better sequence and analyze patient tissues, with a long-term interest in RNA therapeutics. Following brief presentations, we will open a discussion panel and focus on various strategies and skillsets necessary for navigating transitions into industry and biotechnology career paths.

You can keep in touch with us throughout the year via email (junior_scientists@rnasociety.org) or social media. Our contact information is also posted on the RNA 2018 website.

RNA Society Junior



@jrRNAscientis



RNA Society Junior



Looking forward to meeting everyone at UC Berkeley this spring!

Eleonora de Klerk – Eleonora.deklerk@ucsf.edu

Fadi Marayati – marab15@wfu.edu

Julie Loiselle – loiselle.julie@gmail.com

Kris Brannan – kbrannan@ucsd.edu



Meet the Junior Scientist Committee Representatives

Eleonora de Klerk – Incoming Postdoc Representative

I completed my PhD at Leiden University Medical Center, in The Netherlands, under the supervision of Prof.



P.A.C. 't Hoen and **Prof. J.T. den Dunnen**. During my PhD, I was investigating alternative regulatory mechanism of gene expression in the context of skeletal muscle biology, focusing on the process of alternative polyadenylation in Oculopharyngeal muscular Dystrophy. Currently, I am a postdoctoral fellow in **Hebrok's** group at UCSF (University of California, San Francisco - USA), where I focus on pancreatic beta cell biology, with the long-term objective of generating hESC-derived and iPSC-derived β -cells that can be used to treat diabetic patients in the near future.

By joining the RNA Junior Scientists Committee this year, I hope I'll help connecting PhDs and Postdocs working in the RNA field. The way we are doing this is by organizing fun and constructive activities during the annual RNA Society meeting (such as our pre-meeting bike tour, the afternoon drinks, and a career development workshop!). I strongly believe this is the best way to facilitate the sharing of knowledge and to create bridges between labs!

I am looking forward to seeing you all at Berkeley/San Francisco this May!

Julie Loiselle – Incoming Postdoc Representative



I am currently a first-year postdoctoral fellow at Laurentian University in Sudbury, Ontario, Canada. My current research project aims to determine the molecular mechanisms regulating the development of various liver diseases, including steatosis and cancer. As part of the RNA Society's Junior Scientist Committee, I am most excited to be involved in engaging junior scientists, and providing important career development and networking opportunities, particularly during the annual meeting. Looking forward to meeting everyone at UC Berkeley this spring!

Kristopher Brannan – Continuing Postdoc Representative

I am fourth year postdoctoral fellow with **Dr. Gene Yeo's** group at UCSD. My research is focused on characterization of RNA-binding activity for newly discovered RNA-binding protein candidates and rational design of new RNA-protein interactions. I've enjoyed participating on the RNA Junior Scientist Committee for the last two years and networking with all the fantastic invited speakers and wonderful RNA-Society colleagues involved with our workshops and events.



Fadi Bahjat Marayati – Continuing Graduate Student Representative

I am originally from Aleppo, Syria. I received my Bachelor of Science in Biology at the American University of Beirut, Lebanon. In 2012, I moved to North Carolina to study for my Master of Science in Biology at the University of North Carolina – Greensboro. I am currently a 3rd year Ph.D. student in the department of Biology at Wake Forest University, where I work at the intersection of RNA Biology and Epigenetics; I focus primarily on the fission yeast MTREC and EJC orthologs and their role in the maturation of meiotic mRNA transcripts during meiosis. As a Junior Scientist Committee member, I plan to continue the society's solid career development efforts and stress the importance of engaging young scientists through social media and online workshops, outside of the time frame of the yearly meeting. I hope that young scientists can gain a strong



sense of inclusion in the society, and can benefit from the career development workshops to see their future in the field from the perspective of academia and industry professionals.

If you're interested in joining the Junior Scientist Committee, please find a representative at RNA 2018 (Kris, Fadi, Eleonora, or Julie) and tell us how you can contribute!

From the desk of the CEO Jim McSwiggen

Happy 25th Anniversary to the RNA Society! This year marks the 25th anniversary of the founding of our Society! Unfortunately, the celebration gets a bit diluted by the fact that we managed to spread out the key events over a period of four years, as shown in the table below.



22-Jan-93	Articles of Incorporation adopted by the RNA Society Board
27-Jan-93	Papers filed establishing the RNA Society as a non-profit entity in Colorado
24-May-94	First official conference of the RNA Society: "RNA Processing Meeting of the RNA Society"
1-Aug-94	Formation of the journal, RNA
1-Mar-95	First issue of the journal, RNA
28-Jun-95	Bylaws adopted by the RNA Society Board of Directors
28-May-96	RNA '96 The First Annual Meeting of the RNA Society

Nevertheless, we will work to recognize this anniversary throughout the year. In this newsletter, we reproduce the excellent article that Olke Uhlenbeck wrote for the August 2005 newsletter, titled "An Imperfect Account of the Founding of the RNA Society" (see p15). In addition, we are working to recruit some of the founders to write a new perspective on the development the RNA field. Look for that sometime in the Fall.

So how has the RNA Society fared in the past 25 years? I would suggest that it has done very well by all measures. The records from the earliest days are somewhat incomplete, but below is a sample of some key facts and how far we've come.

Membership	764 in 1996; 1785 in 2017 (a change of +234%)
Meeting Attendance	600 in 2003; 1001 in 2017 (fluctuates)
Meeting Abstracts	70-85% of attendees submit abstracts (fluctuates)
Journal Income	\$25 K in 2003; \$300 K in 2016
Grants to Small Conferences	6 awards totaling \$5300 in 2005; 22 awards totaling \$22 K in 2017
Travel Awards	15 awards totaling \$4800 in 2007; 180 awards totaling \$128 K in 2017
RNA Salons	29 awards totaling \$29 K in 2016/17 (1st year)

The increase in society membership is surprising, given that many other societies are seeing a decrease in membership. I attribute this result to the fact that we're bringing significant and increasing value to an RNA Society membership. Attendance at our annual meeting has fluctuated over the years, but the trend seems to be toward modest growth (1.5%/year). The bit that I am most proud of is the dramatic increase in funds to support small conferences, travel awards, and RNA Salons in recent years. Along with our journal, annual conference, and Junior Scientist activities, I believe that this is where we make our biggest contribution to supporting RNA researchers. When I became CEO in 2011, our total assets were still too low for the society to survive a



disastrous annual conference (as could have happened in 2011 after the Japan earthquake). We successfully built up those assets to a safe level, after which we could devote more efforts to financial support of the RNA community. In 2015, the Board instructed that we should scale back building up our reserves, and should now focus on helping more researchers through financial support. That is what we've done and will continue to do.

This year also marks the beginning of my 8th year as CEO of the RNA Society. That means that it's time to start the search for a successor in 2020. It's not that I've grown tired of doing this job; far from it. Rather, this move is motivated by my firm belief that the RNA Society needs to have new volunteers taking on the roles of leadership in order for our society to survive and thrive. The new blood brings new ideas and new enthusiasm to our association—and allows more people to take on responsibility for its success. Thus, we are starting to look now for a replacement starting in 2020. That might seem like a long time away, but it should lead to a smoother transition. This will give us a year to find a replacement, and another year for that person to become familiar with the job by “listening in” to email exchanges before having to take over in 2020. That will give both the Society and the candidate(s) sufficient time to think about whether this is a good fit. For more information you can check out the ad in this newsletter (below).

If you're looking for a volunteer opportunity with the RNA Society, you might also want to consider the open position for Chief Financial Officer (CFO). That key open position is advertised (p.3) in this newsletter.

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

Jim McSwiggen, CEO
CEO@rnasociety.org

RNA Society Chief Executive Officer opening in 2020

The RNA Society is beginning a search for a new Chief Executive Officer (CEO). The position becomes available in 2020.

We seek an individual who is committed to the success of the RNA Society, who works well with others, is a strategic thinker, and a detail-oriented problem solver. Most importantly, the candidate must be able to devote a significant fraction of their schedule to society activities. The position is best suited to more senior members of the society. The CEO also is a member of our Board of Directors, so applicants must be full voting members of the Society (not student or post-doc members).

A more detailed list of CEO responsibilities are outlined [here](#). The position will consume about 5-8 hrs of time per week (15% FTE), plus 4-5 trips per year (one of the trips being to attend the annual conference). As with all positions in the RNA Society, the CEO is unpaid, although an honorarium and travel funds are associated with the position.

If you are interested in being considered for the CEO position, please contact **Jim McSwiggen** at ceo@rnasociety.org, or President **Juan Valcarcel** at juan.valcarcel@crg.es. Questions about the position can be addressed to Jim McSwiggen.



Chairman of the Meetings Committee Benoit Chabot

We are moving closer with great anticipation to our first RNA Society meeting in California to be held May 29 to June 3, 2018 at UC Berkeley. **Adrian Ferré-d'Amaré** and his team of co-organizers (**Anne Ephrussi**, **Atlanta Cook**, **Mihaela Zavolan** and **Don Rio**) will soon be waiting for your abstracts.



The **2019 meeting** is also on track. It will be held in **Krakow, Poland** at the ICE Kraków Congress Centre (June 10 to 16, 2019). **Witek Filipowicz** is the lead organizer for this meeting. His team of co-organizers include **Brenda Bass** (Salt Lake City, USA), **Elena Conti** (Martinsried, Germany), **Tetsuro Hirose** (Sapporo, Japan), **Gene Yeo** (San Diego, USA) and **Artur Jarmolowski** (Poznan, Poland).

Vancouver, Canada has been selected as the venue for the **25th RNA Society meeting in 2020** (May 26-31). Finally, we are now collecting information on potential venues for the **26th RNA Society meeting** to be held in **Asia** in **2021**.

I am grateful to members of the Meetings Committee for their efficient contributions in the often-difficult task of selecting continents, venues and organizers for our meetings. Members of this committee now include **Markus Bohnsack**, **Michelle Hastings**, **Shinichi Nakagawa**, **Marie Öhman**, **Renée Schroeder**, **Erik Sontheimer**, **Katrin Karbstein**, **Karla Neugebauer** and **Yukihide Tomari**.

