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The ASCB Annual Meeting Offers…

- The Best and Latest Science
- Science Education Tools for All Educators
- Career Development Sessions and Workshops for All Stages
- Networking Opportunities that Further Collaborations
- Fun at Sessions You Won’t Find Elsewhere

Don’t miss it!

December 13–17, 2008
San Francisco, CA
PRESIDENT’S Column

Approaching the 48th ASCB Annual Meeting

I began my year as President writing about my first ASCB Meeting in 1965 in Philadelphia. Now I return full circle, to describe the upcoming Annual Meeting to be held in San Francisco this December. Although over 40 years have elapsed, I approach the 48th ASCB Annual Meeting with the same excitement and enthusiasm I had at the start of my career as a cell biologist. For where else could I learn about the latest cutting-edge research in cell biology, enjoy the opportunity to hear the brightest minds in our field, talk about our own research with many peers, and access sessions that can’t be found elsewhere?

So indulge both me and 2008 Program Committee Chair David L. Spector while we share what we hope is our infectious enthusiasm about the exciting program that awaits you. We urge you to arrive early in San Francisco so that you can attend the stimulating talks to be presented in 16 Special Interest Subgroups, beginning at 12:30 pm on Saturday, December 13. These subgroups, organized by the ASCB membership, will highlight the latest advances in imaging, tools for cell biology, and chemical screening. Additional subgroups will focus on building the cell, mitochondrial dynamics, retrograde trafficking, the spindle matrix, interactions between the cytoskeleton and nuclear envelope, as well as the role of actin and myosin in the nucleus.

Immediately following the Special Interest Subgroups you will have an opportunity to learn more about the Society, the Annual Meeting, and how you can get more involved in the many activities sponsored by the ASCB at our very first Meet the ASCB session. This session will be very useful for those of you who are attending your first meeting, especially newcomers from overseas. I’ll be joined by ASCB Executive Director Joan Goldberg and several Committee Chairs to introduce you to a variety of Society initiatives where your involvement is welcomed.

On the evening of December 13, you will have the opportunity to listen to Francis Collins, who will deliver the Keynote lecture. Collins, who just stepped down as Director of the National Human Genome Research Institute at the NIH, is an outstanding lecturer; you’ll find no better speaker to discuss “Cell Biology in the Genomic Era.” Immediately following the Keynote address, you can talk to Collins and colleagues at the ASCB President’s Opening Night Reception. Come hungry and explore the Exhibit Hall where you can learn about the latest technology and products for your lab (see page 22). The Exhibit Hall is the place to be each morning and afternoon, between scientific sessions, to get your questions answered about the products you use today, or will use tomorrow. You can also take advantage of morning and afternoon coffee breaks, with snacks just when you want them.

Sampling the Smorgasbord

If the Annual Meeting can be considered a smorgasbord, the Program Committee (see box, next page) can be considered our inventive chefs, offering an incredibly broad array of major Symposium topics and speakers. On Sunday morning, the first Symposium will stimulate your senses with exciting insights from Craig Montell, Ulrich Mueller, and Leslie Vosshall on the cell biology of vision, hearing, and smell. “Chromatin Organization and Gene Expression” will be the highlight of the second Symposium, with talks by Susan Gasser, Tom Misteli, and John Lis. You’ll learn about dynamic events in the cell nucleus and how they impact gene expression and DNA repair. James Earl King Hildreth will present the 15th annual E.E. Just Lecture and discuss his pioneering work focusing on cholesterol’s role in allowing HIV to penetrate cells. And start the meeting as you’ll finish it, taking advantage of poster sessions in the Exhibit Hall and selecting from an assortment of Minisymposia on every
imaginable topic in cell biology. Poster sessions for undergraduates, minority students, and young scientists offer a special opportunity for mentorship and feedback from senior scientists.

On Monday morning, ASCB President-Elect Brigid Hogan, along with Phillip Newmark and Didier Stainier, will address “Development and Regeneration.” You are certain to be exposed to exciting insights in using planaria, zebrafish, and the mouse as model systems to study development and regeneration. The relevance of basic science to understanding the mechanisms and dynamics of “Cell Migration and Metastasis” will be the focus of talks by John Condeelis, Anna Huttenlocher, and Joan Massagué. Special question and answer sessions with speakers for students follow each Symposium. And don’t forget to round out the day by selecting from a dizzying array of minisymposia, posters, and exhibit booths as you plan your daily itinerary in meeting rooms and the Exhibit Hall.

Tuesday’s Symposia will start off with Titia deLange, Gideon Dreyfuss, and Roland Foisner providing significant insights into the relationships of various diseases or cellular abnormalities to nuclear organization and function; these include those associated with telomeres, RNP biogenesis, and the nuclear lamina. Next, Ueli Aebi, Claire Walczak, and Toshio Yanagida will take you on a foray into the cytoskeleton. There they will explore a range of dynamics and their relationship to function, from single molecules to spindle microtubules and intermediate filaments.

On Wednesday morning, Greg Hannon, Edith Heard, and Gisela Storz will keep you on the edge of your seats as they open your eyes to the RNA world and the latest mechanisms by which RNAs regulate gene expression and dosage compensation. Finally, Judith Kimble, Arnold Kriegstein, and Haifan Lin will engage your interest in the latest developments in stem cell biology. And to learn about “Whole Animal Intravital Imaging,” don’t miss the lunchtime workshop chaired by Jeffrey E. Segall.

Adding to the Excitement
In addition to the major Symposia, there will be 29 Minisymposia and four poster sessions featuring over 3,000 posters. There will also be three Working Groups providing a wealth of new and exciting science along with opportunities for discussion about a variety of areas in cell biology. Working Groups were introduced last year at the ASCB Annual Meeting in Washington, DC. The format will consist of brief talks from experts about the history of research in a given area and recent approaches before moderators engage the audience in a stimulating open discussion of how to approach the area’s most pressing problems.

The Working Groups will include the “Cellular Basis of Motor Neuron Degeneration,” focusing on the most promising approaches to new treatments for those suffering from spinal cord injuries and stroke (participants will include Don Cleveland, Kenneth Fischbeck, Erika Holzbaur, and Livio Pellizzoni); and the “Impacts of Stem Cell Research on Cell Biology,”

2008 Program Committee
Wendy Bickmore, Medical Research Council Human Genetics Unit
Michael Caplan, Yale University School of Medicine
Gaudenz Danuser, Scripps Research Institute
Mark H. Ellisman, University of California, San Diego
Susan M. Gasser, Friedrich Miescher Institute for Biomedical Research
Vladimir I. Gelfand, Northwestern University School of Medicine
Robert D. Goldman, Northwestern University
Jennifer Lippincott-Schwartz, National Institutes of Health/National Institute of Child Health and Human Development
Denise J. Montell, Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine
R. Dyche Mullins, University of California, San Francisco
Emmanuelle Passegue, University of California, San Francisco
David L. Spector (Chair), Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory
Katharine S. Ullman, University of Utah
Richard Vallee, Columbia University
Linda Van Aelst, Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory
Susan Wente, Vanderbilt University Medical Center
Yixian Zheng, Carnegie Institution
which will touch on the recent history of human stem cell research and what lies ahead in this very hotly debated area (participants will include Helen Blau, Fred H. Gage, Lawrence S.B. Goldstein, and Shinya Yamanaka). There will also be a session on the “Dynamic Nature of the Nucleoplasm,” with Genevieve Almouzni, Thoru Pederson, Michel Rout, and John Sedat. This Working Group will focus on the history of, and latest developments in, the exciting and emerging field of nuclear architecture. Working Groups are designed to be interactive, with lots of discussion time.

**Bench-to-Bedside Story**
We will also be introducing a Translational Research Session. The topic will be “Translating Progeria: A Bench-to-Beside Tale.” This session’s speakers will reflect on the remarkable story of research into this premature aging disease in children. Basic untargeted research played a key role in the transition from the discovery that this devastating disease is attributable to mutations in the Lamin A gene to ongoing clinical trials.

I’ll share the scientific side of the story, as will Collins and Elizabeth Nabel. We’ll be joined by Leslie Gordon, M.D., Ph.D., who will share the human side of the story. She has a child with progeria and is the Director of the Progeria Research Foundation.

**Other Special Events**
This year’s E.B. Wilson Medal will be presented to Roger Tsien and Martin Chalfie for their accomplishments in bringing green fluorescent protein to the experimental palette of virtually every cell biologist. You won’t want to miss the December 14th event.

Joe Gall will present the 27th Keith R. Porter Lecture on December 16. His selection is a fitting tribute for a founder of the field of cell biology, acknowledging his far-reaching accomplishments for over 50 years.

If this isn’t enough to whet your appetite, be sure to page through this Newsletter and see what else is “on tap.” And once the Minisymposia speaker selections are made, you’ll find more details on the ASCB website in October. We look forward to seeing you in San Francisco.

**Did You Know...?**
You’re not too late to register for the ASCB Annual Meeting at the discounted early registration rates! Deadline for early registration is October 7. After that, you can still register for the meeting, but at the higher, regular registration rate. Go to www.ascb.org/meetings and register for the meeting today!

The ASCB Annual Meeting Late Abstract Submission deadline is October 16. If you haven’t submitted your abstract yet, you still have time. Remember, sponsorship of the abstract is required.

- All current members, and member-applicants, may sponsor their own abstract.
- All regular, postdoctoral, and emeritus members may sponsor another person’s abstract if they are not submitting one themselves.

If you have a nonmember in your lab who wants to submit an abstract, now is the time to encourage them to join the ASCB. Not only will member-applicants be able to sponsor their own abstract, they will be eligible for the discounted member-only registration rate as well. For more information, go to www.ascb.org and click on “Membership.”

The deadline for hotel reservations for the ASCB Annual Meeting is November 19. Book your room now at the special discounted rates. Go to www.ascb.org/meetings for details.

**Have You Hosted a Science Cafe?**
ASCB is looking for a few good men and women...who have hosted science cafes in their communities.

What’s a science cafe? Visit www.sciencecafes.org for more information.

If you have hosted a science cafe, please write to education@ascb.org and share your experience for possible publication in the ASCB Newsletter.

Comments are welcome and should be sent to president@ascb.org.
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The ASCB Annual Meeting is a monster of an event that can easily overwhelm those who have not developed personal strategies for “doing” the meeting. There are many approaches that work, and the key is to find what works for you. I’ll offer a few strategies to help you develop a personal plan so that you can avoid going home feeling frustrated and unfulfilled because you “missed the good stuff” or didn’t make hoped-for connections.

Plan Ahead—But Be Flexible

First and foremost, plan ahead. Look at the schedule and get a sense of the layout of the meeting. Notice the morning Symposia. These will likely be out of your area but are general talks given by some of the best in the field. You will want to attend most of these. They are the fun and easy way to keep up-to-date on some of the big developments in cell biology. And you don’t need to make any choices because there are no concurrent offerings here.

As you plan for the meeting, take time to look at the abstracts. Do some keyword searches and make a list of posters and Minisymposium talks that you do not want to miss. Don’t let this list get too long. Keep it focused on your highest priorities. Make yourself a schedule that allows you to see and hear the presentations that are most important to you. Remember: You cannot do it all. Set some clear priorities, but do not fill all of your time. Leave room to be flexible.

