

Rockefeller University

Digital Commons @ RU

BenchMarks 2015

BenchMarks

2-2015

BenchMarks 2015, February 20

The Rockefeller University

Follow this and additional works at: https://digitalcommons.rockefeller.edu/benchmarks_2015

BENCHMARKS

THE COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER OF THE ROCKEFELLER UNIVERSITY

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 20, 2015

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Kids welcome. In celebration of national Take Your Child to Work Day, Human Resources will host activities for 8- to 12-year-olds from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. on April 23. Children must be registered by April 17 and must be accompanied by an adult to attend. Space is limited. For more information, call x8300.

New perks and health lectures unveiled. Rockefeller students and employees can now take advantage of discounts at the Equinox Sports Club at 61st Street, and with the ride-sharing service Via, and can see new deals on ski tickets via Plum Benefits and on computers via Dell. For more information on perks, visit inside.rockefeller.edu/hr/perks. Human Resources also offers a busy calendar of health and wellness lectures, including talks on healthy diets, navigating healthcare, arthritis and stroke. Check the university calendar for dates and times.

Rockefeller passwords acquire more power. Thanks to a new identity management service, which the university joined this winter, existing Rockefeller login info — the same username and password used to access e-mail and other campus services — can now unlock other commonly used academic websites participating in the InCommon program. Sites accepting Rockefeller logins include NCBI, eRA Commons, Research.gov and FileSender, a service which allows users to transfer huge files — up to nine terabytes in size — over the internet. For additional details, visit it.rockefeller.edu/incommon.

Convocation set for June 11. The annual presentation of degrees will take place in Caspary Auditorium, with other events occurring throughout campus. Look for more details in an upcoming issue of BenchMarks.

Announcements for this page may be submitted to zveilleux@rockefeller.edu.

BENCHMARKS

Marc Tessier-Lavigne, President
 Timothy O'Connor, Chief of Staff
 Franklin Hoke, Executive Director,
 Communications and Public Affairs
 Zach Veilleux, Editor-in-Chief

BenchMarks is published monthly and is distributed on the campus of The Rockefeller University. It is produced by the Office of Communications and Public Affairs. The Rockefeller University is an affirmative action/equal employment opportunity employer. © 2015 The Rockefeller University.

THE ROCKEFELLER UNIVERSITY

Printed with vegetable-based inks on recycled paper made from 100 percent postconsumer waste.

FACULTY RECRUITMENT

Cardiologist Paul Cohen, expert in obesity and related diseases, named to faculty

by WYNNE PARRY

More than one in three U.S. adults is obese, a condition that puts them at risk for an alarming array of health problems, from diabetes and heart disease to cancer. But while obesity brings devastating consequences for many, some escape. For a select few, obesity causes little more than sore joints and fatigue, at least for a time.

Rockefeller's newest faculty member, Paul Cohen, a cardiologist and molecular biologist, studies the origin of this discrepancy with the ultimate goal of developing treatments for obesity in its most harmful form. A Rockefeller alumnus, he joined the university January 1 and has established the Laboratory of Molecular Metabolism, where he will investigate the molecular basis for obesity's role in metabolic diseases. Dr. Cohen has also been named the Albert Resnick, M.D., Assistant Professor, thanks to a gift from new trustee Weslie Janeway and her husband, William Janeway, made through the Pyewacket Foundation (see "Two new Trustees are elected to Board," page 2).

Previously a postdoc at the Dana-Farber Cancer Institute, an attending cardiologist at Brigham and Women's Hospital and an instructor of medicine at Harvard Medical School, Dr. Cohen did his graduate work in Jeffrey M. Friedman's Laboratory of Molecular Genetics. When Dr. Cohen joined Dr. Friedman's lab in 1998 the group was following up on the discovery of leptin, working to determine how the hormone exerts its weight-loss promoting effect. Dr. Cohen found leptin repressed the production of a liver enzyme involved in fat metabolism. He and his colleagues concluded that this enzyme, SCD-1, acts as a regulatory switch to determine whether



PHOTO: ZACH VEILLEUX

fat is stored or burned.

"This is a homecoming for me: Rockefeller is where I learned to be a scientist," Dr. Cohen says. "With its focus on both basic and translational science, Rockefeller is the perfect place for a physician-scientist who wants to do fundamental research on the mechanisms underlying human disease. I am looking forward to taking advantage of the amazing opportunities for collaboration with my new colleagues."

Dr. Cohen earned his M.D. from Weill Cornell Medical College, through the Tri-Institutional M.D.-Ph.D. Program, and went on to specialize in preventive cardiology. He developed a clinical focus on the cardiovascular complications associated with obesity, and was impressed by

the wide variation in the degree of disease obese patients experience.

In order to begin to explain why, Dr. Cohen and others first had to take a close look at the different types of fat. White fat cells warehouse fat in large droplets, attracting inflammation and causing disease; fat stored within the abdomen, or visceral fat, contains white cells.