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

Best wishes to all for a productive New Year 2018!
Benoit Chabot Benoit.Chabot@USherbrooke.ca
Chair of the Meetings Committee



From the desk of Membership Chair Kristian Baker



Last July, I shared news with you that membership in the RNA Society had reached an all-time high of 1645 members – but only six months later, I am delighted to report that we continue to grow and are now 1785 researchers strong!

Whether your commitment in the Society hinges on the annual meeting this year being held in beautiful, sunny southern California, or our on-going efforts to expand and enhance the value of being a member in the RNA Society, I would like to thank you for your support and commitment. You and your colleagues represent the finest and most talented scientists and trainees in the field of RNA, and working together as a community is the best way to enhance professional development and cultivate new and exciting research collaborations and discoveries!

RNA Salon update:

In only its second year, the RNA Salon program has quickly become an important component of RNA Society membership and programming. Through their numerous and year-long activities, RNA Salons provide an important platform for both new and experienced RNA researchers to network and collaborate, exchange ideas, and simply enjoy their passion for RNA science together.

For the 2017/2018 academic year, the RNA Society selected 37 RNA Salon applications – encompassing an astounding 4,000 RNA researchers – for sponsorship and financial support. While several Salons applied to renew their programs from last year, we are pleased to report the addition of 13 new RNA Salon initiatives this year! RNA Salons are found throughout North America, South America, Europe, Asia and Australia and truly reflect the international flair of our Society. To find an RNA Salon in your area, please visit the RNA Society website at <https://www.rnasociety.org/rna-salons> and check back often to learn more about individual RNA Salons that are featured bimonthly.

Congratulations and thanks to the colleagues who are both organizing and participating in RNA Salons around the world – it is clear that your efforts have a tremendous impact on your RNA community! And a special thank-you must be extended to Membership Committee member, Dr. Ute Kothe (University of Lethbridge, Alberta, Canada), who spearheaded the program this year and who continues to be instrumental in its success!

RNA Member Spotlight update:

As announced last fall, the RNA Society is launching a new initiative – the RNA Member Spotlight Series - to recognize and highlight the outstanding lives and accomplishments of our members. Under the direction of Membership Committee member, Dr. Olivia Rissland (University of Colorado at Denver), we have recruited four eager RNA enthusiasts to help interview members and compose profiles. Please join Olivia and me in welcoming (and thanking) these members for their engagement and efforts:

Corbin Black (Ph.D. candidate, University of Northern British Columbia, Canada)

Ana Rita Neves (Ph.D. candidate, INSA, Portugal)

Rafaela Lacerda Santos (Post-doctoral Fellow, INSA, Portugal)

Jaira Vasconcellos (Post-doctoral Fellow, NIH, US)

Starting in April, watch the RNA Society website, your in-box, and social media feeds monthly to find out which Society members (one Full member and one Student/Post-doctoral Fellow member) have been cast in the spotlight, and learn their secrets, tricks, advice, and favorite reason for being a member of the RNA Society!

Thank you all for your continued support in the RNA Society and I look forward to seeing you in Berkeley!



An Imperfect Account of the Founding of the RNA Society

Olke Uhlenbeck



It's hard for me to believe that the RNA Society is already more than 12 years old! What follows is a personal recollection of the events leading to the founding of the RNA Society,

based entirely on my memory and a few conversations with Joan Steitz and Tom Cech (who were there at the time). Since I did relatively little checking of facts and the details are fading from our collective memories, consider this simply as a story rather than a history. Perhaps Chris Greer can do a more complete job at some later time.

Early Days

The RNA Society emerged from a group of scientists engaged in the study of RNA Processing, a now somewhat antiquated term for the metabolic events that RNA undergoes between transcription and final function. As John Abelson discussed this year in Banff, the group was nucleated by a meeting in Brookhaven in 1974, but did not gather regularly until 1982 when Cold Spring Harbor Lab started holding a RNA Processing Meeting in late May. From the beginning, the RNA Processing meeting had an unusual format. Unlike other "focused" nucleic acid meetings at the time, RNA Processing was run like a giant group meeting. There were no invited speakers and, while all the lab heads attended, most of the talks were given by students and postdocs. Talks were short and rarely included much background. Often virtually duplicate talks were given by two different labs. As an outsider to the field, this drove me nuts. Why couldn't anyone get up and summarize what was going on? It took me several years to appreciate the advantages of this format. (I note that, despite many discussions, this unusual organizational structure has not changed in 24 years!)

Another unique feature of the RNA Processors was that, as a group, they were scientifically inclusive. Instead of defining their field and protecting its boundaries, from the very beginning they welcomed everyone interested in RNA. Their thinking was that any kind of information about

RNA could be helpful in understanding the complicated processing reactions they were studying. As a result, nucleotide organic chemists, biophysical chemists and structural biologists who were only peripherally interested in RNA metabolism started showing up at the meeting and finding a large audience interested in their favorite molecule. This inclusiveness gave a unique feeling to the meeting and was critical for the ultimate emergence of the RNA Society.

As a result of the explosive growth of the RNA Processing field and its intellectual expansionism, the meeting soon was exceeding the capacity of Cold Spring Harbor. By the late 1980's, organizing the meeting had become a nightmare. The three or four organizers not only had to decide who got to give a talk, but how many members from each lab were allowed to come to the meeting. No-one wanted to be an organizer because you were sure to make someone mad at you. The quality of the meeting also deteriorated. Talks got ridiculously short (6 minutes) sessions got ridiculously long (midnight) and, worst of all, wonderful science could not be presented. The situation was acute. Should the group somehow divide into two separate meetings? Should the format be changed?

**Will lab heads continue to attend the RNA Society meeting?
Will the Society meet the needs of RNA scientists from around the world...**

The Critical Decision

At a luncheon, held during the annual meeting in May 1991, past and present organizers met as usual to plan the next year's meeting. Instead, a wide ranging conversation developed over what to do about the future of the meeting. The consensus was that we didn't want to break up into sub-disciplines. Indeed, many felt that RNA science was poised to impact other fields that were not yet represented and the meeting should continue to expand. On the other hand, many also enjoyed the intimacy of a small meeting (and the ambiance of



Cold Spring Harbor) and worried that a huge meeting would lose the cohesive feeling that the group enjoyed. A compromise was adopted: we would alternate between a “small” meeting at Cold Spring Harbor and a “big” meeting somewhere else. The 1992 RNA Processing Meeting would be held somewhere in Colorado, hosted by Tom Cech and myself (with help from Walter Keller and Alan Weiner), and the 1994 meeting looked like it could be held in Madison.

A lot more was discussed at the 1991 organizers meeting. The possibility of a journal was raised and a publication committee appointed. The pros and cons of starting a RNA Society similar to the recently formed Protein Society were discussed, but I don’t remember reaching any decision. But looking back, everything was put in motion on that day.

the Society acts as an intellectual “home” in a scientific world that is often large and impersonal

The 1992 meeting at Keystone was an adventure. As usual, Tom Cech was a wonder. He somehow convinced Keystone that we were a real organization and 300 plus people were actually going to show up on the last week of May. (It probably helped that they had a lot of empty rooms during the dead period after skiing season and before the summer season.) I remember that we worried a lot about how much to charge for the meeting. Keystone’s rate per person depended on the number of attendees and we had no idea how many would come to this new location. By making the conservative assumption that 350 would come, we could charge a fee similar to the previous year at Cold Spring Harbor. Instead, attendance jumped to about 500 and suddenly we were flush with extra money. This led to sumptuous upgrades at the coffee breaks and a surplus that helped finance the 1994 Madison meeting. In addition to this financial success, everyone was delighted that attendance was not restricted (but not happy that it had snowed). Importantly, the feeling of cohesiveness had not been lost with the larger group. Thus, the

RNA Processing Meeting had successfully departed from Cold Spring Harbor.

Birth of the Society

In early 1993, we hit a snag. The surplus from the 1992 meeting was in a bank account in Boulder in the name of the meeting organizers. In the eyes of the government this might represent personal income and be subject to federal and state income taxes. (Tom and I never told Walter and Alan about this.) Thus, we had to form a non-profit organization. For a small fee a local lawyer drew up papers incorporating the RNA Society as a non-profit entity in the State of Colorado as of Jan 27, 1993. Tom Cech was President, I was Secretary/Treasurer and Joan Steitz, who was on sabbatical in Boulder at the time, was made Vice-President and President-“Elect”. We celebrated over a bottle of Chardonnay on my deck soon afterward. It was pretty informal, but we had safeguarded the meeting funds and the RNA Society was born.

Defining the formal organizational structure of the RNA Society and the critical appointment of Chris Greer as CEO occurred at a special meeting during the 1993 RNA Processing meeting at Cold Spring Harbor. Bylaws were subsequently written and elections held for council members and officers for the following year. By 1994, the Society was fully launched and the Madison meeting was termed “The RNA Processing Meeting of the RNA Society”. By 1996 the meeting left Cold Spring Harbor for good and the Madison meeting that year was “The First Annual Meeting of the RNA Society”. Cold Spring Harbor continued to have a more focused meeting on RNA processing. In 1995 *RNA* was started through the efforts of many, especially Tim Nilsen, but that’s another story.

The challenge for the next decade will be to maintain our cohesiveness

Why have a Society Anyway?

Looking back, I think the founding of the Society was the inevitable consequence of a



cohesive group of individuals wanting to formalize something important that they had created together. One part of it was our excitement about the field itself. There was a collective vision that RNA science was just beginning to take off and that it would soon have a major impact on all of modern biology. Another part was that we wanted to preserve the democratic culture and the sense of inclusiveness. Another was to have a formal way to include and interact with RNA scientists from all over the world. Finally, by becoming a Society we could run “our” meeting and publish “our” journal. Subsequently, it has become clear that having a Society can help its members. As Abelson pointed out, the Society acts as an intellectual “home” in a scientific world that is often large and impersonal. Many of us work at Universities that only have a few individuals who can understand and appreciate our research. We would feel isolated without the support of RNA scientists at other places. Sometimes Society members at other Universities can tell our administrators that we really are good at what we do. In a sense, we are a group of colleagues who not only do experiments for each other’s edification and entertainment, but also try to maintain high standards and help one another professionally.