When putting together your personal schedule for the meeting, take a close look at the special offerings. The ASCB offers workshops and special talks sponsored by the Education, Minorities Affairs, and Women in Cell Biology (WICB) committees. (Some of these events require preregistration.) What are your career goals? Are any of these events of special value to you? Of particular note is the WICB-sponsored luncheon, which offers an opportunity for informal discussion of topics of interest while providing an excellent opportunity for networking. And if you’re interested in science and society, note that the Public Policy Committee will sponsor a session on how to foster awareness of your science in your local community.

Nota Bene

Take copious notes. The volume of information that you will encounter in the few days of this meeting is phenomenal. Plan to share what you’ve learned with the folks back home. Carry a notebook with you at all times. Jot down names and snippets of conversations as well as notes from talks and posters. Keep an action list of things that you want to follow up on after the meeting: papers to look up, people to write to, and experiments to do.

Connect

Ours is a social enterprise. The connections you make are very important, and the ASCB Annual Meeting is a great place to make these connections. Especially valuable are the connections that you make with your peers. Hang out at the poster sessions. Talk to people about their work. Be flexible: That Minisymposium talk that you were planning to attend would be good, but so is the conversation you are having with a new contact. Maybe you can set up a time to meet the person again later? Or maybe this is a rare opportunity and you can find a way to learn later what you missed in the talk.

Be brave, try not to worry about rejection, and don’t wait for introductions. When I was a relatively new graduate student attending a meeting on my own, the only familiar faces I saw were among a group of senior investigators who were sitting at a table; two of them had given seminars at my home institution. I asked if I might join them and was told no. Ouch! If you put yourself out
there, rejection will happen, but so will some wonderful connections. Even if your overture is declined, say “thank you,” and consider that they might have been discussing confidential information.

**See the Latest Gizmos and Gadgets**
Make time to visit the exhibits, where you can see the latest gizmos and gadgets. You will find valuable technical information, brochures and books, and free samples. If you’ve been having technical difficulties with equipment or reagents, enjoy the luxury of talking face-to-face with a technical representative. And the Exhibitor Showcases and Tutorials scheduled at various times during the meeting provide in-depth technical information.

**Enjoy**
Finally, and truly the most important bit of advice that I can offer: Relax and enjoy yourself. After all, you are at this meeting because you know how fascinating cell biology can be. Here you are with this stunning opportunity to learn about some of the most exciting stuff happening in one of the coolest of all human endeavors. Don’t cheat yourself of the opportunity to enjoy it thoroughly.

—Lynne Quarmby, Women in Cell Biology Committee

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**Vascular Matrix Biology and Bioengineering Workshop II**
Sponsored by the North American Vascular Biology Organization
March 16-19, 2009 - Whistler, BC, Canada

**Organized by:**
Cecilia M. Giachelli, University of Washington
Michelle P. Bendek, University of Toronto
Elaine C. Davis, McGill University
Themis R. Kyriakides, Yale University

**KEYNOTE LECTURE**
Marlene Rabinovitch, Stanford University

**MATRIX REMODELING IN VASCULAR DISEASE**
Francesco Ramirez · Lisa Tannock · Alexander Clowes

**MATRIX GENETICS AND DEVELOPMENT**
Elaine Davis · Dianna Milewicz · Robert Mecham

**MATRIX CALCIFICATION I: ARTERIES**
Keith Hruska · Kristina Bostrom · Monzur Murshed

**MATRIX SIGNALING**
Christopher Chen · Patricia Keely · Holger Gerhardt

**MATRIX CALCIFICATION II: VALVES**
Naren Vyawahare · Fred Schoen · Nalini Rajamannar

**VASCULAR NETWORKS & CARDIOVASCULAR ENGINEERING**
Stelios Andreadis · Christopher Breuer · David Mooney

**VASCULAR CELL-BIOMATERIAL INTERACTIONS**
Laura Suggs · Andrew Putnam · Joyce Y. Wong

**VASCULAR MORPHOGENESIS/STEM CELLS**
Song Li · Michelle Tallquist · George Davis

Abstract submission deadline: JANUARY 10

For more information go to:
www.navbo.org/VMBB2009 or call (301) 760-7745

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**Genetics and Genomics of Vascular Disease Workshop**
Sponsored by the North American Vascular Biology Organization
September 14-17, 2009 - Cape Cod, MA

**Organized by:**
Douglas A. Marchuk, Duke University Medical Center
Miikka Vikkula, de Duve Institute, UCL

**TOPICS WILL INCLUDE:**
Genetic Risk Factors for Complex Vascular Traits
Cancer Angiogenesis: Genetics and Genomics
The Role of Somatic Mutations in Vascular Phenotypes
The Transcriptome of Vascular Anomalies
Murine Models for Vascular Disorders
Vascular Anomalies: Lessons from Non-Murine Animal Models

Abstract submission deadline: JULY 1, 2009

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Jessica Sullivan, an undergraduate at Olin College, attended the 2007 ASCB Annual Meeting in Washington, DC. Below are excerpts from her December 19, 2007, blog post about the meeting (http://studentblog.olin.edu/?p=313).

**Day 1 (Saturday, December 1): It Begins**
This day started very early (6:45 am), especially bad since I didn’t finish printing my poster until 1:00 am. We were into our hotel by around 11:00, but I did not manage to get a nap in before it was time to head to the Washington Convention Center [for the undergraduate poster session]. This session was actually a ton of fun. For the most part, it was only undergraduate students, but there were at least one person I saw who was not an undergraduate student. [She] said that she purposely signed up for the session in order to meet undergraduates this year, so she was awesome to talk to. I spent the first 45 or so minutes walking around other posters, and it was amazing to see how many different topics [there were]. There weren’t that many repeats that I noticed, and no one was studying the same tumor suppressor protein (RASSF1A) as Karen [Levi] and I have been.

After this, we headed out to the Keynote symposium, with the theme “New Biologists for the New Biology.” William Bialek of Princeton University took the stage with his talk entitled “The Other Half of Western Civilization: An Experiment in Freshman Science Teaching.” He is a physicist [who] sees the need for biologists to be more quantitative and physicists to be more qualitative and is doing something about it. At Princeton, he has been behind a new program that [offers] first years an integrated course that combines physics and chemistry, and then a follow-up sophomore-year [biology course] that relates to the first course. In addition, they stress hands-on problem solving. It was a lot of fun to listen to this talk.

The second Keynote speaker was Shirley Ann Jackson, the president of Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute. She is also a physicist, and spent four years as the chair of the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission. Her talk was entitled “Discovery, Innovation, and Policy in Human Health.” While more wide-reaching, her talk was also very interesting, and she addressed the need for more interdisciplinary approaches to science and engineering teaching.

**Day 3 (Monday, December 3): Sight Seeing and Fun**
For the third day of our trip, we decided that we had to get out and actually do something. We ended up seeing the Washington Monument, the World War II Memorial, [and] the Lincoln Memorial. With so many museums to choose from and so little time, we settled on the Museum of Natural History because I really wanted to see the Hope Diamond.

[Then] we made a mad dash to the hotel and grabbed our poster, which needed to be up that evening for our presentations the next day. After putting up our posters, Karen and I [attended a Minisymposium] to help people navigate a program for searching a gene database that we used in Joanne [Pratt]’s biology class, so that was interesting. Then, we went out to dinner with Joanne and one of her friends to a really delicious Italian restaurant. That was very interesting, and we got to talk about what it is like to research in a laboratory and deal in office politics.

**Day 4 (Tuesday, December 4): Last Presentation**
Waking up on Tuesday, we were facing another long day. While Karen was presenting in the first session, I tried to walk around and visit some posters, and get some work done because of all the time I was missing at Olin. Then came my poster session, which went pretty well. I had an interesting time talking to various professionals, including some in different fields of study. And then, just like that, the conference was over. We headed to the airport [to return to] Olin for the final stretch.

—Jessica Sullivan, Olin College
Michelle Welsh attended the 2007 ASCB Annual Meeting as winner of the British Society for Cell Biology’s Young UK Cell Biologist Award. The ASCB Annual Meeting was the biggest meeting I have attended, and as I entered the Washington Convention Center I was overwhelmed by the number of people there and the number of posters to get around! As well as the vast amount of information I gained from the poster sessions, this meeting gave me a great opportunity to hear a broad range of talks by some of the world experts in the field of cell biology. Because I am more of a developmental biologist than cell biology expert, this was a good chance to get an overview of some of the recent exciting advances in cell biology. In particular, it was interesting for me to see that many researchers are focusing on the role of the extracellular matrix, something that was becoming increasingly important in my own studies.

The Exhibitors Showcases were also very useful, as these were not simply a direct promotion of the exhibitors’ products but also gave good insight into how these products were being used by researchers in cell biology and thus how they could be used to advance my own work. For me, the showcase on investigating cell junctions was particularly helpful.

—Michelle Welsh, Medical Research Council Human Reproductive Sciences Unit
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Inspiration for Educators

Looking for inspiration and ideas on how to improve your teaching? ASCB has planned a number of programs with you in mind. In addition, consider bringing your high school or undergraduate students, for events designed specifically for them in mind.

- **Education Workshop:** “Quantitative Biology and Modeling,” Raquell M. Holmes, Ion Moraru, Jim Schaff, Ann Cowan, University of Connecticut Health Center. Participants in this hands-on workshop on Saturday, December 13, will learn to use image data and biological concepts to construct quantitative models within Virtual Cell, a Web-based application freely available for use in classrooms and research. $10.


- **Bruce Alberts Award for Excellence in Science Education:** Hear 2008 award winners Wm. David Burns and Karen K. Oates discuss the success of their faculty development and science education reform project—Science Education for New Civic Engagements and Responsibilities (SENCER)—on Sunday, December 14.

- **Education Initiative Forums:** Three fascinating presentations selected from education abstracts are held Monday–Wednesday, 9:45–10:15 am—the time slot between major scientific Symposia.

- **CBE-LSE Reception:** Join this informal session on Sunday, December 14, with Editorial Board members about how to publish a paper in *CBE—Life Sciences Education*, featuring assessment as the key to a successful submission.

- **Wikipedia Workshop:** William Wedemeyer, Michigan State University, and Tim Vickers, Washington University. Every participant on Tuesday, December 16, will create a Wikipedia account, fix a problem in an existing entry, and produce a polished, referenced, illustrated Wikipedia article on a cell biology topic. Attendees are encouraged to bring laptops and a few uncopyrighted images or diagrams to illustrate a cell biology topic. This group effort by ASCB meeting attendees is sure to make a difference in upgrading this popular website!

- **Educational Resources/MAC Booth:** Throughout the Annual Meeting peruse recent educational materials, attend informal presentations, and speak with Education Committee members and ASCB staff about ASCB’s growing collection of digital educational resources, such as iBioSeminars, BioEDUCATE (see article on page 19), and the Image & Video Library.

