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Women & Science: Supporting the Advancement of Women in Science

The Rockefeller University

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THE ROCKEFELLER UNIVERSITY

WOMEN & SCIENCE

Supporting the
Advancement of
Women in Science

Cover:

***Magnified eye of a Drosophila melanogaster
from the laboratory of Dr. Leslie B. Vosshall.***

A tiny fly with great scientific importance, *Drosophila melanogaster* plays a critical role in the research of many Rockefeller laboratories. Currently, the Vosshall lab is studying how genetic variations affect the fly's sense of smell and influence its behavior. This research has profound implications for a variety of insect-borne diseases, including malaria and yellow fever.



Message from Robin Chemers Neustein

In the 1990s, my family lived across the street from The Rockefeller University, one of the world's leading centers for biomedical research. I was intrigued by the University's many Nobel Prize winners and its remarkable record of scientific discovery. As a mother with a demanding job at Goldman Sachs, I was also impressed with Rockefeller's on-campus children's preschool, which serves the families of its faculty, graduate students, and post-doctoral fellows.

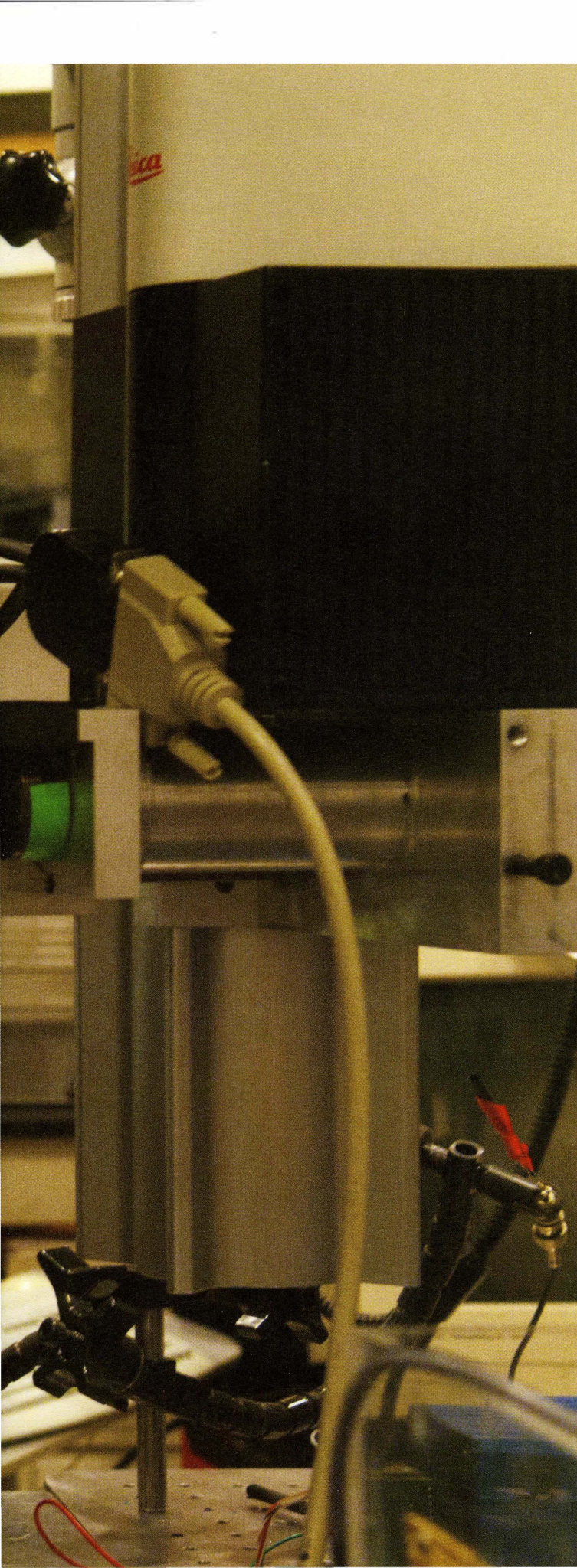
When we had the opportunity to attend some of the lectures and presentations sponsored by the University, we found the Rockefeller campus to be warm and welcoming. Drawn by the intellectual energy of this unique community, my family encouraged me to become more involved. In 1998, *Women & Science* was launched by several visionary women volunteers, and a few years later I was invited to serve as a co-chair.

Working on behalf of *Women & Science* has enabled me to get to know the women scientists at Rockefeller and to contribute to the environment that the University is creating in support of them. *Women & Science* has thrived beyond anything its founders imagined. It has become a national model for encouraging women to embrace scientific research as a philanthropic interest.

I would like to thank those who have attended our *Women & Science* programs, as well as those who have contributed to Partners in Discovery to help fund Rockefeller's women investigators. If you have not yet become involved, I encourage you to do so. As you will read in the following pages, while much has been accomplished, our help is still needed to advance women in science.

Robin Chemers Neustein
University Trustee





Why a Program to Support Women Scientists?

In the United States today, women receive nearly 50 percent of the Ph.D. degrees awarded in the life sciences, but they represent only 25 percent of the applicants for tenure-track appointments in research. This means that a significant number of women who receive doctorates in the life sciences do not pursue careers in academia at the assistant professor level or beyond. The loss to science is profound.