But fat can also have healthful effects. Found in infants and recently in small amounts in adults, brown fat cells evolved to maintain body temperature by burning the fat they store. Scientists have more recently found small deposits of a third type, beige fat. Located in clusters and surrounded by white cells, beige cells can

[continued on page 2](#)

CAMPUS NEWS

Child and Family Center to expand by five rooms

by ZACH VEILLEUX

The Rockefeller University Child and Family Center, long one of the university's most coveted perks for parents and a model for work-site child care facilities nationwide, will expand by 40 percent this year, with five new classrooms to be constructed on the second floor of the Graduate Students Residence. The expansion, which will double the number of highly desirable infant spots available in the program as well as add new seats for toddlers and preschoolers, is the first increase in the CFC's size since 2001 and will help shorten a lengthy admissions waitlist that some families remain on for two years or more.

"We have long had a strong commitment to providing quality child care for our community, but in recent years the demand on the program has exceeded our current resources," says Virginia Huffman, vice president of Human Resources. "This expansion, which includes new classrooms and an increased operating budget, will dramatically reduce the waitlist without compromising quality, allowing more members of the community to utilize the facility."

What is now known as the CFC originally began in the early 1980s as a part-time co-op run by parents, with the university merely providing space. As it grew, parents hired professional teachers and a director, and the university began to play a larger

role in its management. In 1994 it became a full-time year-round program run and supported by the university, and it expanded from four to seven rooms. It expanded again in 2001 when an infant room and two toddler rooms were added to the first floor of GSR, displacing the campus gym to Founder's Hall and doubling the number of spaces available for infants and toddlers.

The classrooms now being built will occupy the northernmost half of the second floor of GSR, where student apartments and a laundry room are currently located. The five classrooms are designed with flexibility in mind, so they can be reconfigured to accommodate children of different ages in response to shifting demographics. The two infant classrooms will feature adjoining nap rooms, reducing the burden on staff (a teacher-caregiver must be present whenever infants are asleep), and will have loft areas for play and dedicated kitchen and diapering facilities. The three remaining rooms are connected to one another and feature flexible floorplans that allow them to accommodate varying ratios of toddlers and preschoolers.

The renovated space also includes a multipurpose activity space, a director's office and receptionist's desk, a small conference room,

[continued on page 3](#)

New career director to help students and postdocs navigate options

by WYNNE PARRY

Andrea Morris's career in biology has had a few curves. After earning a Ph.D. in molecular biology and doing a postdoc, she took a tenure-track faculty job, teaching and running a lab at a small liberal arts college. But she ultimately gave up tenure, and the bench, to work in higher education administration. Now, as the newly hired director of career resources and professional development in Rockefeller's Dean's Office, she is charting yet another course, putting her biology Ph.D. to work in ways Rockefeller students and postdocs can appreciate.

"My emphasis is working with students and postdocs to help them figure where they want to go and how best to get there, whether the destination is tenure at a high-profile research university or something else entirely," Dr. Morris says.

Her arrival in Founder's Hall on November 17 is actually a return to Rockefeller. After finishing her undergraduate degree at Haverford College, Dr. Morris worked as a research assistant in Miklós Müller's Laboratory of Biochemical Parasitology. With Dr. Müller's encouragement, she went on to earn a Ph.D. at Princeton. She did postdoctoral work, funded by the National Institutes of Health, at Emory University and Morehouse College, with a somewhat unconventional angle.

"Because the position was split between research and teaching, there was a sense we

were going a little bit off the beaten path, and at least for me, it ended up serving well because it made me realize it is exciting to chart your own course," Dr. Morris says.

She took a tenure-track faculty position in the biology department back at Haverford, where she taught and ran a lab, staffed by undergraduates, studying how cells in the eye's retina form attachments to the appropriate parts of the brain for visual perception. But after 11 years, she was ready for a change. "I always knew that at some point I wanted to work at the administrative level, where I could become involved in policy and curriculum development," she says. In 2013, she took a position at Columbia University's Graduate School of Arts and Sciences as assistant dean for academic diversity, which she held until moving to Rockefeller last fall.

The creation of her position at Rockefeller, which has never previously had someone specifically dedicated to career development, is very timely, says Sidney Strickland, dean of graduate and postgraduate studies. "As more and more pathways for those with Ph.Ds. in biological science have become available, we felt it was important to have one person dedicated to making students and postdocs aware of the full range of options available to them," Dr. Strickland says. "Andrea's previous experience at Rockefeller and in teaching as well as her background in university adminis-



PHOTO: ZACH VELLEUX

tration made her the perfect fit."

Traditionally, most students and postdocs at Rockefeller continue on to research careers within academia. But for some, working in the biotechnology or pharmaceutical industry, or at a small liberal arts college, may be more appealing. For those who want to leave the bench, a bioscience Ph.D. can be an asset within patent law, education, science policy or even finance.

In her first months, Dr. Morris has begun meeting with individual students and postdocs, helping them clarify their goals and chart out plans to accomplish them. In

these same conversations, she asks about the sorts of resources and programming that would be helpful. "We are hoping to supplement the research training that goes on so fabulously in the labs with other professional training on, for example, making presentations and grant writing," she says. Dr. Morris is also working to expand access to existing resources, such as the Tri-Institutional Career Symposium, which she is helping to organize.