### Programs Specifically for Students and Teachers

- **Undergrad Program and Poster Session:** “Visualizing How Cellular Legos Build Railroads and Keep Chromosomes on Track,” Eva Nogales, University of California, Berkeley, and Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory/HHMI. On Saturday, December 13, students will learn why microtubules are essential for the life of the cell as well as how Nogales and colleagues are using direct visualization of proteins to understand microtubules better. Links to related articles are available online if teachers wish to prepare students for the subject. The speaker program and question-and-answer period will be followed by an undergraduate poster session, which will enable students to practice presenting their posters before their main poster presentation in the Exhibit Hall later in the week.

- **High School Program:** “Using Venomous Fish-hunting Cone Snails to Develop Drugs,” Baldomero Olivera, University of Utah. Some venomous cone snails specialize in hunting fish. Analysis of the venom from these snails has led to the discovery of venom components that are promising drug leads; one has become an approved drug to relieve severe pain. After the talk on Sunday, December 14, teachers and students are invited to visit the Exhibit Hall. Note: Meeting registration is free for all high school teachers.

More information on all these programs is available online at www.ascb.org/meetings and will be included in the Annual Meeting Program.

—Thea Clarke
EDUCATION Programs

Highlights for Students

What kinds of programs can students at all stages look forward to attending at the 2008 ASCB Annual Meeting? This year’s lineup promises something for everyone:

Undergrads and Predoctoral Students Won’t Want to Miss:

- Undergraduate Program and Poster Presentation: “Visualizing How Cellular Legos Build Railroads and Keep Chromosomes on Track,” Eva Nogales, University of California, Berkeley, and Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory/HHMI. Specifically designed for undergraduates (and their teachers), this speaker program and question-and-answer period on Saturday, December 13, will be followed by a poster session and reception. This session will enable students to practice presenting their posters before their main poster presentation in the Exhibit Hall later in the week.

- Meet the ASCB: Join ASCB President Bob Goldman and Committee Chairs on Saturday, December 13, from 5:00 pm–5:45 pm, to learn how you can become more involved in the ASCB.

- Keynote Symposium: “Cell Biology in the Genomic Era,” Francis Collins. Don’t miss an opportunity to hear what this innovative researcher has to say on Saturday, December 13.

- Opening Night Reception: Join colleagues and exhibitors in the Exhibit Hall on Saturday, December 13, for food and drinks (including beer and wine), a surprise guest entertainer, and an opportunity to see what exciting new products exhibitors have to offer this year.

- Postdoc Presentation: On Sunday, December 14, panelists from a liberal arts college, biotechnology firm, science museum, venture capital company, and intellectual property law firm will offer career advice for graduate students, postdocs, and early career scientists. Plenty of time will be allotted for a question-and-answer period at the end. $10.

- MAC Mentoring Symposium: Daylong activities sponsored by the Minorities Affairs Committee on Saturday, December 13, include a keynote talk by Clifton Poodry, NIH; a panel discussion on alternative funding sources for cell biology research; a presentation geared toward undergraduate and graduate students on how certain inappropriate behaviors can sabotage career efforts; and a poster session and reception.

- Career Center: Take advantage of the ASCB’s free job posting and interview areas in the Exhibit Hall throughout the Annual Meeting. Job seekers may leave CVs, reprints of articles, requests for interviews, or other materials for recruiters. New this year: A computer will be available for checking the latest postings on the ASCB Job Board.

- CellSlam: One of the most entertaining events at the Annual Meeting, CellSlam attempts to show that cell biologists can be funny and can communicate science to the general public. Judged by a panel of scientists and science journalists, each contestant will get three minutes, a mike, and no AV to make a bioscience issue, concept, or discovery come alive before a live audience on Tuesday, December 16.

- Educational Resources/MAC Booth: Throughout the Annual Meeting, peruse recent educational materials, attend informal presentations (see Annual Meeting Program for more details), and speak with Education Committee members and ASCB staff about ASCB’s growing collection of digital educational resources, such as iBioSeminars, BioEDUCATE, and the Image & Video Library.

Postdocs Also Won’t Want to Miss:

- WICB Career Discussion Lunch: Participants on Monday, December 15, meet informally for roundtable discussions on issues of importance to cell biologists at various career stages. Conversations are moderated by ASCB members experienced in various professional areas or issues. Attending this session can help postdocs obtain practical information on career choices, discuss career development strategies, network with others, and enjoy a collegial lunch. $15 for students, $20 for others.

- WICB Workshop: “Finding a Career in Academia,” Junying Yuan, Harvard Medical School. Getting ready for the academic job market? Wondering where to find the openings? What goes into a CV? How to write a cover letter and a research plan? What the interview process is like? This
Gilula Awardee Announced

Graduate student Samuel F. Bakhoum of Dartmouth Medical School will receive the eighth annual ASCB Norton B. Gilula Memorial Award.

The Gilula Award was made possible by the Rockefeller University Press and recognizes an outstanding graduate or undergraduate student who has excelled in research.

Bernfield Awardee Named

The ASCB has selected Kenneth G. Campellone, University of California, Berkeley, to receive the eighth annual ASCB Merton Bernfield Memorial Award.

The Bernfield Award honors a postdoctoral fellow or graduate student who has excelled in research. Campellone will speak at a Minisymposium at the 48th ASCB Annual Meeting in San Francisco.

Assistant/Associate Scientist and Senior Scientist

Cellular Dynamics Imaging

Full-Time, Exempt

The Marine Biological Laboratory, Woods Hole, Massachusetts, seeks outstanding, highly innovative candidates at senior- and junior-faculty levels to advance the MBL’s traditional strength in cell physiology, embryology, neurobiology, and microscopy of living cells.

Successful candidates are expected to apply novel optical methods to probe physiological mechanisms of fundamental importance in cell biology. Areas of interest include, but are not limited to: mechanisms of cell function, development and tissue formation, regeneration, neuroimaging, protist and metazoan cell biology, biophysical and computational approaches, and new imaging technology. Exploration of collaborative opportunities and synergies with educational and other research programs at the MBL is also encouraged (see www.mbl.edu).

Applicants must have a Doctorate in Biology or a related field, a strong record of scientific publication, and the potential to attract extramural funding. Successful candidates will have the opportunity to establish productive research programs in a highly collaborative environment and may choose to join the faculty of the Brown University/MBL graduate program. The senior-level scientist, who will succeed Shinya Inoué, is expected to lead the MBL’s program in Cellular Dynamics, which is projected to grow to approximately seven investigators in newly renovated facilities.

Applicants should submit CV, statement of research interest, and list of four references electronically (PDF or Word files) to:

Search Committee Chair Gary Borisy and Vice Chair Kip Sluder at CellularDynamics@mbl.edu

Advisory Committee:
Scott Fraser, California Institute of Technology
Tim Mitchison, Harvard Medical School
Ted Salmon, University of North Carolina
Stephen Smith, Stanford University
Ron Vale, University of California, San Francisco

The MBL is an Equal Opportunity/Affirmative Action Employer.
Professional Development for Minorities…and Others

Get to know the ASCB Minorities Affairs Committee (MAC) by attending some of the exciting professional development programs it sponsors. Programs are planned for junior faculty, postdocs, and graduate and undergraduate students. Check MAC out!

There’s something for everyone at the all-day MAC Mentoring Symposium on Saturday, December 13:

- 9:00 am–10:15 am, Mentoring Keynote Speaker Clifton Poodry, NIH, will focus on diversity in biomedical research and professional development.
- 10:30 am–12:30 pm, “Panel on Funding Cell Biology Research: It’s Not Just NIH Anymore” will discuss funding science research by sources other than the NIH. Co-sponsored with the ASCB Public Policy Committee, the panel will be moderated by MAC Chair Anthony DePass; speakers will include Ray Gamble, National Academies; Mel Oliver, U.S. Department of Agriculture; Donella J. Wilson, American Cancer Society; and Terry Pearl, Mount Sinai Medical Center.
- 10:30 am–12:30 pm, Deborah Harmon Hines, University of Massachusetts Medical School, will present “Welcome to the Land of Muckity Muckdom, or What You Don’t Know Will Hurt You!” (geared toward undergraduate and graduate students). This presentation addresses how some very talented students sabotage themselves with inappropriate behaviors. Either students don’t know what is appropriate or don’t care because they think certain behaviors don’t matter. They do!
- 2:00 pm–4:00 pm, MAC Poster Session Competition and Reception
- E.E. Just Lecture. This year’s awardee, James Earl King Hildreth, Meharry Medical College, will speak on Sunday, December 14.

Educational Resources/MAC Booth. Throughout the meeting the booth will be open for meeting attendees to meet and network with MAC and Education Committee members, MAC travel awardees, MAC Linkage Fellows, Visiting Professors, and others.

More information on all these programs is available online at www.ascb.org/meetings and will be included in the Annual Meeting Program.

—Deborah McCall

ASCB Annual Meeting Poster Printing Service

Don’t want to travel to the ASCB with your poster? Upload your file to a local San Francisco printer (DPI) and pick up your poster at the Moscone Center. The cost is a flat rate of $75 per poster.

To upload your files for printing, go to: www.ftp.dpi-sf.com. Login: ASCB2008 Password: ascbdpi

Payment (credit card only) is due at the time of poster pickup at the DPI Booth at the Poster Supply Counter in Hall B of the Moscone Center. Attendees may arrange poster printing onsite for pickup later in the week. Please note, DPI needs at least three days to fill an order.

Direct questions about this service to: Sanjay Sakhuja, DPI, 645 Mariposa Street, San Francisco, CA 94107, USA. www.dpi-sf.com. Phone: (415) 216-0031.

San Francisco Reservations Tonight!

Reservations Tonight! can help with booking reservations for restaurants, theater/sports events, and local attractions, as well as obtaining shopping information, maps, discount coupons, and giveaway brochures for San Francisco.

Location: South Lobby Registration, Moscone Center

Hours: Saturday, December 13–Tuesday, December 15, 10:00 am–6:00 pm

Advance reservations may be made online at www.reservationstonight.com or by calling or faxing toll-free in the U.S., (800) 392-3463. International attendees should call (707) 795-4885.
THE RESOLUTION

The SZX16 outshines the competition with a full complement of Apochromat objectives yielding a resolution of up to 900 LP/mm.

- 0.5X NA 0.075 WD 70.5mm
- 0.8X NA 0.12 WD 81mm
- 1.0X NA 0.15 WD 60mm
- 1.6X NA 0.24 WD 30mm
- 2.0X NA 0.30 WD 30mm*

*with correction collar for immersed apochromas

THE OBSERVATION

More than just ergonomics, the SZX16 balances the comfort of flat image viewing with high-quality 3D separation for a greater total user experience and longer sessions on the scope.

THE SOLUTION

A large field of view, long working distance, and a zoom ratio of 16.4:1—the highest of any stereo microscope on the market—give you maximum flexibility without having to switch objectives.

FLEXIBLE, POWERFUL...AND SECOND TO NONE.
olympusamerica.com/microscopes
800-446-5967

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Mitochondrial Measurements
Living Cells, Label Free, and Microplate Format?

Now that’s a horse of a different color.