The RNA Society started for all the same good reasons that other scientific societies start. The

challenge for the next decade will be to maintain our cohesiveness and not, like some societies, degenerate into an ill-defined organization that simply collects dues and people put its name on their CVs to show that they are serious players. (If that happens, I’ll resign.) This will not be trivial. Many of the individuals involved in founding our Society are no longer able to give it as much attention as before, either because they have other important responsibilities or because they are nearing the end of their careers. The next generation has already begun to take over.

Another problem is that RNA science has become so successful that it is part of the mainstream of modern Molecular Biology. It is even featured in TV science programs. There are many competing meetings and Journals. Will lab heads continue to attend the RNA Society meeting? Will the Society meet the needs of RNA scientists from around the world, not just in the US and Canada? Will *RNA*, which has seen its ranking climb steeply in recent years, continue to grow in usefulness and reputation? Most importantly, will the youngest generation of students and postdocs grow to feel that they too are integral to the Society and its future? I will be watching with great interest.

Reprinted from RNA Society Newsletter, 2005



RNA Society-supported meetings

Reports from recent RNA meetings supported by the Society

2017 TRENd

August 2, 2017

Toronto, Ontario, Canada

The second annual Toronto RNA Enthusiasts' Day (TRENd) was held August 2, 2017 at the Peter Gilgan Centre for Research and Learning, Hospital for Sick Children in Toronto. The Symposium was a student-led and trainee-focused event and was spearheaded by an outstanding team of graduate students from the University of Toronto that included (back row of photo, left to right) Julia Sobotka, Monica Wu, Miranda Wang, Christopher Wedeles, Melissa Wong Danielle Bilodeau, Amanda Charlesworth, (front row end), Danielle Bilodeau and Ashrut Narula. With guidance from faculty advisors, Dr. Julie Claycomb and Dr. Olivia Rissland (front row, first two, respectively), the organizing group brought together the vibrant and diverse RNA biology community from the Greater Toronto Area and beyond (with over 180 attendees, some traveling from as far as Montreal and New York) that created a platform that united researchers at every level for a day of RNA-focused discussions.



Dr. Phillip Zamore (HHMI Investigator/Univ. of Massachusetts Medical School; front row middle) presented a captivating keynote address on piRNA-mediated gene regulation during spermatogenesis. As is the goal of TRENd, trainees across all career stages showcased their research and the remainder of the day featured 12 oral presentations solely from graduate students and post-doctoral fellows. **Matthew Berg** (Brandl lab; Univ. of Western Ontario) took home the prize for best talk for his work on the evolution of mis-translating tRNAs. The lunch break included a lively poster session with over 60 poster presenters, with **Andrea Brumwell** (Univ. of Guelph) and **Jimmy Ly** (Univ. of Toronto) receiving the best poster prize and a undergraduate student recognition prize, respectively. We acknowledge the generous support from the RNA Society, as well as the Genetics Society of America and a number of corporate sponsors, who provided funds that ensured that the day was an overwhelming success.

Please join us for the 2018 TRENd meeting to be held July 31, 2018 when Dr. Joan Steitz will join us as our keynote speaker and distinguished guest. Please see www.trendrna.com for more information. To learn more about Toronto RNA Club monthly meetings, please visit www.torontorna.com - all RNA enthusiasts are welcome!

18th Annual RiboClub Meeting

September 25 – 28, 2017

Orford, Quebec, Canada

RNA scientists in Sherbrooke organized the 18th Annual **RiboClub Meeting** which was held in Orford at Hotel



Chéribourg in the vicinity of Sherbrooke, Quebec, Canada. The meeting was organized in partnership

with the [Swiss National Center of Competence in RNA & Disease](http://www.sncrnad.com). Photographs, program and more information on the meeting can be found at <http://main.riboclub.org/annual-meeting/#upcoming>.



The program included keynote lectures by **Peter Sarnow** and **Jack Szostak**, poster sessions and invited speakers. In addition to covering different aspects of RNA biology, a special session entitled **RNPs: the Good, the Bad and the Ugly** offered insight into the role of RNP complexes in health and disease. Two travel awards were offered with the appreciated support of the **RNA Society**: the awardees were selected by a team of RiboClub graduate students and post-docs (represented here by Yulia Vasianovich). The 2017 awardees were **Divya Sharma** from University of Lethbridge (Alberta) and **Danielle Bilodeau** from University of Toronto (Ontario).

The Biology of RNA-Protein Complexes

October 11 - 14, 2017

Regensburg, Germany

From October 11 to 14 more than 150 participants gathered in the old town of Regensburg, a UNESCO cultural heritage site, for four days packed with exciting science. The conference was organized by the DFG-funded Collaborative Research Center 960 that unites 13 research groups and two core/service projects at the University of Regensburg focusing on the biogenesis and regulation of RNPs. The aim of the conference was to provide a broad perspective of RNP biology by covering a diverse range of RNP-related topics that were represented in more than 50 talks and 70 posters. Bringing together experts from the different fields of RNA biology allowed discussion of general and unifying principles in RNP biogenesis, structure and function and yielded novel insights into RNA biology.

Keynote lectures were delivered by Alan Hinnebusch (NIH, Bethesda, USA), Reinhard Lührmann (Max-Planck-Institute for Biophysical Chemistry, Göttingen, Germany), Roy Parker (University of Colorado, Boulder, USA), and Nahum Sonenberg (McGill University, Montreal, Canada).

We, the organizers (Dina Grohmann, Herbert Tschochner, Thomas Dresselhaus, Gunter Meister, and Jan Medenbach), want to thank all participants for their contributions and the lively discussions! Also we would like to thank the RNA Society for the support that enabled us to provide travel fellowships to several PhD students.

Rustbelt RNA Meeting (RRM) 2017

October 13 & 14, 2017

Indianapolis, Indiana, USA

The 2017 Rustbelt RNA Meeting (RRM), an annual conference that brings together RNA scientists from the Midwestern states and surrounding regions of the United States to present and discuss new developments in the field, was held at the Sheraton City Center Hotel in downtown Indianapolis on October 13 & 14, 2017. This year's RRM, organized by Co-chairs Sarath Chandra Janga (IUPUI) and Timea Gerczei Fernandez (Ball State Univ./Sam Houston State Univ.) encompassed the largest geographic area in RRM's history and attracted attendees from as far as Buffalo, New York, Duluth, Minnesota and Houston, Texas. The 305 participants included 157 graduate students, 37 undergraduates, 21 postdoctoral fellows, and 58 principal investigators.

A hallmark of the RRM is its focus on trainee research and career development. Following a rich tradition, the 2017 meeting highlighted cutting-edge research through 26 oral presentations by undergraduate, graduate and postdoctoral trainees, as well as 133 poster presentations. The meeting included two talks from junior principal investigators - Dr. Wenqian Hu (Mayo Clinic) and Dr. Yury Polikanov (Univ. of Illinois at Chicago) - and a Keynote Lecture entitled "Sequence, Structural and Context Preferences of Human RNA-binding Proteins" delivered by Dr. Chris Burge (MIT).

Prior to the start of the main meeting, trainees had the opportunity to attend one of two NSF-funded Computational Workshops and a Career Mentoring Lunch. Thirty-two trainees attended each workshop and 60 trainees (and 14 mentors) attended the Career Mentoring Lunch (organized by Dr Timea Gerczei Fernandez) Trainees received advice on topics ranging from careers in industry, academia, early career development and work/life balance.

Support from the National Science Foundation facilitated the participation of 10 trainees from underrepresented groups and partially defrayed the cost of attendance for all trainees. Awards for outstanding presentations were made possible through the generous support of the RNA Society and CSHL Press. The organizers also acknowledge academic sponsors: the Indiana Clinical and Translational Sciences Institute, IUPUI School of Informatics and Computing, the Ohio State University Center for RNA Biology and Department of Microbiology, Cleveland State University Center for Gene



Regulation in Health and Disease, Penn State Center for RNA Molecular Biology, and Ball State University, as well as our many corporate sponsors.

Oral Presentation Award recipients: Undergraduate: **Seth Lyon** (OSU); Graduate student/postdoc: **Angla Yu** (Northwestern Univ), **James Marks** (Univ of Illinois at Chicago), **Alan Kessler** (OSU)



Poster Presentation Award recipients: Undergraduate: **Jackie Chen** (Univ of Illinois, Urbana Champagne), **Edric Choi** (Denison Univ), **Joshua-Paolo Reyes** (OSU) and **Jennifer Brooks** (Northern Kentucky Univ). Graduate student/postdoc: **Daniel Dayeh** (OSU), **Lauren Woodward** (OSU), **Waqar Arif** (Univ of Illinois, Urbana Champagne), **Geeta Palsule** (OSU), **Michael Wolfe** (Univ of Michigan), **Suba Rajendren** (Indiana Univ) and **Yi-Ju Tseng** (Univ of Michigan).

2017 Symposium on RNA Biology XII: RNA Tool and Target October 19 – 20, 2017 Chapel Hill, North Carolina, USA

The 2017 Symposium on RNA Biology XII: RNA Tool and Target was held on October 19 and 20, 2017 at the Genome Sciences Building at the University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill. Three keynote speakers (Douglas Black, Eric Westhof, and Sandra Wolin), five invited speakers (Victoria D’Souza, Kristen Lynch, Jeffery Kieft, Robert Spitale, Gabriele Varani), and 12 scientists selected from submitted abstracts presented their research on a wide range of RNA topics.

Thanks to the generous support of the RNA society, 11 travel fellowships were awarded. Prizes for the best graduate student and post-doctoral fellow presentations were awarded to Jackson Trotman (Ohio State Univ. for his presentation “*RNA guanine-7 methyltransferase catalyzes the methylation of cytoplasmically recapped RNAs*”) and Monica Pillon (NIEHS for her presentation “*Grc3 Activates the Essential Endoribonuclease Las1 for Specific RNA Cleavage*”). All 185 attendees (including many members of the RNA Society) enjoyed the scientific program and opportunity to discuss RNA science in Chapel Hill.