Students or postdocs interested in meeting with Dr. Morris can reach her at amorris@rockefeller.edu.

NEW TRUSTEES

Two new Trustees are elected to Board

by WYNNE PARRY

The university's Board of Trustees elected two new members in October 2014: Weslie Janeway, a philanthropist with a long-standing interest in genetics, and Michael J. Price, an investment advisor specializing in the telecom and technology industries. With their elections, the university now has 45 voting trustees.

Ms. Janeway has an extensive background in philanthropy, frequently with an emphasis in science. She is president of the Pyewacket Foundation, which supports young investigators in the natural and social sciences as well as community and cultural organizations in New York City. She is currently vice chair of The Jackson Laboratory, and served for six years on its governance and nominating committee. She is also a member of the board of managers of the New York Botanical Garden, where she serves on the science committee, and has been on the boards of Dana Hall, New York Women's Foundation and Cancer Care, where she served as treasurer. Along with her husband, William Janeway, she cofounded the Cambridge Endowment for Research in Finance, which funds research on financial economics. She is an honorary member at Robinson College at Cambridge and a Companion of the University of Cambridge Guild of Benefactors.

Ms. Janeway holds a bachelor's degree in government from Barnard College and a master's in politics from Brown University. When she and her husband moved to England in 2006, Ms. Janeway studied genetics at the University of Cambridge and she joined the lab of Roger Pederson, a stem cell scientist. During the academic year, Ms. Janeway lives in Cambridge, where she is a sabbatical visitor in the Laboratory for Regenerative Medicine, working with Mark Kotter, a neurosurgeon interested in adult central nervous system stem cells and their precursors. When in New York, she volunteers in Frederick P. Rose Professor Mary E. Hatten's Laboratory of Developmental Neurobiology making the vectors used to transfer genetic material.

She also coauthored the 2008 cookbook *Mrs. Charles Darwin's Recipe Book* based on

Emma Darwin's personal notebook found in the Cambridge University library.

"I don't think a career in academia has ever been easy, but being a scientist has become more and more difficult. Even the top people live from grant to grant. My husband and I have made an effort, one that has proven to be very rewarding, to give young investigators the freedom to do their work without constantly chasing funding," Ms. Janeway says. "Rockefeller is the perfect place to become involved, because of the integration of science and medicine that occurs here."

Mr. Price is a senior managing director at Evercore, an independent investment banking advisory firm with more than \$14 billion in assets under management. In addition to heading up Evercore's corporate advisory business, Mr. Price leads the firm's technology and telecom groups. He has advised on a number of the largest and most complex transactions in these industries.

"The individual motivation and responsibility required of lab heads at Rockefeller reminds me of how we manage Evercore. I believe the entrepreneurial culture fostered by this structure combined with the enormous resources of the university creates opportunities for transformational outcomes," Mr. Price says. "Having the chance to watch these innovations closely is very exciting. I am proud to be associated with such an esteemed group."

Previously, Mr. Price co-founded FirstMark Communications Europe and spent 11 years at Lazard, where he founded and led the firm's global telecom and technology group. Prior to that, in 1998, Mr. Price co-founded FirstMark Communications International, which raised \$900 million to build a fiber-optic network and local access networks covering over 100 cities in Europe.

Mr. Price received a B.S. in economics from the University of Pennsylvania's Wharton School and an M.B.A. from Harvard Business School. Before becoming a Trustee, he was a member of The Rockefeller University Council for 14 years. His wife, Vikki Price, shares his interest in the university.



New trustees. Weslie Janeway (left) and Michael J. Price.

Cohen (continued from page 1)

burn calories just like brown fat cells when exposed to cold or to certain hormones. Beige fat cells are generally found subcutaneously, or in deposits under the skin.

Dr. Cohen's postdoctoral research helped establish the health protecting effect of beige fat and identified a key role for the molecule PRMD16 in activating beige fat cells so they burn calories just like brown cells.

When looking at subcutaneous fat, the less detrimental type of deposit that contains beige cells, Dr. Cohen and his

colleagues found significant levels of PRMD16, which was already known to help regulate the expression of RNA, the molecule that carries protein making instructions for DNA. They then genetically modified mice so they could not produce this molecule in fat cells. Without PRMD16, the beige cells could not burn calories and came to resemble white fat. Meanwhile, the mice became obese and developed problems related to obesity, including resistance to insulin, a precursor condition to diabetes. This raises the possi-

bility of treating obesity-related conditions by turning on PRMD16 in fat cells.

Dr. Cohen is now working to better understand the molecular basis for the negative effects of visceral fat, and at Rockefeller he plans to use mouse models he has developed to uncover the specific connections by which fat tissue contributes to various disorders, such as high blood pressure.