The XF24 Extracellular Flux Analyzer from Seahorse Bioscience is a better way to profile cellular bioenergetics. By measuring both mitochondrial respiration and glycolysis simultaneously and in real-time, the XF24 provides physiologically relevant insight into the effect of drug treatments, gene transfections and toxins on cell metabolism. You’ll notice a difference the first time you use it.

Attend our free cellular bioenergetics webinar series to hear how leaders in metabolic and neurodegenerative disease, cancer and in vitro toxicology are using the XF24 to accelerate their research.

Visit us at www.seahorsebio.com/2008webinars to register today.
Quick—you have to prepare a lecture on a topic in cell biology and you want to include the best information, images, and videos to make your points. Where do you turn? The ASCB has launched a new website, BioEDUCATE (http://bioeducate.ascb.org), that brings together all of these and more. Teachers and their students can learn more about navigating the Society’s education resources at the Educational Resources/MAC Booth at the ASCB Annual Meeting. The site will also be presented at the ASCB’s Booth at the National Association of Biology Teachers Annual Meeting.

BioEDUCATE—One-Stop Shopping

We are in the middle of a revolution in education, on several fronts. First, the traditional paper textbook is being superseded by Web-based materials. This enables easy searching, hyperlinks, rapid updating, and the inclusion of video materials. Second, active-learning methods of teaching that can be shown to improve student learning quantitatively are being broadly adopted. These are arguably the first major changes in the methodology of teaching science in several hundred years, and it is a challenging time for educators wishing to keep up-to-date.

The ASCB BioEDUCATE website aims to help educators meet that challenge. It has been developed by ASCB Director of Digital Resources Dave Ennist, under the guidance of the ASCB Education Committee. The Education Committee has formed four subcommittees (discussed in Bob Goldman’s August ASCB Newsletter President’s Column) that review material and guide the growth of the BioEDUCATE site. The site contains a number of features that will be of interest to undergraduate educators and their students, many specifically developed by ASCB for its members. The features include iBioSeminars, a growing collection of free, online seminars under ASCB member Ron Vale’s leadership; CBE—Life Sciences Education, the Society’s peer-reviewed journal of education; and a “concept questions” collection (discussed by Bill Wood in the August ASCB Newsletter). ASCB has made a significant investment in these educational tools, which have been offered for complimentary use.

It’s All about the Images

One of the linchpins of BioEDUCATE is a select group of images and videos that have been annotated to be useful for teaching topics in cell biology. Several years ago the ASCB established the Image & Video Library (IVL; http://cellimages.ascb.org), starting with a set of classic electron microscopy images and expanding to include light microscopy and video images. For a subset of the images and videos that best illustrate particular fields, the Education Committee developed a model of inquiry-based annotations. In these annotations the traditional scientific “figure legend”-speak has been replaced by inquiry-based fields, including:

- “Important concept”
- “What should I look for?”
- “How was it done?”
- “Why is this important?”

For those who wish to dig deeper into the topic, there are also “Points to ponder” and “Advanced material.” In addition to the text annotations, images will be visually annotated, with hyperlinked labels for the relevant structures. This will be particularly useful for video sequences; students are first oriented to the video using a labeled series of still images captured from the movie. Once the students are familiar with what they are about to see, they click a link to play the video.

The annotated IVL is still in nascent form, but the Annotations Subcommittee of the Education Committee has developed a priority list of cell biology topics for which images will be collected and annotated. The ultimate goal is to have micrographs, videos, and diagrams for the major organelles and processes of cell biology, with representation of all relevant imaging methods (fluorescence, phase/DIC, transmission EM, scanning EM). The initial list of organelles includes centrioles and cilia, the Golgi complex, mitochondria and chloroplasts, the plasma membrane, the ER, and the nucleus. If you have materials that illustrate these organelles, please support this effort by submitting them to www.ascb.org/ivl for consideration for inclusion in BioEDUCATE. If you’re able to annotate your material following
the existing examples for educational purposes, so much the better, but such annotation is not required. We can work with whatever level of information you provide.

Wikipedia and the ASCB Community

One of the consequences of the move away from paper textbooks is that the first source of information for most students comes from a Google search. Google any cell biology term and the first hit is likely to be the Wikipedia page for that topic. Who writes these pages? How can we update them to reflect new knowledge? Who mediates “edit war” conflicts that arise? These questions will be addressed in a Wikipedia Workshop at the ASCB Annual Meeting.

The ASCB workshop is being organized by Bill Wedemeyer, Michigan State University, and Tim Vickers, Washington University. Wedemeyer has assessed the quality of scientific articles on Wikipedia and found that they vary widely, although the featured articles are usually good, and better than their counterparts in traditional encyclopedias. Vickers is the director of the Molecular and Cellular Biology Wikiproject, a large collaborative effort to improve Wikipedia entries in molecular and cell biology.

Come to the workshop on December 16, 2008, in San Francisco, and learn how you can contribute to this increasingly important resource.

Educational Resources/MAC Booth

The ASCB Annual Meeting booth hosted by the Education Committee offers a wide range of resources and informal presentations. Small meetings between Education Committee members and meeting attendees are held at the booth, with a posted list of education topics addressed. Visitors can peruse recent educational books, posters, and DVDs (e.g., from the National Academy of Sciences and Howard Hughes Medical Institute); read copies of the Highlights issue of CBE—Life Sciences Education; and view an iBioSeminars presentation (a growing collection of free, online seminars under ASCB member Ron Vale’s leadership). ASCB Director of Digital Resources Dave Ennist will be a regular resident at the Educational Resources Booth, conducting demonstrations of BioEDUCATE and showing members how to submit images, videos, and concept questions.

The members of the Education Committee encourage you to join the education revolution: Contribute to BioEDUCATE and Wikipedia, and visit us at the Educational Resources/MAC Booth at the ASCB Annual Meeting. 

—Tim Stearns, Chair, ASCB Education Committee

Honoring 2008 ASCB Awardees

The ASCB congratulates the 2008 ASCB awardees.

Bruce Alberts Award for Excellence in Science Education
- Wm. David Burns, Science Education for New Civic Engagements and Responsibilities (SENCER)
- Karen K. Oates, Science Education for New Civic Engagements and Responsibilities (SENCER)

Merton Bernfield Memorial Award
- Kenneth G. Campellone, University of California, Berkeley

Early Career Life Scientist Award
- Arshad Desai, Ludwig Institute for Cancer Research

Norton B. Gilula Memorial Award
- Samuel F. Bakhour, Dartmouth College

E.E. Just Lecturer
- James Earl King Hildreth, Meharry Center for Health Disparities Research in HIV

Molecular Biology of the Cell (MBC) Paper of the Year Award
- Ekaterina L. Grishchuk, University of Colorado at Boulder

Keith R. Porter Lecturer
- Joseph Gall, Carnegie Institution of Washington

Public Service Award
- Maxine Singer, Carnegie Institution of Washington

E.B. Wilson Medal
- Martin Chalfie, Columbia University
- Roger Tsien, University of California, San Diego/HHMI

Women in Cell Biology (WICB) Junior Award
- Coleen Murphy, Princeton University
- Shu-ou Shan, California Institute of Technology

Women in Cell Biology (WICB) Senior Award
- Fiona Watt, Cancer Research UK Cambridge Research Institute

Young UK Cell Biologist
- Carla Lopes, University of Leicester
Microenvironment, Motility and Metastasis

Sunday July 5 – Wednesday July 8 2009 Glasgow, Scotland

Speakers and Sessions

Keynote Address: Joan Massagué (US)

Adhesion and Migration I: Philippe Chavrier (FR), Paolo Di Fiore (IT), Robert Insall (UK), Chris Marshall (UK), Ann Marie Pendergast (US), Michael Olson (UK)

Adhesion and Migration II: Channing Der (US), Frank Gertler (US), Mark Ginsberg (US), Rick Horwitz (US), Laura Machesky (UK), Jim Norman (UK)

Microenvironment: Holger Gerhardt (UK), Doug Hanahan (US), Karibaan Hodival-Dilke (UK), Raghu Kalluri (US), Harold Moses (US), Valerie Weaver (US)

Invasion and Metastasis: Lionel Larue (FR), David Lyden (US), Gordon Mills (US), William Muller (CA), Brad Ozanne (UK), Owen Sansom (UK)

Imaging, Invasion and Metastasis: Kurt Anderson (UK), Peter Friedl (DE), Erik Sahai (UK), Jeffrey Segall (US), Zena Werb (US)

Aims of the conference

The conference will focus on the recent advances in imaging and model tumour systems which have greatly enhanced our ability to investigate the mechanisms of motility, invasion and metastasis. This conference will highlight these advances and their role in translational research, which will lead to the development of novel cancer diagnostics and therapeutics.

Short talks will be granted to the authors of outstanding abstracts. Some financial assistance will be available to presenters of these short talks through sponsorship from the Association for International Cancer Research.

Website, on-line registration, payment and abstract submission: http://www.beatson.gla.ac.uk/conf

For additional information please contact:
Tricia Wheeler, Conference Co-ordinator, Beatson Institute for Cancer Research,
Garscube Estate, Switchback Road, Bearsden, Glasgow G61 1BD, UK
Tel: +44 (0) 141 942 0855 Fax: +44 (0) 141 330 6426
e-mail: t.wheeler@beatson.gla.ac.uk

Deadline for registration, payment and abstract submission: May 8 2009
Learn about Science in the ASCB Annual Meeting Exhibit Hall

Interested in learning about the latest technology and products? Want to see the latest products, books, and journals? Wouldn’t mind winning a prize or adding a giveaway to your suitcase? Then the ASCB Exhibit Hall is the place to visit! Not only is it the site of thousands of posters—showcasing the latest science—it’s the place to visit more than 400 booths displaying products and services you use—or likely will someday. Seasoned meeting attendees know it’s the place to get their questions answered and receive a personal tour of new technologies, products, and services. Allow an exhibitor to “swipe” your badge, and you can get more information after the meeting—and help confirm for exhibitors the value of exhibiting at the ASCB Annual Meeting.

Eat, Drink, and Mingle
The Exhibit Hall will open on Saturday, December 13, for the President’s Opening Night Reception immediately following the Keynote. This is your opportunity to eat, drink, and mingle with the exhibitors and other meeting participants.

Companies will be presenting new technologies, methods, and products to increase your productivity in your lab. Many companies will feature giveaways, games, and prize drawings as well as demonstrations of their products.

Books, Showcases, and Tutorials
Be sure to browse Publishers Row to see a display of new books and journals. If you are looking for a particular product, be sure to check the Annual Meeting Program for a description of what each company will display, and check the Product Index for a list of companies with the products that you are seeking.

Don’t forget to check out the schedule for the 30 Exhibitor Showcase presentations Sunday–Tuesday, and the five Tutorial presentations on Monday night from 6:00 pm–7:30 pm. These are special opportunities to learn more about products and technologies from the experts.