Shirley Tilghman—a distinguished molecular biologist, the first woman president of Princeton University, and a former Rockefeller University trustee—has brought attention to what is at stake:

The problems that intrigue women about the natural world are not always exactly the same as those that attract men. By encouraging women to embrace science, we likely increase the range of problems under study, and this will broaden and strengthen the entire enterprise.

These words underscore what is lost to biomedical science when highly trained women do not pursue research careers: broadened perspectives and new, possibly unique approaches and solutions to medical problems.

The Rockefeller University began to actively address this imbalance 20 years ago, at a time when the laboratory heads at the University were almost without exception male. Of the few women faculty who led labs, none had tenure.

Under the leadership of President Torsten Wiesel, Rockefeller made an institutional commitment in the mid-1990s to increase the number of women on its faculty and to do all that it could to support women scientists, at all levels, in their research careers. At the same time, Rockefeller volunteers Lydia Forbes, Isabel Furlaud, Nancy Kissinger, and Sydney Shuman spearheaded the *Women & Science* initiative as founding chairs and were instrumental in its growth and success.

Since 1998, participants in Rockefeller's *Women & Science* initiative have continued to play an important role in fostering change for women scientists at the University. They have provided encouragement, recognition, and financial support to women investigators at all stages of their professional lives.

Today the University's faculty of 74 laboratory heads includes a strong and growing cadre of women, seven with tenure and three on a tenure track—a significant achievement.



Four of the Rockefeller trustees who have chaired *Women & Science* (from left): Lulu Wang, Sydney Shuman, Pat Rosenwald, and Judy Berkowitz.

The *Women & Science* Initiative at Rockefeller

Women & Science (W&S) is leveraging change and creating a culture of progress and opportunity for women at the University by:

:: *Establishing a community of women who embrace science as a passion and a philanthropic interest*

W&S depends on the active involvement of volunteers from many areas of endeavor. The program provides opportunities for women scientists to build friendships with supporters who share a commitment to the advancement of women and science.

:: *Educating women about science*

W&S programs focus on recent advances in biomedical science, including those pertaining to women's health.

:: *Raising awareness about women in science and developing strong advocates on their behalf*

By enabling women to become acquainted with Rockefeller's investigators and their work, W&S enhances the understanding of the scientific contributions of women at the University and in the larger scientific community.

:: *Supporting the advancement of women scientists at Rockefeller*

Each year, W&S participants contribute more than \$1 million through the initiative's fundraising arm, Partners in Discovery, promoting the recruitment of women at both the tenure-track and tenured levels, and providing broad-based support for women pursuing careers in science.



W&S supporter Sarah Peter (center) visits Dorothea Dix Postdoctoral Fellow Kate Seip-Cammack (left) and Professor Mary Jeanne Kreek.

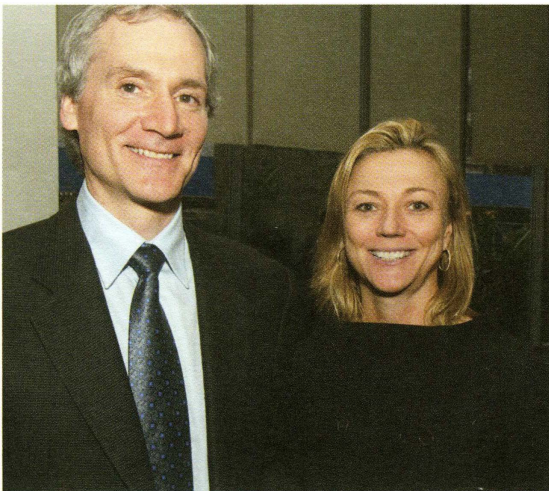


Rockefeller University Council member Sarah Peter recently funded a postdoctoral fellowship at Rockefeller. She commented: "It was important to me to support a woman scientist at the postdoctoral level—a point when support is often most critical—and that it be in the laboratory of a woman scientist like Dr. Mary Jeanne Kreek, who is a strong role model and mentor to young women in science." Ms. Peter chose to name the fellowship for Dorothea Dix, the renowned 19th century reformer. Katharine M. Seip-Cammack, Ph.D., the Dorothea Dix Postdoctoral Fellow, is studying the neurobiology of relapse in heroin addiction. Dr. Kreek, a notable pioneer in the study of addictive disease, heads the laboratory where Dr. Seip-Cammack pursues insights that could lead to more effective treatment programs for heroin addiction.