"Paul's work so far has made significant contributions to the understanding of metabolism, first through his work on

the leptin pathway, and, more recently, by exploring the biology of fat cells," says Marc Tessier-Lavigne, the university's president. "As he works to build a research program based in molecular biology and biochemistry, and helps to develop novel treatments for obesity, Paul joins a long tradition of Rockefeller physician-scientists who combine studies of human subjects with laboratory and animal findings to push the boundaries of our knowledge. It is truly a pleasure to welcome Paul back to Rockefeller."

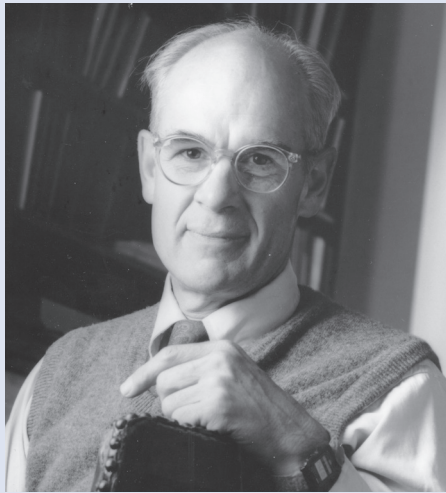
Rockefeller mathematician Peter Sellers dies at 84

by STEPHEN ALTSCHUL

Peter H. Sellers, among the earliest researchers on DNA and protein sequence comparison, died of cancer on November 15, 2014, at the age of 84. An obituary was published in *The Philadelphia Inquirer* on November 25. Here, I offer a brief, personal perspective.

I first met Peter Sellers over thirty years ago, on May 28, 1984, to be precise. I was at the time a graduate student in applied mathematics at MIT, and was interested in finding a dissertation project in computational biology. The first comprehensive text book on sequence comparison, *Time Warps, String Edits and Macromolecules: The Theory and Practice of Sequence Comparison*, had just been published, from which I had gleaned the elements of this new field and the names of a number of its pioneers, including Peter. I learned that several would be speaking at a symposium planned for that spring's AAAS meeting in New York, which I eagerly made plans to attend. The symposium had been organized and was being co-chaired by David Lipman from the NIH, who recently had published with John Wilbur a fast DNA and protein database search program. Among the meeting's six speakers, I found Peter the easiest to approach, and he invited me to come by his office at Rockefeller University the following day.

A mathematician by training, Peter had first become interested in sequence comparison about a decade earlier, after attending a talk by the physicist Stan Ulam and solving a problem he had posed. Recently, Peter had struck up a collaboration with Bruce Erickson, a protein chemist interested in the synthesis of artificial peptides, who was a fellow researcher at Rockefeller University. My meeting with Peter was pleasant, but it did not shake loose any ideas for research projects. It was timed, however, so we could attend a lecture by Mike Zuker on the prediction of RNA folding, a reprise of his AAAS talk of the previous day, and we proceeded afterwards to the Rockefeller Faculty Club with a small group for



lunch. There, I was seated next to Bruce Erickson, with whom I struck up a lively conversation. After a visit to his lab following lunch, he invited me to come work with him over the summer, a chance that I jumped at. During those months I was able to solve a problem he had been thinking about for a while, resulting in my first published paper and an invitation to join Bruce's lab more permanently as a research assistant. I was able to

arrange this with my thesis advisor, and spent most of the next three years with Bruce at Rockefeller, but frequently consulting with and inspired by Peter.

Peter's early work in sequence comparison is probably best encapsulated in three papers that take a mathematically rigorous approach to sequence alignment. In the first, published in the *SIAM Journal on Applied Mathematics* in 1974, he defines a distance measure between sequences, which he proves to be a metric, and he also describes and proves valid an algorithm for calculating it. This is, basically, what is today commonly

known as the Needleman-Wunsch algorithm, although a careful reading of Saul B. Needleman and Christian D. Wunsch's paper shows that they in fact describe a different algorithm. It is really Sellers' algorithm, or a related one by David Sankoff, that is currently used. Peter's second alignment paper, published in 1983 with Bruce Erickson, describes semi-global alignment, which finds approximate occurrences of a short sequence within a longer one. His third paper, published in the *Bulletin of Mathematical Biology* in 1984, describes what can be understood as a more general version of the Smith-Waterman algorithm.

In brief, after the definition of optimal global alignment in the early 1970s, it took many years for practical definitions and algorithms for local sequence alignment to be formulated. Once this was achieved, local alignment served as the foundation for the development of rapid and popular heuristic protein and DNA database

search programs. Peter took the approach of defining the concept of "local optimality," and then described an algorithm for rigorously finding all and only the locally optimal local alignments of two sequences. When his algorithm is restricted to finding the single best such alignment, it can be shown to be equivalent to that of Drs. Smith and Waterman. The complete version of Peter's algorithm was conjectured to run in time $O(mn)$, and I was able to develop a modification that could be proved to do so.