Refreshments and Commentary
The exhibits will be open Sunday, Monday, and Tuesday from 9:00 am–4:00 pm and Wednesday from 9:00 am–3:30 pm. You are cordially invited to the Exhibit Hall each morning after the first morning Symposium (9:30 am–10:30 am) to enjoy refreshments, including coffee, tea, and brownies. In the afternoon popcorn and lemonade will be available in the Exhibit Hall, Sunday–Tuesday from 2:30 pm–3:30 pm and Wednesday from 2:00 pm–3:00 pm. On Tuesday, don’t miss the Celldance winners—the best videos entered into ASCB’s annual contest—and hear directors’ commentary before or after getting your popcorn and visiting some booths.

Why not take a few minutes daily to visit the Exhibit Hall? Prepare to be wowed by the science! Your visits and questions are welcomed. And keep in mind: The revenue from exhibiting companies helps to defray the cost of your registration. So please show your appreciation to exhibiting companies by visiting their booths.

“I Got ROCK’d at ASCB!
We’re calling them “Random Offers of Conference Kindness” or “ROCK,” and you could be a random beneficiary if you’re spotted browsing the Exhibit Hall at the Annual Meeting by one of our incognito ROCK spotters. They’ll be giving away conference gift bags during the meeting. Each bag of goodies is marked with an “I GOT ROCK’d” ribbon.

—Ed Newman
### ASCB Annual Meeting Exhibitor List (as of August 11, 2008)

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The Department of Laboratory Medicine and Pathobiology, Faculty of Medicine, University of Toronto (www.lmp.facmed.utoronto.ca) is seeking applicants for one full-time faculty position either a tenure-stream or non-tenure at the rank of Assistant Professor available February 1, 2009. The position comes with a faculty salary, commensurate with the applicant’s experience and training. The successful applicant will be provided with a start-up package and space to establish a strong independent research program. We are particularly interested in individuals working in the areas of molecular and biochemical mechanisms of human disease. Research strengths include cardiovascular, cancer and matrix pathobiology.

Candidates must have an M.D. or a Ph.D. degree or equivalent, have completed significant postdoctoral training, and have an established track record of high quality innovative research. Exceptional candidates with established funded research programs and a rank of Associate or Full Professor may be considered as well. Teaching experience at the undergraduate and graduate level is an asset.

The successful candidate is expected to participate actively in graduate and undergraduate teaching programs, maintain a well-funded, independent research program and interact with other investigators on the University campus and at the major affiliated teaching hospitals. The University of Toronto is the fourth largest research entity in North America with a large vibrant community of investigators carrying out excellent innovative research on the pathogenesis of human disease. The interaction of basic scientists with clinicians at the teaching hospitals provides for outstanding opportunities for transformative research.

Applicants should submit a hard copy of curriculum vitae, description of their research accomplishments, the focus of their planned research program and the names of three referees by November 30th, 2008 or until the position is filled, to the Chair, Academic Search Committee, Department of Laboratory Medicine and Pathobiology, Faculty of Medicine, University of Toronto, Room 110, 100 College Street, Toronto, Ontario, Canada, M5G 1L5.

The University of Toronto is strongly committed to diversity within its community and especially welcomes applications from visible minority group members, women, Aboriginal persons, persons with disabilities, members of sexual minority groups and others who may contribute to the further diversification of ideas.

All qualified candidates are encouraged to apply. However, Canadians and permanent residents will be given priority.
Taking the Next Career Step

- Are you ready for a change? If so, the ASCB Women in Cell Biology Committee (WICB) Workshop entitled “Hunting for an Academic Position?” on Saturday, December 13, is just for you! Featuring a small, personal setting; snacks and beverages served. Visit www.xpressreg.net/register/CELL128/default.asp to register. $15 for students, $20 for others.
- Network! Network! Read all about it! The WICB Committee invites you to a free networking reception on Sunday, December 14. All are welcome!
- Meet-and-eat and learn from leaders! Come to the WICB “Career Discussion Lunch” for food, fun, fellowship, and (ph)ilosophy. This event on Monday, December 15, will include over 25 different discussion topics. Hurry and sign up now at www.xpressreg.net/register/CELL128/default.asp to get your favorite topic. $15 for students, $20 for others.
- And now showing…“Owning Your Career,” featuring eminent leaders in the scientific community role-playing in a delightfully funny skit and answering your questions afterwards! The WICB Committee invites all to this free evening program, immediately following the Junior and Senior Career Recognition Awards presentation on Monday, December 15. Bring your sense of humor!
- Make time to explore options. Hear from panelists from a liberal arts college, biotechnology firm, science museum, venture capital company, and intellectual property law firm with career advice for graduate students, postdocs, and early career scientists. This program, entitled “Getting out of the Box: Transitioning to a Career Outside of Academic Research,” on Sunday, December 14, is sponsored by the Subcommittee on Postdoctoral Training.

More information on all these programs is available online at www.ascb.org/meetings and will be included in the Annual Meeting Program.

—Cheryl Lehr and Thea Clarke
Walking to my first ASCB Annual Meeting, I noticed others striding toward the convention center with what looked to be fishing rod cases strapped to their shoulders. Was there another meeting at the center for fly-fishing enthusiasts? I soon discovered that the tubes contained tightly-rolled posters, not fishing tackle. This was my first taste of the “other” side of the ASCB Annual Meeting. The latest science dominates the Annual Meeting, but any gathering of 7,000 cell biologists is bound to reveal the fun and even the funny side of the profession. The 48th Annual Meeting in San Francisco, CA, December 13–17, 2008, will have both.

A Dazzling Exhibit Hall
Take, for example, the Exhibit Hall, with its mixture of dazzling scientific wares and earnest poster presentations. The poster lanes are scientific democracy in action: The most senior and the most junior scientists rub elbows, exchange comments, and make connections. “The ASCB poster sessions are like walking around in a city and bumping into the most amazing people.” That’s how one ASCB member describes the accessibility.

The exhibits themselves are an eye-opener to new technologies and an economics lesson on the impact of the research industry. The exhibits are also a great source of loot—three-ink pens, holographic mouse pads, and calendars of famous women scientists. The socially aware can turn the Exhibit Hall into a science education outreach effort: Fill a bag with the strangest science stuff you can find and give it (or mail it) to someone under 12 who might be interested in biology. The free chocolate is also not to be missed. (If you’re spotted enjoying yourself at an exhibitor’s booth, you could be the winner of a “Random Act of Conference Kindness” (or “ROCK”) gift bag, to be handed out by undercover ASCB staffers. (See “I Got ROCK’d” box on page 22.)

Sociability will meet accessibility in the Exhibit Hall for the President’s Opening Night Reception, to be held on Saturday, December 13, immediately following the Keynote Symposium, which starts at 6:00 pm. The reception will feature food, drinks, a special guest entertainer, and easy introductions to scientists whose names you currently know only from high-impact citation indexes. See cell biologists exhibit their friendly phenotype.

Must-See Events
But can cell biologists be funny? That is the experimental question behind CellSlam, the ASCB Public Information Committee’s improbable, stand-up, juried science “slam” competition. It returns for its third attempt at data collection as the “2008 SF Shoutout!” CellSlam will be on the same day of the meeting, Tuesday (December 16), but at a new time—8:00 pm. Last year’s CellSlam in Washington, DC, attracted a judging panel of distinguished science journalists from The New York Times, The Washington Post, Science, and Nature. The judges watched open-mouthed as cell biologists rapped, sang, recited poetry, and waved cheering pompoms. The journalists’ verdict? CellSlam has to be seen to be believed. (See “The ‘SF Shoutout’” box at left.)

Another must-see is the winners’ reel from Celldance 2008, the ASCB’s cell biology film contest. The Celldance awards ceremony, set for 3:00 pm, Tuesday, December 16, at the ASCB’s movie theater in the center of the Exhibit Hall, has grown over the years. What began as a quick check-presentation ceremony has evolved into a mini-film festival. Winners take the podium to offer up their “director’s commentary” as each selection is screened. This year’s Celldance will feature a new special category for “Science Outreach” films and a separate “stills” contest for micrographs. Cash—$1,800 total in prizes—is a major attraction for Celldance entrants. Demonstrations of skill and imagination are the attractions for Celldance viewers—300 turned up last year. Bring your own popcorn. (See “Sign Up for Celldance” box on page 48.)  

—John Fleischman
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**nominal shipping charge for 5 g IPTG and 100 mg X-Gluc

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### Featured Products with Great Prices:

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Dear Labby,

At last year’s ASCB Annual Meeting I met a senior scientist at my poster who expressed an interest in collaborating. However, I’m not sure how I could or should follow up. A colleague of mine received an ASCB Minorities Affairs Committee Visiting Professorship which paid for a research collaboration with a senior scientist at that scientist’s institution during the summer; it even covered travel, supplies, etc. I’m not a minority scientist but wonder if there is a way to broach this kind of arrangement with the senior scientist who showed interest in my work...or with any senior scientists who visit my poster this year. Would their institutions have any funding for this purpose, and would asking be considered inappropriate? I am at a primarily teaching-oriented institution and lack the equipment and other resources—as well as mentorship—I’d need to try to be more active as a researcher.

—Restless for Research

Dear Restless for Research,

Opportunities such as you seek do exist, in a number of venues. An initial point is whether you are talking about a summer or something longer. For the former, some granting agencies, particularly the National Science Foundation, have programs that allow a funded investigator to apply for supplemental funds to support a visiting scientist for the summer. The Howard Hughes Medical Institute has also addressed this issue.

At first blush, your query raises the question of whether you are eligible for a sabbatical leave from your institution and, if so, what complementary level of compensation would be needed. But institutional support addresses only part of your issue; also needed is a well-funded investigator whose interest in your work might be sufficient to support your stay in his or her laboratory. Clearly, this would be an ideal scenario but one that may prove out of reach in today’s tough grant funding environment; few U.S. investigators have a salary line that remains uncommitted for long. An international laboratory experience may be worth looking into, particularly in well-funded locations like Singapore where a number of prominent cell biologists have immigrated recently.

Labby has hosted visiting scientists from teaching institutions, on both Labby’s funds and theirs; and these have been very rewarding experiences for both parties. The inclusion of a visiting researcher who is more senior than the array of postdocs and students already in a group can be very positive. At the same time, the exposure of the faculty member from a teaching institution to a more research-intensive “culture” can be eye-opening.

Of course, there are multiple, complex factors that may lead a well-trained and talented scientist to take a position at a teaching institution. You may have had experience in a research-intensive environment as a postdoc and decided that wasn’t what you wanted for your career. Yet neither the desire to do research nor the acquired bench skills necessarily evaporate during the first years of a career engaged in teaching, as you’ve seen. Your poster surely indicates that you are indeed active in research. The interest sparked by your poster visitor indicates genuine appreciation. You should by all means follow up. The way to fund a visiting scientist position may not pop up instantly, but this person’s interest will have been reciprocated. And once you both put on your thinking caps, good things may happen. Or said somewhat differently, there are times in one’s career when assertiveness is not only OK, but necessary. You have one of these moments at hand. Seize it.

—Labby

Direct your questions to labby@ascb.org. Authors of questions chosen for publication may indicate whether or not they wish to be identified. Submissions may be edited for space and style.