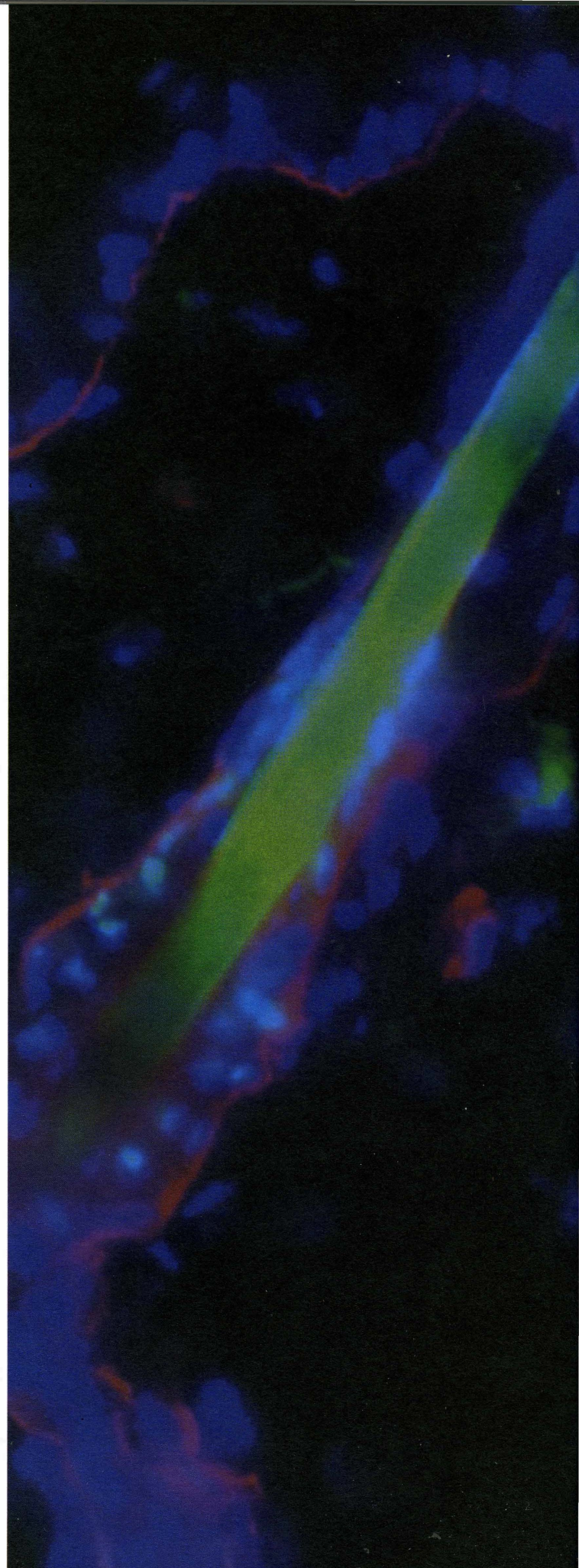
The Collaborative Research Center (CRC) fosters interaction among scientists and enhances collaboration across disciplines. The CRC comprises historic Smith and Flexner Halls, linked by the Maurice R. and Corinne P. Greenberg Building.

W&S is also helping to change the culture of Rockefeller by engaging more women in philanthropic leadership positions at the University, especially at the Board level. Before the initiative was established, only two women served on Rockefeller's Board of Trustees; today one-third of the trustees are women. Greater involvement and visibility of women at the highest level of governance at the University increases recognition and support for all women at Rockefeller.

At the same time, the Rockefeller investigators who are benefiting from W&S are making significant contributions to biomedicine and guiding the next generation of scientists. Through their leadership on campus and in the broader scientific community, they are helping to change the face of science nationally.



Rockefeller President Marc Tessier-Lavigne with Holly Andersen, a leading cardiologist and associate professor at Weill Cornell Medical College. Dr. Andersen spoke at the W&S Spring Lecture and Luncheon in 2010. She recently joined the University's Board of Trustees.



Agata Smogorzewska and her daughter, who attends the on-campus Child and Family Center.



The Rockefeller University has created a family-friendly environment that is especially supportive of tenure-track scientists like Agata Smogorzewska, M.D., Ph.D. Young laboratory heads at Rockefeller have an extended “tenure clock” as opposed to the customary six years allotted at many institutions. This generous time frame allows women scientists—whose childbearing years may coincide with the pre-tenure period—to take a maternity leave without jeopardizing their chances for tenure.

High-quality, affordable daycare for children of the University’s scientists is provided on campus by Rockefeller’s Child and Family Center. Speaking of the Center, Dr. Smogorzewska said, “It is really wonderful to know my daughter is in good hands while I am working in my lab.” Rockefeller is also the rare institution where graduate students receive paid maternity leave and scientists have access to on-campus subsidized housing.

The Unfinished Agenda

A shortage of female role models in academic institutions is often cited as a reason that more women do not remain in research careers. Unfortunately, because many highly trained women leave academia for other pursuits, women continue to be underrepresented at the top of the ladder in academic science. Senior women scientists at Rockefeller and elsewhere, who stand at the pinnacle of their profession, provide aspiring scientists with the most powerful models of independence, perseverance, and achievement.

Economic considerations also affect the career decisions of women scientists. For anyone who completes a doctorate in the life sciences, a significant investment of time and money is required to build an independent research program that will attract job offers. While working to achieve this goal, postdoctoral investigators earn approximately \$45,000 per year—and often much less—well into their thirties, and still the prospect of a higher salary or a permanent position may be elusive.

A woman who becomes an independent investigator must—like her male counterparts—raise support for her research in a climate where funds are short and competition fierce. All scientists face these funding challenges, but the obstacles for women may be greater. For example, women may be at a disadvantage in applying for grants, because unconscious male bias can enter into award decisions even on the most enlightened funding review boards.

In addition, the situation may be complicated by biology itself. The arduous and often insecure early stage of a woman’s professional career frequently coincides with her childbearing years, sometimes creating a painful dilemma. While some women choose to postpone motherhood until they have secured a faculty position, others leave academic science for pharmaceutical companies, biotech firms, or other entities that offer higher compensation and/or more supportive policies for parents with young children. All these factors contribute to the inadequate representation of women in high ranking positions at biomedical research institutions.