Throughout my time at Rockefeller, Peter Sellers was a guiding light for my work with Bruce Erickson. Peter and Bruce made an unusual team. Bruce had the entrepreneurial spirit required of a modern lab head, with a constant need to write grants and raise funds. Peter was a much gentler soul, perhaps heavily influenced by the Philadelphia Quaker tradition. He was happy to work on his own, pursuing mathematical rigor, and was not focused exclusively on practical results. He was never a self-promoter, and his contribution to the field of sequence comparison is unfortunately frequently overlooked.

As Peter's *Philadelphia Inquirer* obituary states, he had many interests beyond mathematics and science. He was descended from the Peale family of 18th and 19th century American artistic fame, and his wife and several of his children have strong artistic interests. Peter served for some time teaching in Africa. He and his family removed each summer to their rustic second home on Mount Desert Island, where I had the pleasure of visiting them several times. There, having spent many years hand-building a fine wooden sloop in a Pennsylvania barn, he enjoyed many more sailing it with his wife around the coast and islands of Maine. He was happy to be able to return to Maine this past summer, although his flagging strength had put an end to his sailing days. It was a privilege to have known Peter for the past thirty years. He was a true gentleman and a true friend.

Dr. Altschul is senior investigator at the National Center for Biotechnology Information, which is part of the National Library of Medicine at the National Institutes of Health. He is coauthor of the BLAST algorithm, a widely used computerized DNA and protein database search program.

Child and Family Center expansion (continued from page 1)

teacher's lounge, pantry and stroller parking. For security purposes it is separated from the residential section of the building by access-controlled doors. Entry will be from the existing east-facing door, which will be upgraded with an ADA-compliant, stroller-friendly ramp.

The new plans were created by Brezavar and Brezavar Architects, a firm that specializes in school interiors. In addition to previous work in the CFC and designing playrooms in Faculty House and Sutton Terrace, Brezavar and Brezavar has worked at All Souls School and The Studio School.

Faced with the challenge of fitting modern and flexible classrooms into an existing building originally designed as a dormitory, Brezavar and Brezavar worked to create open spaces with variations in levels to help kids develop motor skills and to encourage different kinds of play. They replicated some of the same designs and features used in the existing GSR classrooms, in order to create a cohesive feel throughout the center, despite the separate spaces.

They also built visual connections between the rooms, using doors and glass panels in the walls. "All five new classrooms are linked in this way allowing flexibility for the teachers and giving children the opportunity to observe older and younger peers," says Sarah Brezavar, the architect, who worked closely with the CFC's teachers and directors to develop the design. "For children, it is reassuring to be able to look back at your former room — this consistency helps the child manage the rapid changes in their bodies and abilities."

Although the work on the second floor of GSR will be finished by December, the

timetable for construction anticipates that the newly expanded CFC will open in two phases, operating at full capacity for the first time in September 2016. In order to also accommodate needed renovations to the three classrooms in Sophie Fricke Hall, the teachers and children currently in that space will be the first to occupy the new rooms, along with two new classes. Once that work is complete, the Sophie Fricke space will reopen with an additional three rooms for infants and toddlers.

Light demolition work in GSR began in December, after students living in the affected apartments were relocated. In February, children and teachers from the three rooms located directly below the work site will be temporarily moved to swing space in other buildings, so that more extensive

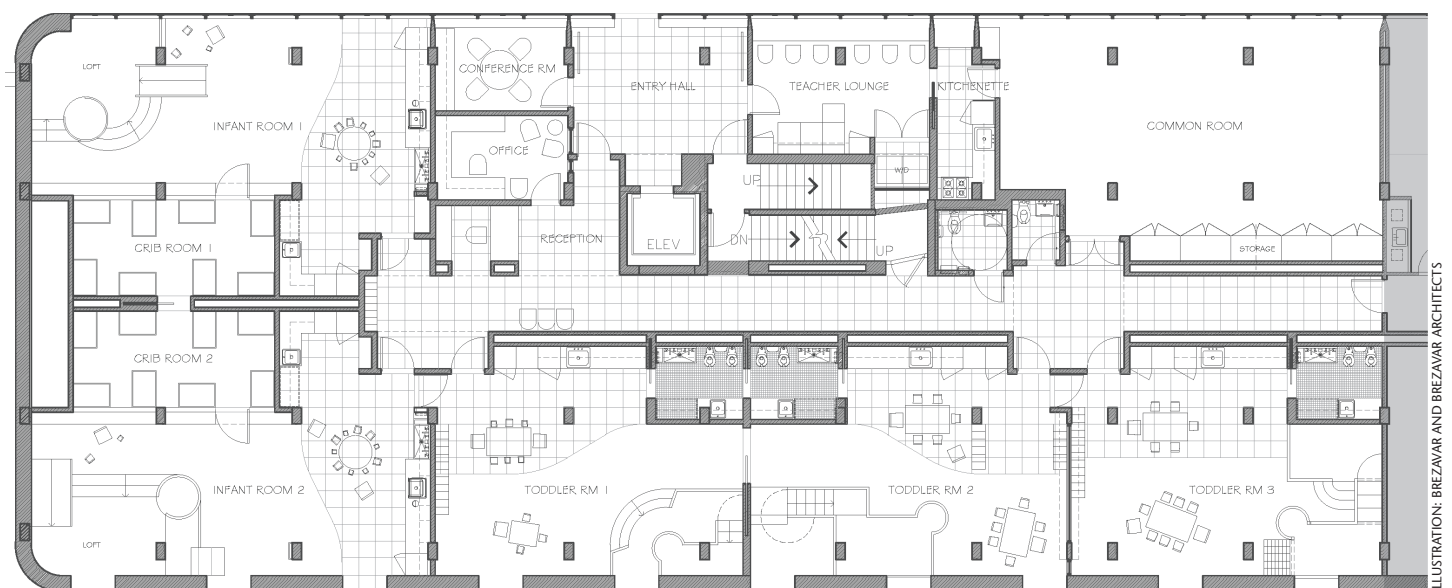
work can proceed. The renovation is being conducted by Plant Operations personnel and contractors.