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“I love attending the ASCB!”
—Micaela Vargas, University of Texas at San Antonio

“IT was amazed by the breadth of science covered at the meeting. The informal and relaxed environment was absolutely enjoyable and very conducive to stimulating intellectual discussions.”
—Alok Shah, graduate student, Department of Molecular and Cellular Biology, University of Iowa

“I genuinely enjoyed the conference, in particular the welcoming of international students, workshop activities, the friendship made, and establishing potential areas for collaborative research.”
—Lucy Cassar, Ph.D. candidate, Monash University, Melbourne, Australia

“I got a lot of great advice during the career luncheon.”
—Jennifer Larson, postdoctoral fellow, Ohio State University

“The ASCB provides a platform for graduate students like me to interact with leaders in the field of cell biology. It also helped me to apply information generated from varied studies.”
—Ryan D’Souza, National Institute for Research in Reproductive Health, Mumbai, India

“I really enjoyed the quality and variety of sessions available… from sessions tightly focused on a topic, to sessions of broad interest that really stimulate thinking outside of your immediate area. The high caliber speakers were engaging and approachable; special sessions after the symposia allowed for more in-depth discussions about the topic, which were ideal for networking. I was even successful in securing a postdoctoral position!”
—Sherri Rankin, Ph.D. candidate, Faculty of Medicine, Memorial University of Newfoundland

“The best part of the ASCB Annual Meeting 2007 was the opportunity to be inspired by the oral and poster presentations of first-rate scientists, get constructive feedback on my research, and receive great career advice from fellow scientists at the MAC symposium… I strongly recommend this meeting to scientists wanting to dedicate their careers to the advancement and education of cell biology.”
—Gloria Conover, research assistant professor, Department of Veterinary Pathobiology, Texas A&M University

“What I liked best about last year’s conference was the wrap-up night in which my favorite scientists performed in a comic piece and showed how fun science and scientists can be outside of their limiting laboratory space.”
—Noushin Nabavi, Ph.D. candidate, Department of Cell and Systems Biology, University of Toronto at Scarborough

“As a Ph.D.-to-be, the best experience for me at the annual cell biology meeting was not only to see all the exciting current research but also to get a glimpse of what I could enjoy most in my career.”
—Hui-lin Lin, graduate student, Department of Molecular Genetics, Ohio State University

“What I liked most about the ASCB 2007 was the organization of the minisymposiums… I also liked the career center.”
—Preethi Vijayaraj, postdoctoral fellow, University of Bonn, Germany

“Not doing research in a specific field of cell biology but rather touching different aspects of it, I liked the plenary sessions best. They gave an excellent overview about cell biology as a whole.”
—Christoph Mitzenrord, Ph.D. candidate, Department of Comparative Physiology, Uppsala University, Sweden

“I think the most interesting part is meandering through the poster sessions. Beforehand, I like to make a short list of the most relevant poster abstracts to be ready for each session. Then, I enjoy speaking personally with the authors and asking detailed questions which allow me to learn many important details not necessarily presented on the poster.”
—Josh Bembenek, postdoctoral fellow, University of Wisconsin–Madison

“My research project is multidisciplinary, so I enjoyed the diversity of fields represented at the 2007 ASCB annual meeting. It was really beneficial to attend so many great talks on very diverse topics. I left the meeting with lots of new ideas!”
—Michele Wozniak, postdoctoral fellow, University of Pennsylvania
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September, Vol. 19, No. 9

Capture of AT-rich Chromatin by ELYS Recruits POM121 and NDC1 to Initiate Nuclear Pore Assembly
Beth A. Rasala, Corinne Ramos, Amnon Harel, and Douglass J. Forbes

In vertebrates, the nuclear pore complexes that mediate nucleocytoplasmic transport are assembled from approximately a dozen soluble subunits and several membrane proteins. Recent studies have shown that a specific chromatin-binding nucleoporin, ELYS, initiates nuclear pore complex (NPC) assembly at the chromatin surface at the end of mitosis. Here, the authors demonstrate that ELYS contains multiple chromatin-binding domains. Through use of a Xenopus in vitro nuclear reconstitution assay, point mutation in ELYS, and AT- or GC-binding antibiotics, the authors show that the AT-hook motif of ELYS is critical for focusing NPC assembly at AT-rich chromatin. Strikingly, the AT-binding antibiotic distamycin blocks nuclear pore assembly, whereas the GC-binding chromomycin does not. The authors further find that chromatin-bound ELYS/Nup107-160 complex is required to attract the integral membrane pore proteins POM121 and NDC1 to the nuclear membrane. Results point to an order of NPC assembly, whereas the GC-binding chromomycin does not. The authors provide the first report linking teneurin, a phylogenetically conserved transmembrane receptor, to BM structure and function. They discovered that Caenorhabditis elegans teneurin, ten-1, is essential for the maintenance of gonad and pharyngeal BMs. In the absence of TEN-1, the BM surrounding the gonad formed properly at hatching but ruptured during larval development. Genetic interactions were found between ten-1 and the BM components laminin and nidogen as well as the well-known BM receptors integrin and dystroglycan. Thus teneurin, integrin, and dystroglycan apparently have related and partly redundant functions. These studies in C. elegans have wider implications for the role of teneurins, integrins, and dystroglycans in vertebrates as well, since they reveal redundancy not only between several receptors of the same family but also between structurally distinct receptor families.

Telomerase Reverse Transcriptase Is Required for the Localization of Telomerase RNA to Cajal Bodies and Telomeres in Human Cancer Cells
Rebecca L. Tomlinson, Eladio B. Abreu, Tanja Ziegler, Hinh Ly, Christopher M. Counter, Rebecca M. Terns, and Michael P. Terns

Telomerase, the enzyme that maintains telomeres at the ends of chromosomes, must be assembled from two essential components and must be trafficked to telomeres in order to function. In cancer cells, but not normal human cells, the RNA subunit of telomerase (TR) is found at telomeres and Cajal bodies. A number of factors could account for this cancer cell–specific localization pattern, but this study indicates that the primary factor is the presence of the essential protein subunit of telomerase–telomerase reverse transcriptase (TERT). Ectopic expression of TERT in normal cells induces TR localization to telomeres and Cajal bodies, and knockdown of TERT in cancer cells eliminates localization. These findings suggest that, like for other ribonucleoprotein enzymes, critical steps in the assembly and subcellular trafficking of telomerase are tightly linked.

Membrane fusion is catalyzed by the assembly of tetrahelical coiled-coil SNARE complexes between the fusing compartments. Typically, the four SNARE domains are encoded by separate membrane-targeted proteins, but in the exocytic pathway one NPC protein (exemplified by SNAP25) encodes two SNARE motifs, connected by a flexible linker. To probe the significance of the highly conserved two-SNARE-motif configuration of SNAP25, Wang et al. constructed membrane-bound, intramolecular and intermolecular fluorescence resonance energy transfer (FRET) probes that report the folding of the two SNARE motifs (SN1 and SN2) in a natural membrane setting in the absence and presence of other SNAREs. FRET was measured in vitro by spectroscopy and in living cells by total internal reflection fluorescence microscopy. Parallel experiments investigated the functionality of SNAP25 constructs with different folding characteristics by measuring their ability to rescue secretion in botulinum neurotoxin type E–expressing cells. Linking SN1 and SN2 together in the same protein has at least two important outcomes. First, it facilitates the formation of a complex with syntaxin that brings the N-termini of SN1 and SN2 close together. Second, the linkage enables fast secretion in chromaffin cells. Independently, Nagy, Milosevic, et al. used systematic mutagenesis and chimeric proteins between SNAP25 and the non-neuronal homologue SNAP-23 together with fast biophysical methods to study SNAP25-specific functions. They identified residues in the linker domain that are crucial for the ability of SNAP25 to rapidly couple membrane fusion to the intracellular calcium concentration—the distinguishing feature of neurosecretion. They thus suggest that the fusion of two SNARE domains has developed as an adaptation towards rapid calcium triggering.
The Radcliffe Institute for Advanced Study at Harvard University annually awards academic-year fellowships enabling scientists to pursue innovative research while participating in the Institute’s diverse scholarly community.

Susan Lindquist, a 2007–2008 Radcliffe fellow, is a professor of biology at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT), a member and former director of MIT’s Whitehead Institute for Biomedical Research, and a Howard Hughes Medical Institute investigator. At Radcliffe, where she was the Suzanne Young Murray Fellow, Lindquist continued her groundbreaking research on protein misfolding, a mechanism that influences the development of diseases such as Alzheimer’s and Parkinson’s.

Radcliffe science fellows include male and female professors on sabbatical from their home universities in the United States and abroad, as well as scientists from industrial research laboratories. At the Radcliffe Institute, these fellows are able to work in Harvard and other Boston-area labs and with faculty and other fellows to explore new avenues in their research.

Applications for 2009–2010 are due by December 1, 2008. For more information, please visit www.radcliffe.edu or contact us at:

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Each year, new graduate students head to their introductory classes in science ethics. They focus on the practice of science, the “Do’s and Don’t’s” from data fabrication to grayer areas of authorship and grant and paper review. Occasionally they might consider “hot” policy areas like stem cell research, but discussion seldom strays from what happens in the lab. This marks a strong contrast to Cambridge in 1981, when I began graduate school. Recombinant DNA was new, and its societal implications were subjects of vigorous debate; the debate echoed discussions among physicists about their responsibilities in the research that led to the development of nuclear weapons. Scientists concerned about the impact of recombinant DNA research had convened the Asilomar Conference, which gave rise to guidelines for research. Governments as small as the Cambridge City Council weighed in. Scientists like Jon Beckwith and groups like Science for the People stimulated discussion. As the biotech industry emerged from labs at Harvard and MIT, tension grew as company aims collided with graduate student careers. However, over the last 25 years this furor died down to a murmur. In the day-to-day rush to revise papers, teach classes, and write grants, science ethics wasn’t on my front-burner, and the question of whether I have a responsibility for the consequences of my work remained unconsidered.

The Pathogenic Role of Inequity
My complacency was shaken this past year. This started when I read Mountains Beyond Mountains: The Quest of Dr. Paul Farmer, a Man Who Would Cure the World by Tracy Kidder. The book profiles Paul Farmer and his remarkable story. Work with farm workers in North Carolina ultimately led this young Harvard medical student to Haiti, where he met a priest working in the poorest part of this poor nation. The experience sparked a lifelong effort to bring medical care to those without access to it, providing what Farmer terms “a preferential option for the poor.” Farmer and his colleagues created Partners in Health, which works with partners in Haiti, Peru, Mexico, Rwanda, Lesotho, and other nations to serve patients and demonstrate how world-class healthcare can be delivered in the developing world. This story inspired me to develop a new undergraduate course exploring infectious disease and how we might improve healthcare access in the developing world. To prepare I spent the summer reading books on tuberculosis, public health, and international development.