How Rockefeller and W&S Are Meeting the Challenges

In addressing these complex difficulties, *Women & Science* has a strong partner in the University, which has many family-friendly policies (see p. 7), including an on-campus childcare center, with subsidized tuition, for children of Rockefeller scientists. Leslie Voshall, a renowned neuroscientist and geneticist who holds a Rockefeller Ph.D. and who now heads the University's Laboratory of Neurogenetics and Behavior, notes the importance of Rockefeller's Child and Family Center:

My success in securing tenure at the University was entirely dependent on the availability of high quality on-site daycare for my daughter at the Child and Family Center. The caring professionals at the CFC nurtured the emotional and intellectual growth of my daughter from four months to five years old, allowing me in turn to nurture my science at Rockefeller.

Evan Sung for The New York Times



Leslie Voshall is the Robin Chemers Neustein Professor.

The University's support of the CFC is but one example of its deep commitment to the welfare of its scientists and their families, and to the advancement of women.

Women & Science complements the University's efforts with measures that are having a visible and far-reaching impact. In 2001, when W&S raised \$3 million to endow the Rebecca C. Lancefield Professorship for a senior laboratory head, the University was able to recruit Dr. Elaine Fuchs. W&S has also helped to recruit several other women to head new laboratories, including cancer biologist Agata Smogorzewska in 2009. However, the need to attract faculty remains.

In addition, *Women & Science* is clearly changing the face of science for women through the funding it provides aspiring scientists. More than 133 W&S Postdoctoral and Graduate Fellowships have been awarded to young women at Rockefeller, and this investment is already making a difference. Former W&S Fellows now hold tenure-track positions at such institutions as Princeton University, Yale University, Mount Sinai School of Medicine, Baylor College of Medicine, and the Broad Institute of MIT and Harvard.

If the ongoing challenges are to be met, *Women & Science* must continue to support women engaged in science at Rockefeller—from pre-college and college students participating in the University's outreach programs to the senior ranks of the faculty.



At a 2009 White House ceremony, Elaine Fuchs, Ph.D., received the National Medal of Science from President Barack Obama for her contributions to skin biology and stem cell research. Dr. Fuchs joined the Rockefeller faculty in 2002 as the first Rebecca C. Lancefield Professor. This distinguished chair was endowed with \$3 million contributed by *Women & Science* to help address the need for more senior women scientists at Rockefeller.

The professorship is named in recognition of an extraordinary Rockefeller scientist who advanced the study of streptococcal bacteria, yet never attained the kind of name recognition achieved by many of her male peers. Like Rebecca Lancefield, Dr. Fuchs is a pathfinder—but a widely acclaimed one. Since receiving the Medal of Science, she has been recognized for her leading work by several other major prizes, including the largest award in medicine and science in the United States, the Albany Medical Center Prize.

What *Women & Science* Funds

Contributions to *Women & Science* support outstanding women scientists engaged in ground-breaking research. Major initiatives funded by contributions to Partners in Discovery include:

:: *Faculty Recruitment Fund*

Increasing the numbers of tenured and tenure-track women on the faculty is vital to achieving a balance between men and women heading laboratories at Rockefeller. It is also essential to ensuring a wide range of mentoring opportunities for women scientists.

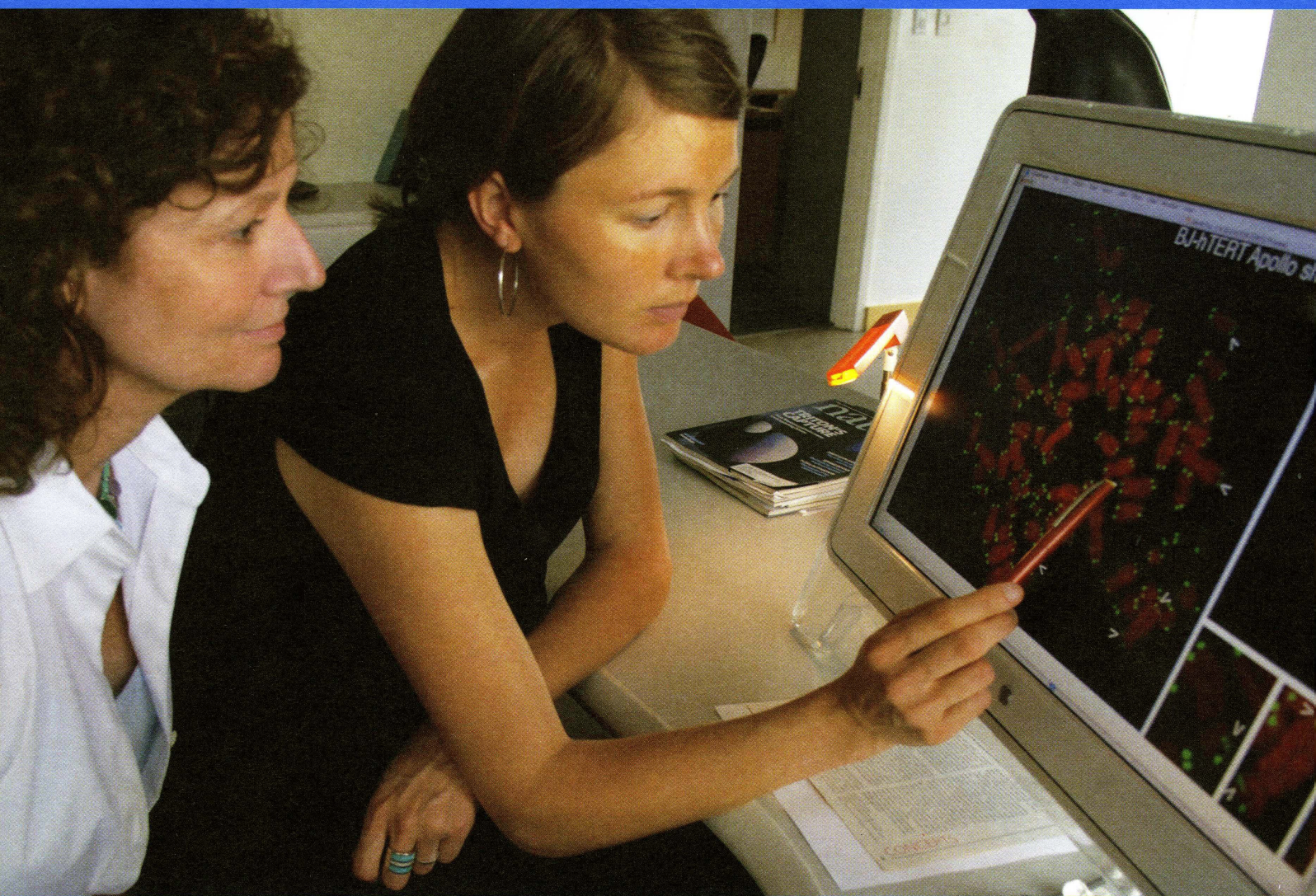
:: *Postdoctoral and Graduate Fellowships*