Because the city Department of Health and Mental Hygiene, which oversees childcare facilities, only allows swing space to be occupied by children for a maximum of three months, the bulk of the demolition and heavy construction work will take place in the winter and early spring. Lighter finishing work will occur throughout the summer and into the fall. To ensure the existing classrooms remain safe, barriers will be erected to prevent dust from circulating, and air monitoring equipment will be installed in several locations.

"Our goal with this work is to minimize the disruption to the teachers and children as well as the building's residential occu-

pants, while still maintaining an aggressive timetable in order to have the new space ready for occupancy by the end of the calendar year," says Alex Kogan, associate vice president of Plant Operations. "We are coordinating closely with the CFC administrators and teachers to ensure that the project progresses as smoothly as possible."

"Although some disruption is inevitable, we are doing our best to minimize the impact on the children and teachers, and we are keeping our eyes on the end result — five beautiful new classrooms," says Karen Booth, director of the CFC. "We are going to have more space, more teachers and more kids, but nothing will change the center's culture and philosophy. Our high standards will remain the same as they have always been."



Kids in the hall. A floor plan of the CFC's new space shows the location of five new classrooms and adjacent support areas on the second floor of the Graduate Student Residence. Renovation work, underway now, will be completed in December.

Richard Krause, former lab head and advocate for infectious disease research, dies

by WYNNE PARRY

Richard M. Krause, a former Rockefeller University faculty member who later became director of the U.S. National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Disease and presciently warned against complacency toward infectious disease, has died at the age of 90.

A fascination with the streptococci bacteria extended throughout Dr. Krause's scientific career. As a medical student at Case Western Reserve University, he took a break to work for Charles H. Rammelkamp, who devised a way to prevent rheumatic fever, which is caused by an earlier *Streptococcus* infection. He later led work on streptococcal disease, including rheumatic fever, in India, which continued until shortly before his death.

"Dr. Krause had a long, productive scientific career, but perhaps his most significant contribution came very early on. During the first half of the 20th century, rheumatic fever was a major killer in the United States, but the use of

penicillin to treat the earlier infection changed that," says Emil Gotschlich, senior consulting physician emeritus at The Rockefeller University Hospital, who worked alongside Dr. Krause in Maclyn McCarty's lab.

Dr. Krause joined Rockefeller in 1954, to work on Group A *Streptococcus* and the immune responses of rheumatic fever patients. Within the McCarty lab, Dr. Krause rose to associate professor, then left in 1962 for a short stint at Washington University School of Medicine in St. Louis. He returned to Rockefeller in 1964 to establish his own lab where, using strep, he and colleagues worked out the early genetics by which the immune system generates antibodies.

He left in 1975 to become director of the U.S. National Institute of Allergies and Infectious Diseases, part of the National Institutes of Health. At the time, national attention had shifted away from infectious disease toward

other threats, such as cancer. Krause strove to shake off this complacency. The publication in 1981 of his book, *The Restless Tide — The Persistent Challenge of the Microbial World*, coincided roughly with the emergence of AIDS in the United States.

"Richard appreciated the importance of science history — the thought processes that go into a discovery and the personalities involved," says Vincent Fischetti, professor and head of the Laboratory of Bacterial Pathogenesis and Immunology at The Rockefeller University, who also worked alongside Dr. Krause when he was at Rockefeller. "For several years prior to his death he was researching a new book describing the history of streptococcal research, including the groundwork for the important findings that led to the near elimination of rheumatic fever and rheumatic heart disease here in the United States."

Dr. Krause died January 6 in Washington, D.C.

MILESTONES

PROMOTIONS, AWARDS AND PERSONNEL NEWS

Awarded:

Mary Ellen Conley, the AAI-Steinman Award from the American Association of Immunologists. The award, named for the late Ralph M. Steinman, head of Rockefeller's Laboratory of Cellular Physiology and Immunology, recognizes an individual who has made significant contributions to the understanding of immune processes underlying human disease pathogenesis, prevention or therapy. The award will be presented May 10 at the association's annual meeting in New Orleans. Dr. Conley is a member of Jean-Laurent Casanova's St. Giles Laboratory of Human Genetics of Infectious Diseases.