Farmer, trained as a physician and anthropologist, has explored connections between poverty and health, producing a masterful set of books. I immersed myself in these, and it was eye-opening. Particularly illuminating was Farmer’s latest book, Pathologies of Power: Health, Human Rights and the New War on the Poor. He systematically examines disparities in healthcare between and within nations, documenting in both numbers and moving individual stories the connections between poverty and infectious disease. In Farmer’s compelling analysis, what he terms “the pathogenic role of inequity” is no accident; instead it reflects “structural violence” directed against the poor. He analyzes how government policies, international finance agencies like the World Bank and USAID, and multinational companies exacerbate rather than ease inequality, while serving the self-interests of the people or nations that created them. He does not hesitate to identify those responsible, and it’s here things become even more uncomfortable. He documents how my government, the major corporations in which my retirement funds are invested, and my own lifestyle, opulent by standards of most of the world, play key and direct roles in creating the system that does violence to the poor. In the words of Father James Guadalupe Carney, a Jesuit killed by U.S.-trained Honduran security forces in 1983: “Do we North Americans eat well because the poor in the third world do not eat at all? Are we North Americans powerful, because we help keep the poor in the third world oppressed?”
A Challenge Unmet
Farmer then turns to the failure of conventional medical ethics and international human rights groups to address this issue. In his view, medical ethics focuses on “quandary ethics of the individual,” exploring consequences of high technology treatment for those in the developed world. In contrast, few consider the ethics that allows the median age of death in sub-Saharan Africa to be five, largely because those children lack the access to healthcare.

I routinely provide my pet dog. Meanwhile, human rights groups focus on the political rights so prized in the West while ignoring the fact that the UN Declaration of Human Rights also guarantees a person the right to a “standard of living adequate for the health and well-being of himself and of his family,” including access to healthcare.

As a biomedical scientist, I found the story of our failure to address disease equitably compelling, and the challenge for physicians striking. But Farmer then brought things much closer to home. As he points out, Article 27 of the UN Declaration of Human Rights states: “Everyone has the right to…share in scientific advancement and its benefits.” Our progress in basic science has been nothing less than stunning, and the distance between basic science and clinical application shrinks each year. But, like all other resources, the fruits of our scientific work are not distributed equally; they primarily benefit the wealthy and powerful. Treatments costing tens of thousands of dollars a month add months or years to the lives of cancer patients fortunate enough to be able to afford them while treatments that cost pennies are denied to millions.

Farmer particularly focuses on AIDS and tuberculosis (TB), classic examples of how basic science can partner with clinical research to address important human problems. These examples should be sources of pride for us all: Both are now treatable, and in most of the developed world are treated rapidly and effectively. However, both continue to kill millions in the developing world (2.8 million AIDS deaths in 2002 and 1.6 million TB deaths in 2005), and rob years of productive life from tens of millions of others. Farmer goes beyond the numbers to introduce us to those who do not share the fruits of our scientific discoveries.

We meet Jean, a Haitian peasant living in a shantytown, displaced by a “development” project that sent hydropowered electricity to the far-off capital while evicting peasants from productive farm land. He, his wife Marie, and their surviving children (two died before five) scrape a living out of marginal land. As Farmer writes, it was thus “a bad day when, sometime in 1990, Jean began coughing.” Lack of a local hospital and the cost of treatment led him to herbal remedies, but when he began coughing up blood it became clear that he had TB. At a clinic he was advised to “eat well, drink clean water, sleep in an open room and away from others, and go to a hospital.” This is excellent advice for a suburban American, but more difficult if you live in a two-room hut on $200 per person per year. His illness worsened, and he sold his few livestock to pay $4/day for a hospital bed. Prescriptions required prepayment, he received less than half the medicine prescribed, and thus even though TB can be treated very effectively, his condition worsened. Running out of livestock, he checked out of the hospital, abandoning his home and land to move to a distant village where a Partners in Health affiliate provided free care. Jean immediately became free of active disease, but the lung damage was permanent. To Jean’s story, Farmer adds many others, including stories in his home city, Boston, in the shadow of the palace of modern medicine, Harvard Medical School.

Treatable diseases, with treatments resting on our work in basic science, yet millions die each year. What are the ethics of this, and do we, as basic scientists, bear responsibility? In the U.S., scientists have organized to address other public policy issues. The ASCB and its allies have mounted an impressive effort to increase government investment in basic science, speaking before Congress, educating congressional staff, and mobilizing scientists for congressional visits and letter-writing. These efforts are impressively effective. We also weigh in on other public policy issues like restrictions on stem cell research and the “intelligent design” debate. I maintain it’s time for us to broaden our focus, and take seriously the promises of the UN, working to ensure that “Everyone has the right to…share in scientific advancement and its benefits.”

Meeting the Challenge
We would not be alone. Many scientists, including many ASCB members, focus their work on basic science with direct effects on global public health and welfare. This year at the ASCB Annual Meeting on December 13, 2008, graduate students will have a chance to hear from one of them. Patrick Duffy of the Seattle Biomedical Research Institute will tell them about his work on the cell biology of the interaction between malaria parasites and
pregnant women; this is part of an effort to create a vaccine and engage and train young African scientists in the process.

Farmer’s call to responsibility is not new. One hundred and sixty years ago, Rudolf Virchow issued a clarion call to the physician and the scientist, reminding them of their responsibilities to the poor. Virchow pioneered the idea that disease is a dysfunction of the body’s cells. He recognized that disease also rests in part on the dysfunction of society, urging us to quantitate this and act on the results: “Medical statistics will be our standard of measurement: we will weigh life for life, and see where the dead lie thicker, among the workers or among the privileged.”

—Mark Peifer, on behalf of the International Affairs Committee

References


5www.pih.org.


8www.un.org/overview/rights.html.

9www.who.int/whosis/en/.

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PUBLIC POLICY Briefing

Becoming a Science Advocate

Interested in serving as a science advocate? You won’t want to miss the following events sponsored by the ASCB Public Policy Committee at the upcoming Annual Meeting:

- “Explaining Your Science to Your Neighbors”: Join Public Policy Committee Chair Tom Pollard, Ursula Goodenough, Sandra Schmid, and Rachel Fink for a presentation and discussion on Monday, December 15, about how to educate members of your local community about the value of government-funded biomedical research. Panelists will discuss their own presentations and experiences.

- “Politicians Don’t Bite”: Hear Public Policy Committee Chair Tom Pollard, Susan Dutcher, Janet Shaw, and Gary Ward discuss their experiences educating elected officials about the importance of federally funded biomedical research. This program on Tuesday, December 16, is also an opportunity to learn more about the Congressional Liaison Committee (CLC), the grassroots advocacy program of the Coalition for the Life Sciences, which also sponsors Capitol Hill Days (see photos on page 42).

More information on all these programs is available online at www.ascb.org/meetings and will be included in the Annual Meeting Program.

— Kevin M. Wilson

Recognizing a Leader, New Funding Sources

Two interesting programs planned by the ASCB Public Policy Committee at the Annual Meeting offer recognition and direction:

- The 2008 ASCB Public Service Award will be awarded to Maxine Singer on Sunday, December 14. Singer was one of the organizers of the pioneering 1975 Asilomar Conference that established a framework for the conduct of recombinant DNA research. She has also been a U.S. leader in efforts to improve graduate education, postdoctoral training, scientific conduct, and the status of women in science.

- “Funding Cell Biology Research: It’s Not Just NIH Anymore.” This panel on Saturday, December 13—co-sponsored with the Minorities Affairs Committee (MAC)—will discuss sources other than NIH that fund science research. Moderated by MAC Chair Anthony DePass, speakers include Ray Gamble, National Academies; Mel Oliver, U.S. Department of Agriculture; Donella J. Wilson, American Cancer Society; and Terry Pearl, Mount Sinai Medical Center.

More information on all these programs is available online at www.ascb.org/meetings and will be included in the Annual Meeting Program.

— Kevin M. Wilson

Missing ASCB Emails?

Not receiving emails from the ASCB? Wondering about ASCB meeting-related deadlines? Want to ensure that you learn about ASCB grant and award opportunities? Be sure to “whitelist” the ASCB in your email system. Including the ASCB on your whitelist ensures that ASCB emails won’t be marked as spam and automatically deleted or relegated to your spam folder. An email whitelist names contacts you deem acceptable as sources for email communications.

Whitelisting can be set up on the server-side or client-side. To enable server-side whitelisting, you will need to contact your system administrator (and request that email from *@ascb.org be allowed). Or, to enable client-side whitelisting, you can set up a spam filter to whitelist individual email addresses, domains, and/or IP addresses. Consult the help menu in your email program for instructions.
CLS Congressional Biomedical Research Caucuses Held

Amy McGuire of Baylor College of Medicine gave a presentation on “The Future of Personal Genomics” to a large audience at the Congressional Biomedical Research Caucus.

Dale Bredesen of the Buck Institute for Age Research spoke at a Congressional Biomedical Research Caucus on “Why Congress Can’t Stop Aging But Can Have a Monumental Impact on its National Effects” to an interested group of congressional staff and others.

President’s Opening Night Reception

All meeting attendees and exhibitors are invited to the President’s Opening Night Reception in the Exhibit Hall immediately following the Keynote Symposium on Saturday, December 13, at 6:00 pm. The event will feature food; refreshments, including beer and wine; and a special guest entertainer you won’t want to miss. ASCB is holding this reception in the Exhibit Hall in part to encourage more attendees to visit exhibitors’ booths. Please make a point of stopping by booths as you meet and greet your colleagues. Badge required for Exhibit Hall entrance.

Note: Poster boards will not be set in the Exhibit Hall on Saturday. Sunday poster presenters may start placing posters on Sunday, December 14, at 7:30 am.
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* Procter & Gamble Award in Applied and Environmental Microbiology
* Promega Biotechnology Research Award
* Siemens Healthcare Diagnostics Young Investigator Award

To learn more about ASM Awards and how you can celebrate excellence, please visit: [www.asm.org/ASMAwards/cb09](http://www.asm.org/ASMAwards/cb09).
Nominations are due October 1, 2008.
MEMBERS in the News

Anthony DePass of Long Island University, who first joined the ASCB in 1998, has been named Assistant Vice President for Faculty Research Development, Long Island University, Brooklyn Campus. DePass is currently the Chair of the ASCB Minorities Affairs Committee.

John D. Gearhart of Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine, an ASCB member since 2004, has been named Director of the Institute for Regenerative Medicine at the University of Pennsylvania and also a Penn Integrates Knowledge Professor.

MEMBER Gifts

The ASCB is grateful to the following member-applicants who have recently given a gift to support Society activities:

Jason L. Burkhead
Laura Anne Lee
Joerg E. Wissler

In with the New, Out with the Old…T-Shirts!

The ASCB is pleased to offer five new t-shirt designs in our “print-on-demand” store. One such t-shirt is the winning design from the 2008 ASCB T-shirt Design Contest, which was won by Ana Pasapera, National Institutes of Health. A wide variety of colors and sizes are available for men, women, and children.

Simultaneously, the ASCB is drastically reducing prices on its remaining inventory of classic t-shirts and polo shirts. The prices are now $8 for all t-shirts and $14 for the classy polos.

Everything is available at www.ascb.org; click on “Online Store.” Besides shirts, the ASCB Online Store also offers notecards, Joseph Gall’s Views of the Cell, career advice books, and an eye-catching poster from CBE—Life Sciences Education.