Fellowships provide critical support for young women scientists at the onset of their careers and ensure that the next generation receives the training and support they need to succeed. Postdoctoral fellowships are particularly critical; a major factor in the attrition of women scientists is lack of support following the completion of a Ph.D.

:: *Seed Funding*

Seed funding can enable women scientists to pursue independent investigations by providing them with the financial support needed to advance their innovative studies.

Women & Science also directs support to Rockefeller's Child and Family Center; to professional development initiatives for women (such as a travel expense fund to help women attend conferences to present their work); and to young women in the University's pre-college and college outreach programs, which are designed for students interested in careers in the biomedical sciences.



A Telomere Expert Targeting Breast and Ovarian Cancer

When Titia de Lange joined The Rockefeller University as an assistant professor in 1990, she was one of a handful of scientists worldwide working on telomeres, the structures at the ends of chromosomes that are now recognized as essential cellular guardians against cancer. "Though the field was unproven, the University decided to take a chance," Dr. de Lange explained. "This early investment in my laboratory was a calculated risk."

More than 20 years later, it is difficult to find a cancer investigator who is not combing the scientific literature for information on telomeres. Biologists who study the aging process are also keenly interested, because telomeres act as cellular "clocks" that shorten every time a cell divides. When the telomere finally becomes too short, the cell dies. This

shortening appears to play a key role in protecting cells against chromosome damage that can lead to a tumor. In cancer cells, which grow and divide without limit, telomeres do not shorten.

The de Lange laboratory has made many influential discoveries about telomeres and chromosomes, and in recent years, the scientists have undertaken studies with direct relevance to the understanding and treatment of breast and ovarian cancer. One promising investigation is exploring the relationship between specific types of chromosomal abnormalities in pre-cancerous cells and the clinical outcomes of breast tumors. This work could lead to prognostic tools to determine which cancers require aggressive therapy and, at the same time, provide a reliable way to identify

patients whose tumors do not require aggressive treatment.

Dr. de Lange applauds the *Women & Science* initiative and, in particular, the opportunities it provides for young women, for whom the situation in science is "better than it was, but still not good enough." Progress, though, is measurable. When Dr. de Lange arrived at Rockefeller, there were no tenured women on the faculty. Today, she is the University's Leon Hess Professor and one of seven women who are senior professors.

Above:

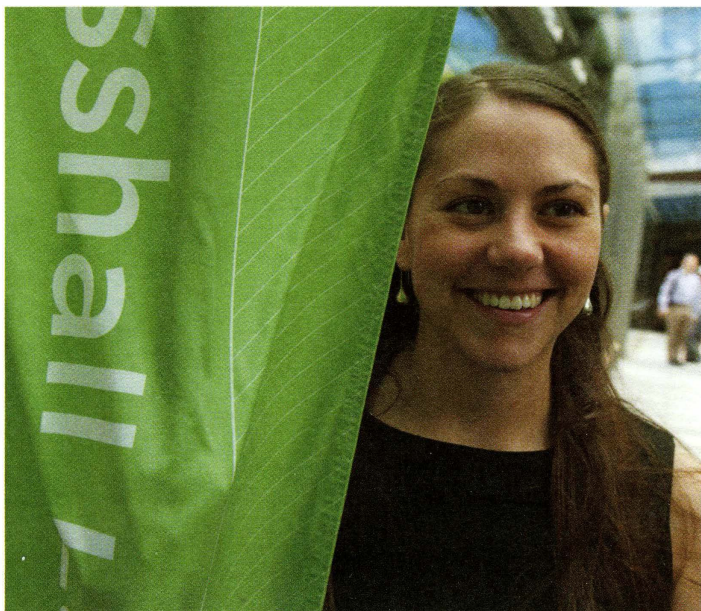
Titia de Lange (left) works with Rockefeller graduate Megan van Overbeek, who is now a research associate at Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center.