Jeffrey V. Ravetch, the Wolf Prize in Medicine. He shares the prize, which includes a monetary award of \$100,000, with two other immunologists, John Kappler and **Philippa Marrack**, who is a member of Rockefeller's Committee on Scientific Affairs. The Wolf Prizes are awarded annually in arts and sciences by the Wolf Foundation of Israel and are presented by the president of Israel. Dr. Ravetch is Theresa and Eugene M. Lang Professor and head of the Leonard Wagner Laboratory of Molecular Genetics and Immunology.

Marc Tessier-Lavigne, the NY/NJ CEO Lifetime Achievement Award in recognition of his leadership in the bioscience community. The award was announced at a Boston Biotech Conference of executives held November 12 and 13 in New York; Dr. Tessier-Lavigne was selected by conference participants representing some of the most influential biotechnology companies internationally. Dr. Tessier-Lavigne is president of Rockefeller, Carson Family Professor and head of the Laboratory of Brain Development and Repair.

Named:

Tobias Bartsch and **Michal Breker**, Simons Foundation Junior Fellows. The prestigious three-year fellowships are among the most generous postdoctoral fellowships, worth \$72,100 per year plus research funding, benefits and indirect costs. Dr. Bartsch is a postdoc in A. James Hudspeth's Laboratory of Sensory Neuroscience; Dr. Breker is a postdoc in Frederick R. Cross' Laboratory of Cell Cycle Genetics.

Jeffrey M. Friedman and **Leslie Vosshall**, fellows of the American Association for the Advancement of Science. Election as a fellow is an honor bestowed upon AAAS members by their peers for scientifically or socially distinguished efforts to advance science or its applications. Dr. Friedman is Marilyn M. Simpson Professor and head of the Laboratory of Genetics; Dr. Vosshall is Robin Chemers Neustein Professor and head of the Laboratory of Neurogenetics and Behavior.

Rand M. Miller and **Jonathan Whicher**, Damon Runyon Cancer Research Foundation fellows. The nonprofit organization, which supports innovative early-career researchers, grants three-year awards to outstanding postdocs conducting basic and translational cancer research. Dr. Miller is a member of Tarun Kapoor's Selma and Lawrence Ruben

Laboratory of Chemistry and Cell Biology; Dr. Whicher is a member of Roderick MacKinnon's Laboratory of Molecular Neurobiology and Biophysics.

Mikós Müller, an honorary member of the Hungarian Society for Microbiology. Dr. Müller is an emeritus professor.

Published:

The Altruistic Brain: How We Are Naturally Good, by **Donald W. Pfaff**, professor and head of the Laboratory of Neurobiology and Behavior. Detailing the work of neuroscientists, psychologists and evolutionary biologists, Dr. Pfaff's book argues that the source of human kindness is as much physiological — etched in our brains, hormones and genes — as it is societal. *The Altruistic Brain* was published in January by Oxford University Press.

Hired:

Kwame Adu, doorperson, Housing.

Endalkachew Alemu, postdoctoral fellow, Robert Darnell Lab.

Frederick Arce Vargas, visiting fellow, Ravetch Lab.

Renise Baptiste, research assistant, Ravetch Lab.

Alessandra Bonito Oliva, postdoctoral associate, Sakmar Lab.

Malte Braunschweig, visiting student, Nussenzweig Lab.

Wadek Bryslawskij, watch engineer, Plant Operations Power House.

Emilie Ceraudo, visiting fellow, Sakmar Lab.

Viola Chen, visiting fellow, Collier Lab.

Jia Cheng, postdoctoral associate, Greengard Lab.

Paul Cohen, assistant professor and head of laboratory, Paul Cohen Lab.

Michael Danziger, research assistant, Brady Lab.

Viet Loan Dao Thi, postdoctoral fellow, Rice Lab.

Manjula Donepudi, assistant director, Technology Transfer.

Eliot Dow, postdoctoral associate, Hudspeth Lab.

Lyric Evans Hunter, administrative assistant, Tarakhovsky Lab.

Paul Feinstein, member of the adjunct faculty, Friedman Lab.

Vichelle Filoteo, environmental technician, Laboratory Safety and Environmental Health.

Raffaele Fiorenza, research assistant, Casanova Lab.

Maya Frankfurt, member of the adjunct faculty, Pfaff Lab.

Eyad Gharaibeh, research assistant, Collier Lab.

Anne Gregor, postdoctoral associate, Gleeson Lab.

Vincent Hakim, visiting professor, Siggia Lab.

Lisa Hang, visiting fellow, Kapoor Lab.

Linda Hanssler Wenner, coordinator, Office of Academic Affairs.

Keichi Ito, postdoctoral associate, Roeder Lab.

Jin Seo Jeong, postdoctoral fellow, Chua Lab.

Dimitrios Kallifidas, member of the adjunct faculty, McEwen Lab.

Micah Katz, research assistant, Brady Lab.

Mark Knight, animal health technician II, Comparative Bioscience Center.

Kun Li, postdoctoral associate, Heintz Lab.

Howard Love, assistant network engineer, Information Technology.