Please visit <http://ncrna2017.web.unc.edu/post-event/> for more pictures, awardees and post-event information.

Upcoming RNA meetings of interest

Mobile Genetic Elements and Genome Plasticity February 11 – 15, 2018 Santa Fe, New Mexico, USA

Keystone Symposia will be holding its second conference on “Mobile Genetic Elements and Genome Plasticity” next February 11-15, 2018 at the Eldorado Hotel in Santa Fe, New Mexico. Transposable elements are potent sources of genetic variation that also regulate the expression of large gene networks and are increasingly recognized to play a role in diseases such as cancer and neurodegeneration.

Organized by Drs. Marlene Belfort of the University of Albany, SUNY, Evan E. Eichler of the University of Washington, Henry L. Levin of the National Institutes of Health and Lynne E. Maquat of the University of Rochester Medical Center, the four-day conference seeks to forge stronger ties between the field of transposon biology and the field of genome analysis and genome editing.



Opening the conference will be a keynote address by Dr. Emmanuelle Charpentier on “Limitation of Horizontal Gene Transfer by CRISPR-Cas Systems in Bacteria: Mechanisms and Plasticity.” This will be followed by four days of plenary sessions, workshops and poster sessions, as well as free time for recreation and collaboration-building in the historic city of Santa Fe or the surrounding mountains. Speakers include Drs. Rusty Gage, Robert Martienssen, David Sabatini, Joanne Wysocka and Feng Zhang.

Abstracts submitted by the November 14, 2017 abstract deadline will be considered for short talks on the conference program in both plenary sessions and workshops. The discounted registration deadline (saving \$200 on later fees) is December 14, 2017 at midnight US Mountain Time. Through October 14, 2017, graduate students and postdoctoral fellows can apply for scholarships – one of which is being funded by the RNA Society – to attend the conference. Further details can be found on the conference website at www.keystonesymposia.org/18B7. Don't miss this unique opportunity to hear from some of the leaders in this exciting field.

Bermuda Principles – Impact on Splicing 2nd Annual Conference
February 21 - 25, 2018
Southampton, Bermuda

The 2nd annual Bermuda Principles – Impact on Splicing meeting will be held the Fairmont Southampton Princess Hotel in Bermuda on February 21 – 25, 2018. The conference organizers are Carika Weldon (De Montfort University, Leicester), Cyril Dominguez (Uni. of Leicester) and Isabelle Behm-Ansmant (CNRS-Lorraine) and Eduardo Eyras (PFU, Barcelona).

The event has six keynote speakers including Adrain Krainer (CSHL), Robin Reed (Harvard Medical School), Franco Pagni (ICGEB, Italy), Gil Ast (Tel Aviv University, Israel), Tom Misteli (CCR, NIH), and Jean Beggs (Uni. of Edinburgh, Scotland) and four invited speakers including Stephen Rader (UBC, Canada), Jonathan Hall (ETH, Zurich), Steve Wilton (Murdoch University, Australia) and Zodwa Dlamini (MUT, South Africa).

The session topics include: Splicing mechanisms; RNA structures; RNA – protein structures; Bioinformatics; Splicing and disease; Links to transcription; Therapeutics and Commercialization. The remaining program is selected from the submitted abstracts and we strongly encourage graduate students and postdoctoral scientists to submit these for the opportunity to present.

We are glad to announce that with the support of the RNA Society we are able to offer travel fellowships for early-career researchers (PhD and post-docs) for those who otherwise would not be able to attend the meeting for financial reasons.

All conference attendees will have the option to participate in public engagement mini-lectures about general science topics, delivered to local students, science teachers and healthcare practitioners. If you are interested in taking part in these public engagement mini-lectures, and/or have ideas about topics, please email eduardo.eyras@upf.edu or admin@bermudaprinciples.org.

More information can be found by contacting the chief organizer (carika.weldon@dmu.ac.uk or chairman@bermudaprinciples.org) or at the Bermuda Principles Conference website <https://www.bermudaprinciples.org>.

2018 RNA Transport Meeting
March 3 - 6, 2018
Hotel Mutterhaus, Düsseldorf, Germany

The directional transport of mRNAs along the cytoskeleton and their local translation is an important mechanism of gene regulation in eukaryotes. Motor-protein containing, RNA-transporting complexes are highly dynamic and change their composition during the life of an mRNA from transcription to degradation. The conference aims to bring together various experts from a broad field of RNA biology with the goal of representing the current state of the mRNA-localization field and to discuss future directions.

Keynote Lectures:

Christine Mayr (Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center, USA)
Erin Schuman (MPI for Brain Research, Germany)



Confirmed Speakers:

Simon Bullock (MRC LMB, UK) Jeffrey A. Chao (FMI, Switzerland) Marina Chekulaeva (MDC, Germany) Barbara Conradt (LMU Munich, Germany) Anne Ephrussi (EMBL Heidelberg, Germany) Jeff Gerst (Weizmann Institute, Israel) Amy Gladfelter (University Chapel Hill, USA) Torben Heick Jensen (Aarhus University, Denmark) Julian König (IMB, Germany) Peter Lukavsky (CEITEC, Czech Republic) Markus Landthaler (MDC, Germany) Sebastian Maurer (CRG, ES) Stavroula Mili (NCI-CCR, USA) Michaela Müller-McNicoll (Frankfurt University, Germany) Michael Sattler (TU München & Helmholtz Zentrum München, Germany) Anne Spang (Biocenter Basel, Switzerland) Tatjana Tchumatchenko (MPI for Brain Research, Germany) Jernej Ule (Francis Crick Institute, UK) Henning Urlaub (MPI for Biophys. Chemistry, Germany)

Travel fellowships for students and postdocs are available! Selected abstracts will be chosen for short talks. More details including registration are available at the website: <https://www.rna-transport-2018.de>. The meeting is supported by the German research network FOR2333 on RNA localization (<http://www.for2333.de>).

Conference organizers: Michael Feldbrügge (Düsseldorf University, DE), Ralf-Peter Jansen (Tübingen University, DE), and Dierk Niessing (Ulm University & Helmholtz Zentrum München)

Regulating with RNA in Bacteria & Archaea**March 19 - 22, 2018****Seville, Spain**

It is our great pleasure to announce and invite you to the **5th Meeting on Regulating with RNA in Bacteria & Archaea** scheduled from March 19th – 22nd, 2018 in Seville (Spain).

Information regarding the meeting can be found on our conference website <http://www.rna-meeting.com>.

Meeting registration will be open soon, and the deadline for the abstract submission is November 15th, 2017.

Abstracts can be submitted at [http://RNA.2018.abstract-](http://RNA.2018.abstract-management.de/?utm_source=Newsletter_Call_for_abstracts&utm_medium=Newsletter&utm_campaign=RNA_2018)

[management.de/?utm_source=Newsletter_Call_for_abstracts&utm_medium=Newsletter&utm_campaign=RNA_2018](http://RNA.2018.abstract-management.de/?utm_source=Newsletter_Call_for_abstracts&utm_medium=Newsletter&utm_campaign=RNA_2018).

We look forward to welcoming you to the 2018 meeting in Spain! Ruth Schmitz-Streit, Cari Vanderpool, Gerhart Wagner & Wade C. Winkler (Conference Chairs).

EMBO Workshop on Noncoding RNAs in Embryonic Development and Cell Differentiation**April 8 - April 11, 2018****The David Lopatie Conference Center, Weizmann Institute, Rehovot, Israel**

This workshop will bring together scientists with common interests in noncoding RNA biology with topics spanning from ncRNA functional discoveries to the novel techniques used to uncover ncRNA function in cell fate transition in vitro and in vivo, in model organisms and in human, in health and disease. We will discuss methods for analysis of transcriptomic data, experimental schemes for linking ncRNAs sequences and structures to binding partners, and the pros and cons of various approaches for targeting noncoding RNAs in vivo. We will also discuss how insights from studying relatively well characterized ncRNAs, such as microRNAs and piRNAs can be translated into understanding of the more poorly understood ncRNA families.

Confirmed speakers: Andrew Baker (University of Edinburgh, UK) Irene Bozzoni (Universita di Roma, Rome, Italy) Marc Bühler (Friedrich Miescher Institute for Biomedical Research, Basel, Switzerland) Marina Chekulaeva (Max Delbrück Center, Berlin, Germany) Luisa Cochella (IMP, Vienna, Austria) Stefanie Dimmeler (University of Frankfurt, Germany) Jorge Ferrer (Imperial College London, UK) Phillip Grote (University of Frankfurt, Germany) Eran Hornstein (Weizmann Institute of Science, Rehovot, Israel) Kenneth Kosik (University of California, Santa Barbara, USA) Claudia Kutter (Karolinska Institutet, Stockholm, Sweden) Eleonora Leucci (KU Leuven, Belgium) Louise Laurent (University of California, San Diego, USA) Daniel Lim (University of California, San Francisco, USA) Anders Lund (University of Copenhagen, Denmark) Ana Claudia Marques (University of Lausanne, Switzerland) Gunter Meister (Universität Regensburg, Germany) Eric Miska (University of Cambridge, UK) Shinichi Nakagawa (Hokkaido University, Japan) Donal O'Carroll (MRC Centre for Regenerative Medicine, Edinburgh, UK)



Amy Pasquinelli (University of California, San Diego, USA) Ramesh Pillai (University of Geneva, Switzerland)
Oded Rechavi (Tel Aviv University, Israel) Claire Rougeulle (Université Paris Diderot, France) Hermona
Soreq (Hebrew University, Jerusalem, Israel) Stepanka Vanacova (Ceitec, Brno, Czech Republic)

Abstract deadline: February 3, 2018. Registration deadline: March 7, 2018

Travel fellowships for students and postdocs are available! Additional details can be found on the meeting
website: <http://meetings.embo.org/event/18-ncrna>

Translating Translation: From Basic Mechanisms to Molecular Medicine – 38th Blankenese Conference
May 5 - May 8, 2018
Hamburg, Germany

This conference will explore key findings about basic mechanisms of translation, their relevance to human disease, and how this knowledge can best be translated to the clinic. Leading scientists focused on basic molecular mechanisms of mRNA translation will be brought together with those who study diseases where effects on translation are prominent. A major goal of the conference will be to foster discussions between these groups. The interdisciplinary character of cutting edge research in translation mechanisms and disease applications, coupled with the intimate setting for which Blankenese Conferences are renowned will provide a perfect forum for advanced scientific exchange in these interconnected areas.