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ASCB Seeks Staff Scientist

The staff scientist will assist with ASCB career development and science education programs, including regional meetings, Annual Meeting sessions, African workshops, grants writing and reporting, researching and following up on potential funding sources, and development of materials for diverse audiences using diverse venues and approaches (e.g., press releases, website postings, blogs, fact sheets, presentations, Facebook pages, Newsletter articles, e-journal clubs, advertisement text, letters).

**Duties**
- Assist with scientific/educational aspects of Society's initiatives, including the new ASCB website BioEDUCATE
- Create effective outreach materials (releases, website postings, blogs, fact sheets, presentations, Facebook and Wikipedia pages, Newsletter articles, advertisements, letters) re: ASCB positions and bench-to-bedside scientific discoveries and disseminate to diverse audiences (ASCB members, Hill staff, media, the public, potential members)
- Help assess and address the needs of, and publicize and market ASCB programs to, graduate students, postdocs, and early career scientists
  - Work with staff and members to implement special sessions/meetings focused on career development, funding, or other topics
  - Provide support to new subcommittee on graduate training/Graduate Council
  - Develop outreach materials
- Help develop career development program for member graduate students, postdocs, and early career scientists that builds on current Minorities Affairs Committee, Women in Cell Biology Committee, and Subcommittee on Postdoctoral Training programs
- Research funding opportunities
- Write grant proposals and reports for Society programs, including child-care awards for ASCB Annual Meeting attendees and African workshops and awards
- Manage small, regional, scientific meeting grant program: develop and process grant applications, coordinate with selection committee, provide support to local organizers
- Provide support as needed for occasional caucuses and Hill Days

**Requirements**
- Ph.D. in cell biology, developmental biology, molecular biology, or genetics
- Excellent written and oral communication skills for diverse audiences
- Track record of demonstrated commitment to deadlines and details
- Ability to multitask
- Knowledge of science education

**Application Materials**
- Cover letter
- CV
- Two or three writing samples
- Three references (names and contact information to be provided for follow up)
- Salary requirements

Materials should be sent to Staff Scientist Search, ASCB, 8120 Woodmont Avenue, Suite 750, Bethesda, MD 20814-2762, USA, or emailed to careers@ascb.org by October 31, 2008. Search is open until position is filled.

**Logistics**
- The ASCB staff scientist will be based at the ASCB Office in Bethesda, Maryland, USA, and function within the administrative staff team.
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Custom, engineered substrates with nanoscale features can be used to investigate cell surface interactions.²

¹Image provided by R. Vega and C.A. Mirkin, Northwestern University.
²Image provided by J.M. Curran, J.A. Hunt Clinical Engineering (UK CTE), School of Clinical Sciences, University of Liverpool, U.K.

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Calling All Students!

- Interested in sharing a room or carpooling to the ASCB Annual Meeting in San Francisco, December 13–17?
- Want to share your prior Annual Meeting experiences with first-time attendees?
- Interested in knowing what sessions people are talking about?
- Looking to meet up with friends in San Francisco?

Check out the ASCB’s Facebook page for the latest pre-Annual Meeting buzz. Go to www.ascb.org and click on the Facebook icon to be part of the conversation!

Dear Labby Wants You!

Who is Dear Labby? The American Society for Cell Biology’s (ASCB) popular advice columnist for scientists on professional issues. Dear Labby is also a monthly column in the ASCB Newsletter (see page 31).

Send your career questions to labby@ascb.org and, if your question is selected, Labby will provide you (and ASCB Newsletter readers) with great advice, threaded with wisdom and good humor. All questioners may remain confidential.

Correction

In the August 2008 ASCB Newsletter Profile, the names of Bernie Gilula and Sue Shafer were spelled incorrectly.
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6. *Travel, childcare,* and honorary awards, and fellowships
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California State University, Northridge invites applications for a tenure track Assistant Professor of Biology in Molecular Biology/Biotechnology to begin August 2009. Candidates must hold a Ph.D. in the biological sciences and have postdoctoral experience. The successful candidate is expected to develop a vigorous, externally funded research program involving undergraduate and graduate (M.S.) students, seek extramural research funding, demonstrate teaching excellence, and provide effective instruction to students of diverse backgrounds in a multicultural setting. Teaching may include Biotechnology, Recombinant DNA Techniques, graduate seminars, specialty or introductory biology courses.

Applicants should submit a letter of application, curriculum vitae, statements of teaching philosophy and research interests, three representative publications and arrange for three letters of recommendation to be sent to:

Email to: biology.dept@csun.edu (Attention: Chair of Search and Screen Committee) or

Mailing Address: Chair of Search and Screen Committee, Department of Biology, California State University, 18111 Nordhoff Street, Northridge, California 91330-8303.

Application Deadline: Screening will begin on October 1, 2008. Priority will be given to applications received by October 15, 2008 and remain open until filled.

California State University is an Equal Opportunity Action employer and does not discriminate on the basis of race, religion, national origin, sexual orientation, gender, marital status, age, disability, disabled veteran or Vietnam-era veteran status.
GRANTS & OPPORTUNITIES

COPR. The National Institutes of Health (NIH) invites applications for its Council of Public Representatives (COPR), which advises the NIH Director on such issues as community engagement in research and public trust in the research enterprise. http://copr.nih.gov/nomination.asp.


Joint DMS/NIGMS Initiative to Support Research in Mathematical Biology. The National Institute of General Medical Sciences (NIGMS) and Division of Mathematical Sciences (DMS) in the Directorate for Mathematical and Physical Sciences at the National Science Foundation plan to support research in mathematics and statistics related to mathematical biology research. This competition is designed to encourage new collaborations at this interface, as well as to support existing ones. NIGMS and DMS anticipate making 15 to 20 awards totaling about $5 million in fiscal year 2009. Each award will be between $100,000 and $400,000 (total costs) per year, for three to five years. www.nsf.gov/pubs/2006/nsf06607/nsf06607.pdf or http://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/notice-files/NOT-GM-08-131.html.

National Centers for Biomedical Computing (R01). This funding opportunity is for projects from individual investigators or small groups to collaborate with the NIH Roadmap for Medical Research National Centers for Biomedical Computing (NCBCs). Collaborating projects are intended to engage researchers in building an excellent biomedical computing environment, using the computational tools and biological and behavioral application drivers of the funded NCBCs as foundation stones. Opening date: September 5, 2008. http://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/pa-files/PAR-08-184.html.


NIGMS Grants. The National Institute of General Medical Sciences is accepting applications for funding research in which several interdependent projects offer significant advantages over support of these same projects as individual research. Standard NIH application dates apply. http://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/pa-files/PA-07-030.html.

NIGMS Stem Cell Grants. The National Institute of General Medical Sciences has just funded three new research programs aimed at uncovering the basic biology of human embryonic stem cells. The teams will receive a total of about $27 million over five years. www.nigms.nih.gov/News/Results/20080804.htm.

NIGMS National Centers for Systems Biology. The National Institute of General Medical Sciences (NIGMS) invites applications for National Centers for Systems Biology. The goal of the program is to promote institutional development of pioneering research, research training, and outreach programs focused on systems-level inquiries of biomedical questions within the NIGMS mission. grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/rfa-files/RFA-GM-09-009.html.

NIGMS RFA. The National Institute of General Medical Sciences is accepting applications for research on interventions that promote research careers. This funding opportunity will support research that tests explicitly identified assumptions and hypotheses that underlie existing or potential interventions intended to increase interest, motivation, and preparedness for careers in biomedical and behavioral research, especially interventions designed to increase the number of students from underrepresented groups entering such careers. Letters of intent are due September 30, 2008. Applications are due October 30, 2008. http://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/rfa-files/RFA-GM-09-011.html.

NIH Director’s Bridge Awards. This program will provide certain investigators with continued, but limited, funding to allow additional time to strengthen their revised R01 competing renewal applications. NIH components will nominate investigators to receive this support. http://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/notice-files/NOT-OD-07-056.html.

Research on Causal Factors and Interventions that Promote and Support the Careers of Women in Biomedical and Behavioral Science and Engineering (R01). The purpose of this funding opportunity is to support research on causal factors and on the efficacy of interventions with regard to the career patterns of women in biomedical and behavioral science and engineering. http://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/rfa-files/RFA-GM-09-012.html#PartII.
NIH RFA. Applications are now being accepted for research on causal factors and interventions that promote and support the careers of women in biomedical and behavioral science and engineering. This funding opportunity will support research on: 1) causal factors explaining current patterns observed in the careers of women in biomedical and behavioral science and engineering and variation across different subgroups, and 2) efficacy of programs designed to support the careers of women in these disciplines. Causal factors include individual characteristics, family and economic circumstances, disciplinary culture or practices, and features of the broader social and cultural context. Letters of intent are due September 21, 2008. Applications are due October 22, 2008. http://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/rfa-files/RFA-GM-09-012.html.


Research Supplements to Promote Re-entry into Biomedical and Behavioral Research Careers. The supplements are intended to encourage individuals to re-enter research careers within the missions of all NIH program areas. This program will provide administrative supplements to existing NIH research grants to support full-time or part-time research by these individuals in a program geared to bring their existing research skills and knowledge up-to-date. Expiration: September 30, 2011. http://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/pa-files/PA-08-191.html.

RISE (Research Internships in Science and Engineering) and RISE Professional Programs. The German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD) offers scholarships to American and Canadian students to work on cutting-edge research projects at top research institutions (e.g., Max-Planck-Institutes) and universities in Germany. 2009 deadlines: Ph.D. students, November 30, 2008; undergraduates, January 31, 2009. www.daad.de/riise.

SCORE Awards. The National Institute of General Medical Sciences is accepting applications for its Support of Competitive Research (SCORE) developmental awards designed to increase faculty research competitiveness at minority-serving institutions. The program announcement, as well as three other program announcements (PAR-06-491, PAR-06-492, PAR-06-493), can be found at http://grants1.nih.gov/grants/guide/pa-files/PAR-06-490.html#PartI.

Woodrow Wilson Fellowship. The Woodrow Wilson Indiana Teaching Fellowship, a new program to recruit talented college graduates and midcareer professionals to teaching in science, technology, engineering, and math (the STEM fields), is accepting applications. Review fellowship terms at www.woodrow.org/InTeach. All applications are due December 15, 2008.
MEETINGS Calendar

ASCB Annual Meetings
2008
San Francisco
December 13–17
2009
San Diego
December 5–9
2010
Philadelphia
December 11–15
2011
Denver
December 3–7
2012
San Francisco
December 15–19
2013
New Orleans
December 14–18

September 28–October 2, Basel, Switzerland

September 30, Portoroz, Slovenia

October 6–7, Bethesda, MD

October 7–10, Seoul, Korea

October 17–22, Kos, Greece

October 25–28, Washington, DC

October 30–November 2, Asilomar, CA

November 19, Bethesda, MD

November 30–December 3, The Netherlands

December 7–10, San Diego, CA

January 27–28, 2009, NIH Campus, Bethesda, MD

February 28–March 4, 2009, Boston, MA

March 7–11, 2009, Charleston, SC

April 2–4, 2009, Mosbach, Germany
Mosbacher Colloquium, Molecular and Cellular Mechanisms of Memory. www.gbm-online.de.

June 14–18, 2009, Zürich, Switzerland

July 19–24, 2009, New London, NH