Rockefeller Women—National and International Agents of Change

Rockefeller has always held to the principle of appointing the most talented and innovative scientists to head its laboratories. Becoming a lab head at the University is extraordinarily difficult. Although relatively small compared to its peer institutions, Rockefeller may attract as many as 1,000 applicants for a single faculty position. Thus the women—and men—selected as Rockefeller lab heads are among the best scientists in the world.

In their laboratories, Rockefeller's women scientists are solving scientific problems related to understanding a wide range of diseases and disorders. They also serve as mentors for the University's graduate students and postdoctoral fellows. Half of these aspiring scientists are women; like their mentors, they are highly gifted and granted a rare degree of independence by the University.

Through leadership positions at Rockefeller and involvement with national and international scientific organizations, Rockefeller's women faculty are helping to assure that the culture of science will continue to become more accessible to and equitable for women.



Professor Elaine Fuchs has noted:

At every level throughout my career I have been faced with some difficulties as a result of being female. I feel this has served as part of my inspiration to participate in fighting battles for younger women. I'd like to see those who are younger than me not have to face the hardships I had to face.

Rockefeller's senior women scientists—all of whom have been appointed to distinguished named chairs—hold positions of significant responsibility at the University. Titia de Lange, for example, serves as co-director of the University's Anderson Center for Cancer Research; Cori Bargmann co-directs the Shelby White and Leon Levy Center for Mind, Brain, and Behavior; and Mary Jeanne Kreek is scientific director of a research center established at Rockefeller by the National Institute on Drug Abuse.

Dr. Bargmann, who was a member of the search committee that brought President Marc Tessier-Lavigne to the University, chairs the committee charged with recruiting new scientists to the Rockefeller faculty. Most of the University's senior women have been elected to the Academic Council—the executive committee of the Faculty Senate—and several have chaired this group. And at present, Dr. Fuchs heads the postdoctoral review committee that awards the fellowships funded by *Women & Science* and other University donors.

The influence of the University's senior women scientists extends far beyond Rockefeller's gates. Drs. Bargmann, de Lange, and Fuchs are members of the National Academy of Sciences, and Drs. Bargmann and de Lange serve on the Lasker Award selection jury. Dr. Fuchs has been president of both the International Society for Stem Cell Research and the American Society for Cell Biology. She and Cori Bargmann, along with Leslie Vosshall, are investigators with the Howard Hughes Medical Institute.

Jennifer Bussell is a graduate fellow mentored by Leslie Vosshall, her lab head.



Guests at the *W&S* Spring Lecture and Luncheon have an opportunity to talk with *W&S* Fellows and faculty.



RU Council member Joan Steinberg and *W&S* Graduate Fellow Lindsay Bellani.

As described by one fellow, "I gained unique insight from the impressive and generous donors who had made their mark in other fields and throughout the local community. I feel the camaraderie fostered at these events is particularly important, especially for young women working in fields where men have traditionally taken leading roles, or where women may, at times, be outnumbered."

Topics Covered at Past *Women & Science* Programs

Addiction

The Biology of Stress and Addiction

Aging

Aging and the Discovery of "Longevity Genes"

Alzheimer's Disease

Can Science Meet the Challenges of Alzheimer's Disease?