Specific topics will include

- Signaling pathways controlling translation in health and disease
- Cis elements and RNA-binding proteins in mRNA-specific translational control
- Contribution of translation to synaptic functions and neurological disorders
- Non-canonical translation (including circular RNAs and RAN translation)
- RNA modifications and specialized ribosomes in cancer and other diseases

Confirmed speakers

<http://www.zmnh.uni-hamburg.de/blankenese-conferences/38th-Conference-2018-Topics-And-Invited-Speakers.html>

For additional details and to register please see our website: <http://www.zmnh.uni-hamburg.de/blankenese-conferences/38th-Conference-2018.html>

We intend to provide a few stipends to support PhD students and scientists early in their career. Applicants should send a letter via email stating the reasons for their request (richter@uke.uni-hamburg.de).

Registration and Abstract deadline: February 23, 2018

TIDES: Oligonucleotide and Peptide Therapeutics
May 7-10 2018
Boston, MA USA

This is the largest meeting to accelerate oligonucleotide and peptide products from early discovery to late-stage development and commercialization. This conference is designed to offer separate tracks that cover the latest oligonucleotide and peptide development strategies from discovery nonclinical, clinical and CMC to late stage development.

For more information, speakers, sponsors and exhibits, see <https://lifesciences.knect365.com/tides/>

RNA Society members get 10% discount, remember to use the code: RNASOC! Register by February 2 and save \$600!

TIDES: Oligonucleotide & Peptide Therapeutics

May 7-10, 2018
Hynes Convention Center
Boston, MA

RNA Society
Members
SAVE 10%
Register with
Code RNASOC



2018 RiboWest
June 10 – 13 2018
Lethbridge, Alberta, Canada

We are pleased to invite you to the 2018 RiboWest Conference in Lethbridge, Alberta, Canada. This year the meeting will start the morning of June 10th with an excursion to the magnificent Waterton National Park (at the foot of the Canadian Rockies) and continue back at the University of Lethbridge with talks in the evening of over the following two days. The meeting will conclude in the morning of June 13th with a working breakfast that will include a session highlight young investigators.

One important aim of RiboWest is to support and facilitate trainee participation; to this end, we have partnered with the RNA Society to provide Student Fellowships and Presentation and Poster awards in recognition of our junior researchers. As in previous years, registration cost will be kept low to ensure trainee participation and we will also provide subsidized student accommodation.

Confirmed Speakers:

Jennifer Kugel (University of Colorado Boulder, USA) Steven Jones (Vancouver Genome Sciences Centre, Canada)
Nahum Sonenberg (McGill, Canada) Martin Hirst (University of British Columbia, Canada) Michelle Scott (University of Sherbrooke, Canada)

Conference Topics:

‘RNA in Health and Disease’ including regulation of mRNA translation, RNA in infectious diseases, and RNA-based therapeutics, and ‘New RNA Technologies’ in the study of gene expression regulation, RNA genomics and RNA synthetic biology and biophysics.

For more information and to register, please visit our website www.ribowest.org and follow us on Twitter @RiboWest.

Look forward to seeing you in Alberta in June - Athan Zovoilis, Nehal Thakor, Trushar Patel, and Ute Kothe (2018 Ribowest organizers)

13th Microsymposium on Small RNAs
June 18 - 20, 2018
Vienna, Austria

The “Microsymposium on Small RNAs” is a three day international conference that brings together young scientists, junior and senior group leaders, and company representatives from all over the world to present and discuss their latest findings in the exciting field of small RNAs and general RNA biology. The Microsymposium was founded in 2005 and has established itself as the major RNA silencing meeting in Europe. It is organized by the four research institutes IMBA, IMP, GMI and MFPL and the RNA community of the Vienna BioCenter.

The program will include lectures by the invited speakers Amy Buck, Richard Davis, Eric Lai, Wenbo Ma, Sebastian Marquardt, Christine Mayr, Kazufumi Mochizuki, Mariusz Nowacki, Ramesh Pillai, Yue Wan, Mihaela Zavolan, Zhao Zhang, and Xiuren Zhang.

Attendance of the Microsymposium is free of charge. Please register under <http://www.imba.oeaw.ac.at/microsymposium>.

A highlight of the meeting is always the PhD speaker sessions. PhD students can apply for oral presentations (deadline May 4th, 2018). Selected candidates will be awarded a fellowship with reimbursement of traveling and accommodation costs. We invite also submission of abstracts for poster presentations on or before the deadline of June 4th, 2018.

We are looking forward to welcoming you in Vienna! Luisa Cochella, Julius Brennecke, Javier Martinez, Michael Nodine, and Stefan Ameres (the Organization Committee).



FASEB-sponsored Machines on Genes

June 24-29, 2018

Snowmass, Colorado, USA

This FASEB SRC will unite scientists pushing the boundaries of our molecular understanding of the nucleic acid transactions that facilitate life. Information encoded in RNA and DNA is accessed, maintained, decoded and degraded by a staggering number of proteins, protein/DNA, and protein/RNA complexes that catalyze specific fundamental enzymatic reactions which drive nucleic acid transactions— not limited to, but including key cellular processes such as DNA replication and repair, recombination, transposition, transcription, translation and epigenetic gene regulation. These protein and RNA machines are impacted in varying disease states, and can be exploited for therapeutic advantage including using CRIPSR gene editing technologies. The use of emerging biophysical methodologies such as small-angle X-ray scattering and single-molecule spectroscopy/microscopy, cryo electron microscopy, and chemical biology has opened new doors to exploration of nucleic acid metabolism. This meeting will highlight exciting efforts underway to decipher the anatomy, architecture and mechanisms of these protein and protein-nucleic acid machines in order to understand how they recognize, engage, and manipulate the structure of DNA and RNA.

Keynote lectures will be given by Eva Nogales (UC Berkley/HHMI) and Xiadong Zhang (Imperial College).

We highly encourage student, postdoctoral trainees, and young investigators to attend, and will encourage their attendance with student and postdoc travel scholarships. A large number of oral presentations will also be selected from the abstracts. Additional organized "meet the experts" panel discussions will help junior colleagues navigate various topics related to their careers and women in science.

Please visit www.faseb.org/src/micro/Site/MachinesonGenes/Home.aspx for additional information or contact the meeting Organizers: Katrin Karbstein (Scripps Florida), Jens Michaelis (University of Ulm) or Scott Williams (NIEHS).

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

June 24 - June 29, 2018

Scottsdale, Arizona, USA

The organizers are delighted to announce the 2018 FASEB-sponsored Summer Research Conference on **Post-transcriptional Control of Gene Expression: Mechanisms of RNA Decay** will be held June 24th – 29th, 2018 in lovely Scottsdale, Arizona, USA.

This 5 day meeting will highlight current advances in our understanding of the mechanisms and enzymatic activities mediating RNA turnover in eukaryotic and prokaryotic cells and by viruses. Topics will cover 5' and 3' events in mRNA degradation, the coupling of mRNA translation and decay, RNA quality control mechanisms, and regulation of RNA turnover in development and disease.

Keynote presentations will be given by **Lynne Maquat** (University of Rochester) and **Joel Belasco** (New York University), and scientific sessions chaired by experts in the field. Oral presentations will include talks from internationally renowned, invited speakers alongside junior researchers selected from submitted abstracts.

Notably, this year's meeting will also include Career and Professional Development events on topics ranging from academic, industry and biotech research positions, science writing, and mentorship.

Sponsorship from the RNA Society has allowed for both travel fellowships and poster awards to be available to junior researchers (students and post-doctoral fellows) to attend and present their work at the meeting.

For more information, please visit the meeting website at <http://faseb.org/Science-Research-Conferences.aspx> or contact the organizers: Aaron Goldstrohm (agoldstr@umn.edu), Kenneth McDowall (k.j.mcdowall@leeds.ac.uk) or Kristian Bakr (kristian.baker@case.edu) for more information.



EMBO workshop: RNA structure meets function

July 1 - July 4, 2018

Stockholm Archipelago, Sweden

Organizers: Gonçalo Castelo-Branco (Karolinska Institutet, Sweden), Claudia Kutter (Karolinska Institutet, Sweden), Katja Petzold (Karolinska Institutet, Sweden), Alessandra Villa (Karolinska Institutet, Sweden).

The aim of the EMBO Workshop is to promote scientific exchange and synergies across the fields of RNA structure and RNA function, by gathering leading, established and upcoming scientists. The meeting will be a moment for discussion on the most recent advances in these areas and cutting-edge technologies. Topics: Structural RNA biology, Function of non-coding RNAs, Large RNA complexes, RNA and chromatin, RNA dynamics, Translational regulation by RNA, RNA modifications.

Keynote and invited speakers: Jeannie Lee (US), Thomas Cech (US), Alan Chen (US), Alexey Amunts (SE), Andrea Hinas (SE), Anna Pyle (US), Asifa Akhtar (DE), Claire Rougeulle (FR), David Rueda (UK), Elena Conti (SE), Frédéric Allain (FR), Igor Ulitsky (IS), Irene Bozzoni (IT), John Rinn (US), Karissa Sanbonmatsu (US), Lois Pollack (US), Michael Sattler (DE), Michaela Frye (UK), Nynke Dekker (NL), Phillip Bevilacqua (US), Rob Martiensson (US), Stefanie Dimmeler (DE), Stepanka Vanacova (CZ), Tony Kouzarides (UK).