Marc Missmahl, visiting student, Tavazoie Lab.

Rubayath Mohsen, technology transfer coordinator, Technology Transfer.

Andrea Morris, director, career and professional development, Dean's Office.

Robert Nowinski, visiting scientist, Fischetti Lab.

Anthony Palillo, research assistant, Chen Lab.

Wynne Parry, science writer, Communications and Public Affairs.

Pamela Perkins, associate director, Rockefeller University Council, Development.

Viktoriya Pimanova, clinical research nurse, Hospital Nursing Inpatient.

Adam Procter, helpdesk and computer support specialist, Information Technology.

Hafsteinn Rannversson, visiting student, Sakmar Lab.

Paul Roossin, visiting scientist, Simon Lab.

Kathryn Rozen-Gagnon, postdoctoral associate, Rice Lab.

Zahra Sanghai, postdoctoral associate, Klinge Lab.

Nick Tataryn, visiting fellow, Comparative Bioscience Center.

Cecilia Unson, research specialist, Nussenzweig Lab.

Levar Wakefield, doorperson, Housing.

Charlotte Wincott, postdoctoral fellow, Kreek Lab.

Tianhao Wu, analyst, Investments.

Xiaofei Yu, postdoctoral associate, Friedman Lab.

Luis Zagami, receiving clerk, Purchasing.

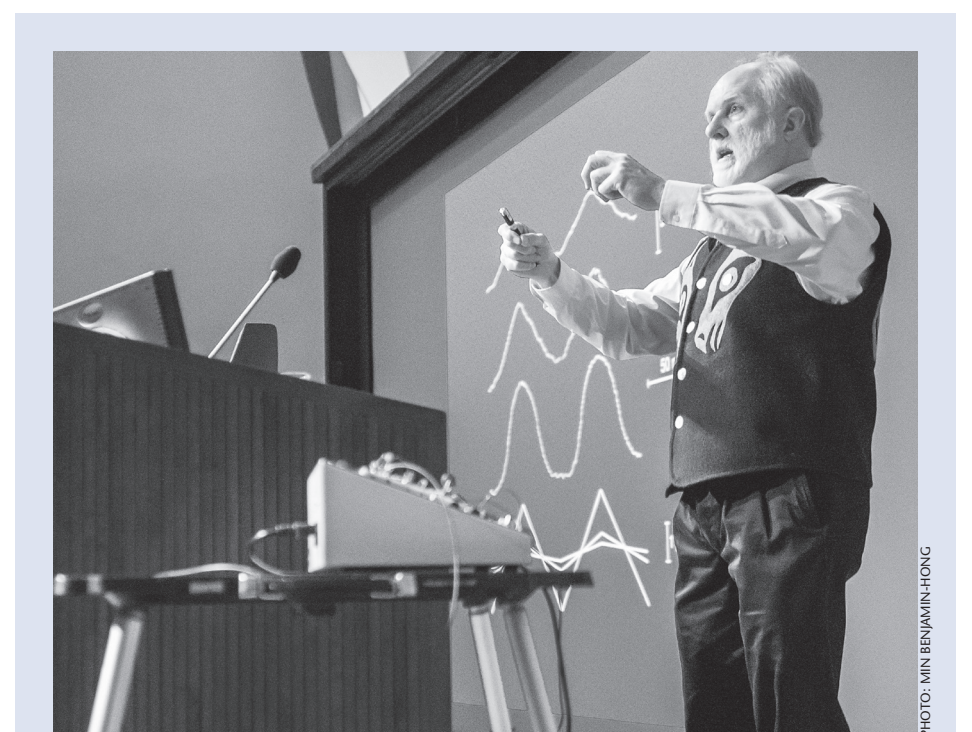
Promoted (academic appointments):

Sarah Amy Stanley, to senior research associate, Friedman Lab.

Sohail Tavazoie, to associate professor and head of laboratory, Tavazoie Lab.

Yong Zhang, to research assistant professor, Kreek Lab.

This publication lists new hires, awards and promotions. Staff promotions are listed yearly; academic promotions and appointments are listed monthly.



'Talking Science' lecture moves to January

The university's annual holiday lecture for high school students, a tradition dating back to 1960, received a makeover this year. In addition to a new name, "Talking Science," which debuted in 2013, the lecture was moved to the second Saturday of January, and expanded to include a lunchtime program of scientific demonstrations — highlights included electric fish, visual illusions and fruit fly mating — in the CRC, as well as the customary two-part lecture in Caspary Auditorium.

Attracting over 400 students and teachers from 70 schools in New York City and its suburbs, this year's lecture was on the biology of perception, delivered by A. James Hudspeth, F.M. Kirby Professor and head of the Laboratory of Sensory Neuroscience. Vanessa Ruta, Gabrielle H. Reem and Herbert J. Kayden Assistant Professor and head of the Laboratory of Neurophysiology and Behavior, was the host. Dr. Ruta and Dr. Hudspeth's labs sponsored the demonstrations along with the university's Science Outreach Program, led by Jeanne Garbarino.