Cardiovascular Disease and Stroke

Affairs of the Heart: Recent Insights into Cardiovascular Disease and Stroke

Cancer

The Cancer Treatment Revolution

Global Health

Women's Health and Development:
A Global Perspective

Hormone Therapy

The Estrogen Question: Science Seeks an Answer

Learning and Memory

We Are What We Remember: Memory and the Biological Basis of Individuality

Neurobiology

Simple Creatures, Complex Lives: Understanding the Genetics of Behavior

Obesity

Sugars, Fats, and Alcohol: A Delicate Balance in Body Weight Regulation

Olfaction

Scent and Behavior: An Evocative Relationship

Personalized Medicine

Biology Enters the Information Age: Combating Illness with Personalized Medicine

Stem Cells

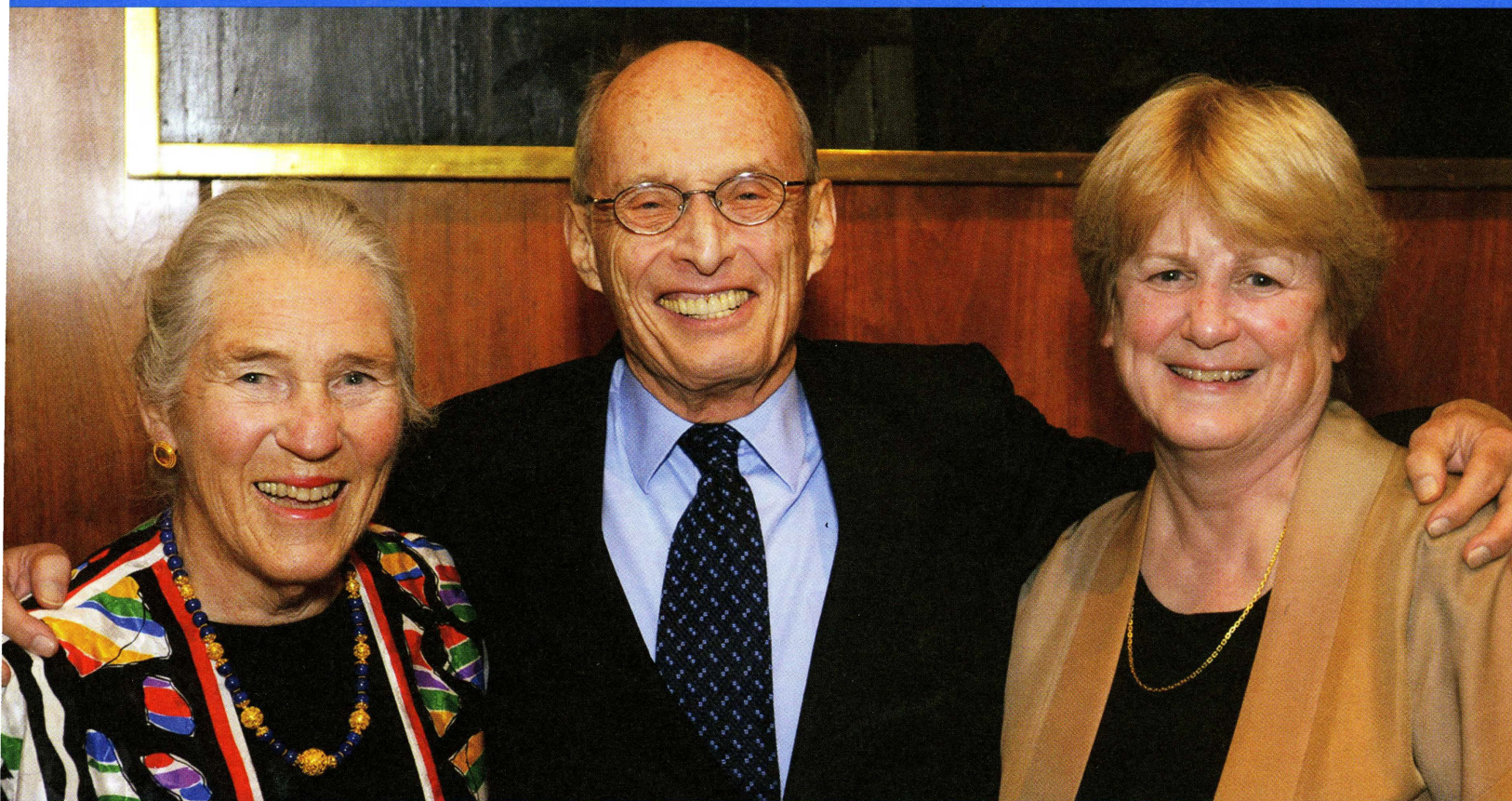
The Promise of Stem Cells and Regenerative Medicine

The Biology of the Skin

Is Beauty Skin Deep?

Vaccines

Everything You Always Wanted to Know About Vaccines—and More



Celebrating Women's Achievements Internationally

The University's Pearl Meister Greengard Prize is a major initiative that is helping to move women from the margins of the scientific enterprise to the center. This prestigious international award for women scientists was created through the vision and generosity of Nobel laureate and Vincent Astor Professor Paul Greengard and his wife, the sculptor Ursula von Rydingsvard. Determined to use his prominence as a Nobel laureate to ensure that more women receive the scientific honors that their work merits, Dr. Greengard donated his entire monetary share of the 2000 Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine to Rockefeller to create the award. "The discrimination of 25 years ago is reflected in the relatively few women at the top today. I hope to bring more attention to the work of brilliant women scientists," said Dr. Greengard. The prize is named in memory of Dr. Greengard's mother, who died giving birth to him. By putting the spotlight on the essential but often unrecognized accomplishments of women scientists, Dr. Greengard hopes to increase the likelihood that women will receive their fair share of the highest

honors in science, such as the Nobel Prize and the Albert Lasker Award.

In 2009, Elizabeth H. Blackburn and Carol W. Greider, 2008 recipients of the Greengard Prize, shared the Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine for the discovery of how chromosomes are protected by telomeres and the enzyme telomerase.

Unlike Drs. Greider and Blackburn, some scientists—for example, Rockefeller's Rebecca Lancefield—revolutionize the understanding of a particular problem or open new pathways for discovery, without receiving the recognition they deserve. In other cases, recognition comes slowly. When Mary Frances Lyon, a luminary in the field of mammalian genetics, was presented with the 2006 Pearl Meister Greengard Prize, she had entered the ninth decade of her life. Yet the discovery for which she is best known had been made more than 40 years earlier, in 1961, when she posited the existence of a process she called X-chromosome inactivation. Often called Lyonization in honor of Dr. Lyon, this process has proven to be a key

genetic control mechanism studied in laboratories around the world, including those working at the cutting edge of the new field of epigenetics.

Each year, the Pearl Meister Greengard Prize is presented by a distinguished woman from a different field of endeavor. Presenters have included Sandra Day O'Connor, Joan Didion, Andrea Mitchell, and the former president of Ireland, Mary Robinson. As part of the ceremony, presenters and recipients alike are asked to speak of their experiences as women in their professions. These accounts are moving and inspiring, and have a profound effect, especially on the young women scientists in attendance. Each year, the audience for this ceremony grows larger, with supporters from Rockefeller as well as surrounding academic institutions, all coming together in celebration of the contributions of women scientists.