The workshop will feature talks from invited speakers, as well as short talks selected from submitted abstracts, a poster session and activities to promote discussion and interaction between the participants.

Registration deadline: 1 March 2018 – Abstract submission deadline: 1 March 2018.

Further details, including complete program and registration can be found here: <http://meetings.embo.org/event/18-rna>

2nd International Caparica Conference in Splicing

July 16 - July 19, 2018

Caparica, Lisbon, Portugal

We are delighted to welcome you to SPLICING 2018 Conference, where all of us working in the area of splicing and alternative splicing will be able to share our latest research in the areas of RNA, DNA, and Proteins. As in the first edition we guarantee a friendly academic environment.

Registration is open now until March 15, 2018 to all who would like to present an oral communication, a poster or a shotgun communication (students only).

In collaboration with the RNA Society, we are glad to announce grants for Students. Please apply by sending a motivation letter and your CV to marta.silva@bioscopegroup.org with the Subject “Splicing conference RNA Society+Bioscope grants”. The deadline for grant applications is April 15, 2018.

Plenary Speakers:

Benoît Chabot (Université de Sherbrooke, Canada) Eduardo Eyraes (Pompeu Fabra University & ICREA, Spain) Vânia Prado (University of Western Ontario, Canada) Franco Pagani (International Centre for Genetic Engineering and Biotechnology, Italy) Peter Kloetzel (Universitätsmedizin Berlin, Germany) Diane Baralle (University of Southampton, UK)

Keynote Speakers:

David Bates (University of Nottingham, UK) Francisco E. Baralle (International Center for Genetic Engineering and Biotechnology, Italy) Ruth Sperling (The Hebrew University of Jerusalem, Israel) Niketa A. Patel (University of South Florida And James A. Haley Veterans Hospital Scientist, USA) Alexander Huttenhofer (Medical University Innsbruck, Austria) Steve Wilton (Murdoch University, Australia)

For more information, please contact the conference organizer at jilcapelom.splicing2018@bioscopegroup.org or visit: www.splicing2018.com. We look forward to meeting you in July 2018.



2018 International Ribosome Synthesis Conference

August 1 – 5, 2018

Orford, Quebec, Canada

The next International Conference on Ribosome Synthesis will take place near Montreal at the Manoir des Sables in Orford, Quebec, Canada, August 1-5, 2018. Registration will open in March 2018. For more information, please check out the meeting website: <http://ribosynthesis.riboclub.org>.

This will be the eleventh conference in a series that has been organized every three years, alternating between Europe and North America. The three keynote speakers will be: Ed Hurt, University of Heidelberg, Germany, Jamie Williamson, The Scripps Research Institute, La Jolla, USA, and John Woolford, Carnegie Mellon University, Pittsburgh, USA.

The conference provides a unique scientific platform for groups working on many different aspects of ribosome biogenesis, including RNA polymerase I transcription, rDNA chromatin structure, rRNA maturation, ribosome assembly, formation of mature ribosome structure, rRNA quality control and degradation, nuclear export, snoRNPs, integration with cell division and metabolism, connection with diseases and insights into other nucleolar functions.

The Organizers are: Sherif Abou Elela (Université de Sherbrooke), Ute Kothe (University of Lethbridge), Denis Lafontaine (University of Brussels), Tom Meier (Albert Einstein College of Medicine, New York) and Joaquin Ortega (McGill University, Montreal).

Fifth Biennial Meeting of the LARP Society

September 10 – 13, 2018

Rothenburg ob der Tauber, Germany

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

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

The LARP Society actively encourages young scientists to join the meeting and to present their data. Travel fellowships – funded in part by the RNA Society - will be available.

On-line registration will start on February 1st, 2018 at our meeting website at <http://www.larp-society.com/meeting-2018-information/> where you will also find more information on how to apply for travel fellowships.

27th International tRNA Conference

September 23 - 27, 2018

Strasbourg, France

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

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

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



We are glad to announce that with the support of the RNA Society, we are able to offer travel or accommodation support for early career researchers.

Registration is scheduled to open on March 24, 2018 and is limited to 300 participants. Deadline for abstracts submission to be considered for short talks on the conference program is June 24. Closing of registration is August 24. For more information, please check out the meeting website: [https://tRNA 2018.sciencesconf.org/](https://tRNA2018.sciencesconf.org/).

Employment Opportunities

If you are a member and would like to have your employment opportunity listed on this page, follow the instructions on [this page](#) (you must log in to view the page). If you are interested in applying for a position, please contact the person listed in the advertisement.

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

Department of Chemistry at Case Western Reserve University in Cleveland, OH

Posted on [January 24, 2018](#)

A postdoctoral position is available immediately in the laboratory of Dr. Blanton S. Tolbert in the Department of Chemistry at Case Western Reserve University in Cleveland, OH.

We are looking for candidates who are independent, highly motivated, creative and have a strong work ethic. The project, which is fully funded by the National Institutes of Health, endeavors to determine structures of RNA elements and protein-RNA complexes involved in translational control mechanisms of Enterovirus 71. This is a highly collaborative project that will include frequent interactions with mammalian virologists and molecular biologists.

The Tolbert laboratory uses integrated approaches including NMR spectroscopy, X-ray crystallography, SAXS, and other biophysical methods. The project will also require functional biochemistry. The Tolbert group is part of the Cleveland Center for Membrane and Structural Biology (<http://ccmsb.case.edu>), which provides routine access to high-field NMR spectrometers (600-900 MHz), electron microscopes, and X-ray screening facilities. Moreover, the Tolbert group actively participates with the CWRU Center for AIDS Research and the Center for RNA Science and Therapeutics.

The candidate should have a PhD in structural biology, biochemistry or related discipline. Qualified candidates will have a proven track record in RNA biochemistry, protein biochemistry or NMR spectroscopy.

The project is fully funded by the NIH for four years; however, the candidates will be appointed to one-year renewable contracts.

Interested applicants should submit a CV, a statement on prior research experience and arrange to have three letters of recommendation emailed to Dr. Blanton S. Tolbert at bst18@case.edu.

In employment, as in education, Case Western Reserve University is committed to Equal Opportunity and Diversity. Women, veterans, members of underrepresented minority groups, and individuals with disabilities are encouraged to apply.

Case Western Reserve University provides reasonable accommodations to applicants with disabilities. Applicants requiring a reasonable accommodation for any part of the application and hiring process should contact the Office for Inclusion, Diversity and Equal Opportunity at [216-368-8877](tel:216-368-8877) to request a reasonable accommodation. Determinations as to granting reasonable accommodations for any applicant will be made on a case-by-case basis



Laboratory of Susan J. Baserga, MD, PhD, Departments of Molecular Biophysics, Biochemistry, Genetics, Therapeutic Radiology

Posted on [January 17, 2018](#)

A NIH-funded post-doctoral position is available in the laboratory of Susan J. Baserga, MD, PhD, in the Departments of Molecular Biophysics and Biochemistry, Genetics, and Therapeutic Radiology. The successful candidate will be driving research into the mechanistic biochemical and physiological aspects of how ribosomes are made in eukaryotic cells using model systems ranging from *Saccharomyces cerevisiae* and *Xenopus tropicalis*, to mammalian cell lines and mice. The successful candidate will not only gain extensive experience working in these model systems, but will also receive expert career mentoring, and develop skills in a wide range of basic biochemical and genetic techniques including, but not limited to, northern blots, western blots, qPCR, subcellular fractionation, co-immunoprecipitation, immunofluorescence and RNA-seq.

Ribosome biogenesis is essential for cells and developing organisms. As such, ribosome production is often dysregulated in cancer and is implicated in a growing number of congenital human genetic diseases known as the ribosomopathies. We have also recently uncovered strong evidence to support a role for the nucleolus and ribosome biogenesis in embryonic development, neurodegenerative diseases, cytoskeletal integrity, and DNA repair, among other cellular processes and diverse signaling pathways (Cell Reports, in press). The successful candidate will conceptualize and design original research among these themes and execute it in an environment that values teamwork, camaraderie, and intellectual curiosity.

Candidates must be highly-motivated and have a PhD in the biological sciences, with a degree in biochemistry, genetics, cancer biology, developmental biology, or cell biology preferred. A high level of proficiency in basic laboratory techniques is also required.

For more information about the Baserga laboratory please visit our website at <https://basergalab.yale.edu/>. If you are interested in this position, please send your CV and cover letter to Dr. Susan J. Baserga at Basergalabapplications@gmail.com.

Fu Lab at the University of Rochester

Posted on [January 17, 2018](#)

The Fu Lab at the University of Rochester is seeking a postdoctoral candidate with strong experience in ribosome profiling and transcriptomic analysis. Our group investigates the cellular roles of nucleic acid modification enzymes in biological processes ranging from neurodevelopment to the cellular stress response. Current projects are aimed at understanding the role of RNA modifications in human disorders using mammalian tissue culture and mouse models. Successful candidates are expected to have:

Ph.D in Molecular Biology, Computational Biology or related field.

Expertise in RNA biochemistry coupled with deep sequencing approaches such as ribosome profiling, CLIP-seq etc.

Strong background in transcriptomics, bioinformatics and programming

Self-motivation and the ability to work independently as well as collaboratively

Candidates should provide the following:

Cover letter with a short statement of research experience, interests and goals

CV with contact information for at least two professional references.

Please submit all application materials electronically to: dragonfy@rochester.edu

Additional information and lab publications are available on our website: <http://blogs.rochester.edu/dfulab/>

The position is available immediately with a flexible start date.