Above:

2010 PMG Prize recipients Janet Rowley (left) and Mary-Claire King with Paul Greengard.

Former W&S Fellow Valerie Lamour with Seth Darst, head of the Laboratory of Molecular Biophysics



Valerie Lamour notes the importance of W&S Fellowships:

Receiving recognition from Women & Science gave me a sense of pride and belonging, and helped me to feel a part of the New York City scientific community. The fellowship also gave me a strong sense of legitimacy as a woman scientist and acted as a key platform for my years following my postdoctoral experience at The Rockefeller University.

Without the W&S Fellowship, I do not believe I would have won Europe's highly competitive Marie Curie International Reintegration Grant in January 2008, which enabled me to start up an independent project within one of Europe's top research institutes.

Dr. Lamour is an associate professor at the Institute of Genetics and Molecular and Cellular Biology in Strasbourg, and also teaches at the medical school associated with Strasbourg University Hospital.

How You Can Make a Difference

Women & Science needs your participation and support, as the University builds on its accomplishments and seeks to ensure parity for women. There are many ways in which you can help.

Attend *Women & Science* Events

Women & Science programs highlight research conducted by some of the most distinguished women—and men—in science today. These events provide an opportunity to meet Rockefeller's women scientists and also to become acquainted with other W&S participants.

Introduce Your Friends to Rockefeller

One of the most important ways in which participants can support *Women & Science* is by inviting interested friends and colleagues to programs such as the breakfast forums, the annual spring lecture and luncheon, and the award ceremony of the Pearl Meister Greengard Prize for outstanding women scientists. Enlarging our circle of friends increases the impact that W&S can have at Rockefeller and nationally.

Support Women Scientists

Each year, *Women & Science* participants contribute more than \$1 million to Partners in Discovery, supporting a wide variety of initiatives related to the education of women and the advancement of their research programs at the University.

Today's *Women & Science* Fellows Are Tomorrow's Scientific Leaders

"My dream is to have my own lab one day and make a contribution to the fight against cancer"

A *Women & Science* Fellow

The Rockefeller University is committed to the advancement of women in science. Through the *Women & Science* initiative, Rockefeller has recognized women's scientific achievements and encouraged young women pursuing research careers. The support of *Women & Science* volunteers and donors will enable Rockefeller to continue to

help gifted young women investigators achieve their goals and fulfill their dreams of making significant contributions to biomedicine.

W&S Fellows (left to right): Clare Walton, Sarah Wacker, Emily Conn Gantman, and Laura Macro



About The Rockefeller University

A Community of Scholars

The Rockefeller University is a renowned center for biomedical investigation and graduate education, dedicated to research that will improve the understanding of life for the benefit of humanity. Founded in 1901 as The Rockefeller Institute for Medical Research, the University was the nation's first institution devoted exclusively to biomedical science.

Today, the University's 74 laboratories include 300 research and clinical scientists, 350 postdoctoral investigators, 200 graduate students, and 1,050 technical and administrative personnel, all working at the University's 14-acre campus.

Groundbreaking Discoveries

Pioneering breakthroughs made at Rockefeller have transformed science and medicine: the finding that DNA is the basic material of heredity; the development of vaccines against meningitis; the innovation of methadone treatment to manage heroin addiction; the finding that cancer can be caused by a virus; the discovery of the immune system's dendritic cells; and the design of the first life-saving multidrug treatment for HIV.

Award-Winning Science

The Rockefeller University's unique approach has led to some of the most revolutionary contributions in biology and medicine. Over the years, 24 Nobel laureates have been associated with Rockefeller, including two alumni. In addition, the University has been home to 21 recipients of the Albert Lasker Medical Research Award and 14 National Medal of Science recipients. Thirty-five members of the current faculty have been elected to the National Academy of Sciences.

Areas of Investigation

Rockefeller's scientists conduct research in six broad areas: biochemistry and structural biology; molecular, cell, and developmental biology; medical sciences and human genetics; immunology, microbiology, and virology; neuroscience;

and physics and mathematical biology. In addition, eight interdisciplinary centers focus on such biomedical concerns as Alzheimer's disease, cancer, and hepatitis C.

An Exceptional Place to Learn

Since 1955 when the graduate program began, 1,070 scientists have earned Rockefeller Ph.D. degrees. The program attracts exceptional students from all over the world and gives them opportunities to conduct the highest quality science. Rockefeller also sponsors one of the nation's top M.D.-Ph.D. programs with neighboring Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center and Weill Cornell Medical College. In addition, at any one time, several hundred postdoctoral investigators receive advanced training and conduct research in Rockefeller labs.

The Rockefeller University Hospital

In 1910, Rockefeller scientists founded the nation's first hospital devoted exclusively to clinical research. All patients at The Rockefeller University Hospital are participants in clinical studies building on basic research findings from the University's laboratories.



Vanessa Ruta, a Rockefeller alumna, joined the faculty in September 2011 to establish the Laboratory of Neurophysiology and Behavior. She is the first new faculty member recruited by President Tessier-Lavigne.

Women & Science

THE ROCKEFELLER UNIVERSITY

1230 York Avenue, Box 164, New York NY 10065-6399

www.rockefeller.edu/womenandscience