Company Team Member – Postdoctoral Researcher

Posted on [January 10, 2018](#)

Immagina Biotechnology s.r.l. is seeking an experienced postdoctoral fellow who is energetic, enthusiastic, and enjoys collaborative and applied science. For more info follow this link https://www.immaginabiotech.com/wp-content/uploads/2018/01/IMMAGINA-Position_PhD.pdf

Skills:

A PhD related to Biomedical or Biological Sciences; RNA-Seq, immunoblotting, cloning, genome editing and cell transfection; Strong background in proteomics (SILAC or PUNCH-P) with hands-on expertise in mass spectrometry and relative data interpretation (e.g. HPLC, MALDI-MS, MS/MS, UPLC, UV); Cell culture techniques: mouse and human cell maintenance and differentiation

Starting date: May-Jun 2018 Duration: 1+ year Contact:
Massimiliano Clamer Immagina Biotechnology
Dept. Centre for integrative biology / University of Trento
via Sommarive 18 Trento, Italy 38123 E-mail: info@immaginabiotech.com

Company Team Member – Lab Manager

Posted on [January 10, 2018](#)

Immagina Biotechnology s.r.l. is seeking a proactive, organized individual to manage and assist the scientific and business tasks of the Company. For more info follow this link https://www.immaginabiotech.com/wp-content/uploads/2018/01/IMMAGINA-Position_PhDLabManager.pdf

Skills, research and management responsibilities: A PhD related to Biomedical or Biological Sciences; RNA-Seq, Ribo-Seq, immunoblotting, cloning, cell transfection and experience in fractionation of polysomes by sucrose density gradient centrifugation. Cell culture techniques: mouse and human cell maintenance and differentiation. Optimize procedures as necessary, and help in the scale-up of new products.

Starting date: Oct-Dec 2018 Duration: 1+ year
Contact: Massimiliano Clamer Immagina Biotechnology
Dept. Centre for integrative biology / University of Trento
via Sommarive 18 Trento, Italy 38123
E-mail: info@immaginabiotech.com

RNA Bioscience Initiative Summer Internship Program 2018 University of Colorado School of Medicine

Posted on [December 22, 2017](#)

Hands-on, mentored research opportunities in RNA Biology, Chemistry, Biochemistry, Genomics, and Bioinformatics. The RNA Bioscience Initiative (RBI) at the University of Colorado School of Medicine in the Denver metro area offers a summer research internship program in the areas of RNA Biology, Chemistry, Biochemistry, Genomics, and Bioinformatics. Interns are matched with one of the faculty from the biomedical research departments on the campus, including researchers studying fundamental aspects of biology and the molecular bases of cancer, developmental biology, autoimmunity, and infectious disease. Undergraduate students with a strong interest in RNA research are encouraged to apply for this program. The program is especially intended for undergrads wishing to gain more research experience in advance of applying to graduate school. Applicants may designate three preferred potential mentors from RBI faculty or they may contact an RBI faculty member ahead of applying to pre-arrange an internship match (please note this on the application).

The RNA Bioscience Initiative was started with a \$20 million award from the University of Colorado Anschutz Medical Campus in 2016. The mission of the RBI is to create and expand a vibrant center of discovery and innovation in RNA research, diagnostics and therapy. Our goal is to provide a fluid pipeline from basic to clinical RNA research on our campus and beyond.



Important Information:

10-week program. June 1-August 10, 2018 (start/end date flexible). \$5000 stipend.

Opportunities to work hands-on in the lab of a research mentor on one of a broad range of cutting-edge RNA research projects.

An orientation day to the RNA Bioscience Initiative and Internship Program.

Weekly RNA-related small group lunch seminars from core RBI faculty.

Mentoring lunches with PhD students and postdocs affiliated with the RBI.

A short oral presentation at the end of the project to develop science speaking skills.

Spend the summer in Denver, CO, which offers a great balance of urban and outdoor activities.

Apply at: rnabio.co/summer-interns

Deadline: Feb 15, 2018

[Post-doctoral position open in the Ram Lab](#)

Posted on [December 18, 2017](#)

POSITION: Postdoctoral Research Fellow Department of Immunology, University of Washington

A post-doctoral research position is available in Dr. Ram Savan's laboratory at the Department of Immunology, University of Washington (immunology.washington.edu/ram-savan-phd). The post-doctoral fellow will be co-mentored by John Hansen, Affiliate Associate Professor, Global Health, UW and Research Immunologist at the USGS Western Fisheries Research Center (<http://profile.usgs.gov/jhansen>).

The post-doctoral fellow will investigate the effect of environmental contaminants on innate immunity in zebrafish. This project uses zebrafish and functional genomics to assess how the vertebrate innate immune response is altered during endocrine disruption in current and future generations

We are looking for highly motivated and enthusiastic individual who has a strong background in molecular biology, virology and/or immunology. This position is available immediately and open until filled. Essential Qualifications: A Ph.D. in the fields of immunology, virology or molecular biology. Applicants should have an excellent publication track record, with at least one first-author publication in a peer-reviewed journal.

The laboratory is located in the dynamic South Lake Union (SLU) area and the post-doc will have access to Western Fisheries Research Center. In addition to the University of Washington, we take advantage of the broader scientific community in Seattle, including the neighboring Fred Hutchinson Cancer Research Center (FHCRC), Virginia Mason's Benaroya Research Institute, Seattle Children's Research Institute, Institute for Systems Biology, Seattle BioMed, Zymogenetics, NovoNordisk, and Brain Research Institute.

Interested applicants should email their CV, one page description of research interests and three references in single PDF file to savanram@uw.edu

[Funded Postdoctoral Position, Laboratory of Dr. Claire Moore in the Department of Developmental, Molecular, and Chemical Biology at Tufts University School of Medicine](#)

Posted on [December 5, 2017](#)

A funded postdoctoral position is available in the laboratory of Dr. Claire Moore in the Department of Developmental, Molecular, and Chemical Biology at Tufts University School of Medicine, Boston, MA. Dr. Moore's lab investigates the molecular mechanisms of mRNA polyadenylation and its coordination with other nuclear processes such as transcription and DNA damage repair. We also study how polyadenylation is regulated to promote changes in gene expression patterns that govern cell fate or the response to stress and nutrient availability. More information about our research can be found on our website (<http://sackler.tufts.edu/Faculty-and-Research/Faculty-Profiles/Claire-Moore-Profile>).

The candidate will conduct experimental research studies directed at characterizing the mechanisms and consequences of alternative mRNA polyadenylation, using mammalian and yeast cell systems that model disease, differentiation, and



response to stresses such as DNA damage or poor nutrition. Dr. Moore has a strong commitment to diversity and mentoring, and lab alumni have successfully found positions in academia and biotech. Participation in research conferences and career development workshops and mentoring of students is encouraged throughout the postdoc period, as part of training for a scientific career.

Candidates should have a PhD in the life sciences with a strong molecular biology background. Experience with next generation sequencing technologies and bioinformatics, mammalian cell culture, characterization of post-translational modifications, and/or RNA biology is a plus, but not required. The position is available as early as January, 2018, but the start date is flexible. The starting salary is commensurate with experience and similar positions in the Boston area, and health benefits are provided. Funding is available for up to three years, but conditional upon satisfactory annual reviews. The Tufts Health Sciences Campus is located in downtown Boston, a city distinguished for its extensive biomedical research community and abundant cultural and recreational opportunities.

Please submit a cover letter, a CV, a statement describing research experience, interests, and goals, and contact information for three references to Dr. Claire Moore (Claire.moore@tufts.edu).

Tufts University is an Affirmative Action / Equal Opportunity Employer. Women, minorities, veterans, and individuals with disabilities are encouraged to apply.

[Research Assistant Opportunity at the Laboratory of Functional Genomics and Noncoding RNA, Montreal Clinical Research Institute \(IRCM\)](#)

Posted on [November 27, 2017](#)

The laboratory of Functional Genomics and Noncoding RNA at the Montreal Clinical Research Institute (IRCM) is looking for a highly motivated and resourceful individual for a full-time position as Research Assistant to start in mid-December 2017 to January 2018. The candidate will be part of a team studying noncoding regions of the genome to uncover new functional elements and understand how they contribute to human diseases. We are particularly interested in long noncoding RNAs (lncRNAs) and cis regulatory modules and use genome editing, genomics, molecular and bioinformatics approaches to characterize their function. The candidate will play a central role in the laboratory and help maintain a nurturing and stimulating environment.

Summary of Responsibilities:

Under the direction of Dr. Martin Sauvageau, the candidate will work on projects conducted by his group, help coordinate the day-to-day operations of the laboratory and the training of new lab members. The candidate will be expected to implement current technologies in ongoing research projects, adapt the technologies to new applications and ensure the quality of the data being produced. Additional tasks will be to carry out primary cell cultures, CRISPR and sequencing-based assays, harvest tissues from animal models, help prepare samples for functional genomics assays, help identify and implement new approaches for solving relevant biological problems.

Required Qualifications:

MSc or PhD in the life sciences with a minimum of three years' related experience; Strong molecular biology background Experience with mouse experimental work and primary cell culture; Understanding and experience with genomic technologies and next generation sequencing technologies; Capability to perform complex biochemical experiments and to archive the experimental work; Experience with RNA biology techniques and bioinformatic analyses is a plus Good organizational and time management skills; Ability to multitask, set priorities, and thrive in a fast-paced environment ; Excellent problem solving skills; Attention to detail Effective communication skills; Critical thinking skills who excels at completing projects in an independent manner and is eager to acquire new knowledge and skills on a regular basis.; Fluency in English (writing and speaking) Fluency in French is a plus;

How to apply:

Please submit a statement letter explaining why you're interested in our work, a detailed CV and the names and contact information for 2-3 references to:



Dr. Martin Sauvageau ; Director of the Functional Genomics and Noncoding RNA research unit;

martin.sauvageau@ircm.qc.ca

The applications will be examined as they are received, until the position is filled. Only those applicants selected for an interview will be contacted.

About IRCM

The Montreal Clinical Research Institute (IRCM) is an independent non-profit research institution with a dynamic and multi-disciplinary team of scientists working on a wide range of basic and clinical research subjects. Located in downtown Montreal, it is affiliated with the Université de Montréal and associated with McGill University. The institute represents an excellent working environment, both in terms of the diversity of subjects and systems studied. The modern infrastructure of the IRCM houses state-of-the-art equipment and core facilities for a variety of applications in functional genomics, proteomics, imaging, flow cytometry, molecular biology and bioinformatics.

[Graduate Student position in RNA Genetics and Cancer](#)

Posted on [November 27, 2017](#)

The recently established research group “RNA Biology and Pathogenesis” (Head: Jun.-Prof. Dr. Tony Gutschner) at the Martin-Luther-University Halle-Wittenberg, Germany, is seeking an exceptionally talented and highly motivated PhD student with an interest and experience in the area of bioinformatics, molecular biology or cancer research, ideally in RNA biology or functional genomics.

The PhD position (13 TV-L, 65%) is available immediately and limited to three years.

The successful candidate will investigate the function of RNA-binding proteins (RBPs) in human leukemia cells and characterize associated phenotypic dependencies. Specifically, the PhD candidate will (I) establish cellular models of cancer-associated RBPs by genome engineering using CRISPR/Cas9 technology and/or lentiviral gene and shRNA transfer; (II) extensively characterize these engineered cell lines phenotypically through, for example, assays for proliferation, apoptosis, and tumor growth in mice; (III) profile these cell lines functionally using CRISPR/Cas9 libraries to identify dependencies; and (IV) mechanistically characterize the most interesting RBPs and functional dependencies in detail in vitro and in vivo using biochemical, molecular and cell biology methods (e.g. Cloning, qRT-PCR, RNA-IP, CLIP; Immunofluorescence).

This position provides an opportunity for the candidate to be creative and innovative, and to work on a challenging, multidisciplinary topic. We offer a close supervision and mentoring. The candidate will have the opportunity to present his/her results at conferences.

Applicants must hold a Diploma or Master’s degree in the fields of bioinformatics or life sciences (biology, biochemistry, molecular medicine, or related disciplines). The successful candidate is a highly motivated, creative, ambitious, and hard-working individual with excellent grades who is passionate about making a difference through cancer research. Strong communication skills, a reliable and accurate scientific working ethic, and the ability to work efficiently, independent as well as in a team, are required. An excellent written and oral command of English is essential. The ideal candidate has a solid background in the field of cancer biology and expertise in molecular and cellular biology, with specific focus on the techniques described above. Knowledge in statistics and bioinformatics would be advantageous.

Applications should consist of (I) a motivation letter mentioning the expected availability date, (II) a recent curriculum vitae incl. an overview of techniques and methods used in the past, (III) a list of publications, (IV) academic degrees and certificates, and (V) contact information of two individuals who could provide an evaluation of the candidate upon request.

Please submit your full application (in electronic form as a single pdf) with registration number 7-176/17-H in the subject line until December 15, 2017 to Jun.-Prof. Dr. Tony Gutschner, E-mail: tony.gutschner@uk-halle.de

More information can be found on the website: <http://www.medizin.uni-halle.de/gutschnerlab>

The Martin-Luther-University Halle-Wittenberg is an equal opportunity employer. Disabled candidates with equal qualifications will be given preference. Women are strongly encouraged to submit an application. The announcement



takes place pending on fund availability and any possible budget restriction. Application expenses cannot be reimbursed by the Martin-Luther-University.

[Postdoctoral Associate Position Immediately Available in Penn State University College Of Medicine \(PSUCOM\)](#)

Posted on [November 13, 2017](#)

A postdoctoral associate position is immediately available in the laboratory of Dr. Reyad Elbarbary (Assistant Professor at the Department of Orthopaedics and Rehabilitations and the Department of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology, College of Medicine, Penn State University).

Dr. Elbarbary's lab combines basic RNA biology and translational musculoskeletal research (relevant publications include Elbarbary et al. Science 2017, Elbarbary et al. Genes Dev 2017, Elbarbary et al. Genes Dev 2013, Le Bleu et al. Anal Biochem 2017). The lab's primary focus is to establish the varied and critical roles of:

- 1) Non-coding RNA in bone and cartilage tissue homeostasis and disease
- 2) Retrotransposons in osteoarthritis for development of chondroregenerative therapeutic approaches

Research in Dr. Elbarbary's lab utilizes cell culture, mouse models, and human clinical samples. The lab employs a wide array of experimental approaches that include real-time PCR, RNA-seq, miR-seq, immunofluorescence, confocal microscopy, CLIP, RIP, mass spectrometry, DEXA scan, micro-CT, osteomorphometry, functional analyses of muscle strength and gait, and nanoparticle-mediated drug delivery.

We are seeking a creative, career-driven candidate to join our group. Candidates must hold a PhD. A Strong publication record and significant experimental training in bone biology are required, and expertise in RNA biology is a plus. Dr. Elbarbary's lab is a part of the newly established Center for Orthopaedic Research and Translational Science (CORTS) in PSUCOM. The successful candidate will benefit from the collaborative scientific environment in CORTS as well as the technical expertise of its members.

Interested candidates should email a cover letter, a current CV, a brief personal statement, and the contacts of three references to Dr. Reyad Elbarbary (relbarbary@pennstatehealth.psu.edu).

CAMPUS SECURITY CRIME STATISTICS: For more about safety at Penn State, and to review the Annual Security Report which contains information about crime statistics and other safety and security matters, please go to <http://www.police.psu.edu/clery/>, which will also provide you with detail on how to request a hard copy of the Annual Security Report.

Penn State is an equal opportunity, affirmative action employer, and is committed to providing employment opportunities to all qualified applicants without regard to race, color, religion, age, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, national origin, disability or protected veteran status.

[Postdoctoral Position to study RNA-Guided Genome Rearrangements at Columbia University in the City of New York](#)

Posted on [November 1, 2017](#)

Postdoctoral Research positions are available in our newly renovated lab overlooking the Hudson River in the Department of Biochemistry and Molecular Biophysics, with a research focus on Non-Coding RNA-Mediated Genome Rearrangement, Editing, Epigenetics, Chromatin, Genome Evolution, and Transposon Involvement.

Laura Landweber is seeking to hire postdoctoral researchers to study the mechanism of gene and genome unscrambling in the ciliate Oxytricha, particularly the role of non-coding RNAs in this process.

Requirements: PhD in molecular biology or relevant field. Strong experimental training, experience, and publications from the Ph.D., ability to work independently and creatively, as well as collaboratively and strong research and written/oral communication skills are necessary.



This is a one-year initial appointment with opportunity for renewal. Funding is available for longer. Please email Laura.Landweber@columbia.edu to apply. Include a cover letter, CV, statement of research interests and email addresses for three references. Application review will begin immediately; start date is flexible.

The Landweber lab has a strong commitment to diversity and to supporting its students, postdocs, and alumni at all career stages. Many lab alumni have received tenure in academic positions (10) or chosen other successful options. Conference participation is encouraged throughout the postdoc period, as part of training for a scientific career.

The Landweber lab is located at Columbia University Medical Center in the Department of Biochemistry & Molecular Biophysics, with joint appointments in Systems Biology and Biological Sciences on the Arts & Sciences campus. Housing assistance is available. biology.columbia.edu/people/landweber

[Columbia University Medical Center: Faculty Positions in RNA Biology & Chromosome Structure and Function](#)
[Department of Biochemistry and Molecular Biophysics](#)

Posted on [November 1, 2017](#)

The Department of Biochemistry and Molecular Biophysics at Columbia's College of Physicians and Surgeons invites outstanding candidates to apply for TENURE-TRACK faculty positions at the level of Assistant Professor. The department seeks individuals with exceptional accomplishments and abilities in the broad areas of RNA and chromatin biology. Examples include, but are not limited to: RNA splicing, non-coding RNA structure and function, biophysics and evolution of RNA; phase transition and RNA granules; RNA interactions with DNA and chromatin; single molecule live imaging, chromatin dynamics, and nuclear organization. We seek colleagues committed to scientific excellence, diversity, and collegiality.

Applicants should provide a summary of their scientific accomplishments, and a description of their scientific vision, emphasizing one or more major unsolved problems in their field and how they plan to solve them (no more than three pages).

The department of Biochemistry and Molecular Biophysics offers a rigorous and stimulating environment for conducting research. Faculty use the full spectrum of contemporary biophysical, biochemical, molecular biological, and cellular techniques to study developmental biology; gene expression, regulation and signal transduction; macromolecular structure, function and dynamics; and molecular neurobiology. The Department has a rich history of excellence in molecular and structural biology and molecular neuroscience.

Essential Qualifications

All applicants must have a Ph.D., M.D., or equivalent degree. In addition, applicants must have a very strong record of research productivity and demonstrated ability to develop a rigorous research program.

Completed applications, including the research statement, curriculum vitae, PDF copies or links for three reprints, and contact information for three references must be submitted online via the following website:

academicjobs.columbia.edu/applicants/Central?quickFind=64947

Consideration of completed applications will begin immediately and continue until the positions are filled.

Columbia University is an equal opportunity/affirmative action employer. Women and minorities are especially encouraged to apply.

[Postdoctoral Scholar Position, Laboratory of Dr. Ruslan Afasizhev, Department of Molecular and Cell Biology, Boston University Medical Campus](#)

Posted on [November 1, 2017](#)

Postdoctoral Scholar position is available in the laboratory of Dr. Ruslan Afasizhev at the Department of Molecular and Cell Biology, Boston University Medical Campus.

Our NIH-funded program focuses on the mechanisms of RNA processing in trypanosomes. Current projects cover mitochondrial transcription, mRNA editing, mRNA stability, translation and small RNAs biogenesis.



For more details, please see recent publications listed below. Our collaborations extend into structural biology, mass spectrometry, drug design and bioinformatics.

Required qualifications include strong background in molecular biology and biochemistry, and a record of peer-reviewed publications. Experience in RNAi, bioinformatics, RNA-Seq, ribosome profiling, protein purification, mass spectrometry and parasite genetics is desirable, but not required.

This position carries a starting salary of \$45,000 for a junior candidate, or commensurate with experience, plus health benefits. Funding will be provided for up to three years although fellowship applications are encouraged. Boston University Medical Campus is located in the vibrant South End area of Boston and offers a highly collaborative environment, unlimited networking possibilities in a thriving biomedical community, excellent core facilities and outstanding cultural and recreational opportunities. To apply, please send a letter of intent, CV and contact information for three references to ruslana@bu.edu.

