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The Rockefeller University

SCIENCE FOR THE BENEFIT OF HUMANITY

BENCHMARKS

THE COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER OF THE ROCKEFELLER UNIVERSITY

FRIDAY, JUNE 22, 2012

FUNDRAISING

New $600 million campaign launches

by LESLIE CHURCH

With the introduction of an ambitious new strategic plan, The Rockefeller University is also embarking on a fundraising initiative, to be called the Campaign for Transforming Biomedicine. The campaign seeks to raise at least $600 million in nine years to facilitate the university's vision of bridging fundamental science with research on disease.

The initiative is already off to a strong start. Its first fiscal year, which ends this June, has seen $130 million in gifts including 21 donations of $1 million or more. It is among the best fundraising years in the university's history — second only to 2005, when David Rockefeller made a commitment of $100 million.

The university's previous fundraising campaign, the seven-year Campaign for Collaborative Science, concluded in 2011 having raised nearly $628 million in gifts and grants and exceeding its original goal of $500 million set in 2003. Approximately $152 million of that total came in the form of flexible funds to finance construction of the Collaborative Research Center.

The new campaign kicks off with two new trustee gifts announced at last week's Board meeting: a $25 million unrestricted gift from the Carson Family Charitable Trust, headed by Russell L. Carson, and a $20 million gift from the Simons Foundation to support faculty recruitment.

"The strategic plan that Marc and the faculty have put forth is tremendously exciting and will strengthen both basic and translational research at the university," says Mr. Carson, chair of the university's Board of Trustees. "My family's financial commitment reflects our firm belief that Rockefeller maintains a standard of excellence that sets it apart and that ensures that its faculty will continue to make transformational discoveries in the years ahead." In recognition of Mr. Carson's donation, Marc Tessier-Lavigne will be named the Carson Family Professor.

The gift from the Simons Foundation, a philanthropy founded by mathematician James H. Simons, a member of the Board since 2000, and his wife Marilyn, will be used primarily for faculty recruitment. The Simons Foundation sponsors a range of programs to advance the frontiers of research in mathematics and the basic sciences.

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BENCHMARKS

Marc Tessier-Lavigne, President
Jane Rendall, Corporate Secretary
Joe Bonner, Director of Communications

Zach Veilleux, Executive Editor
Leslie Church, Assistant Editor

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STRATEGIC PLANNING

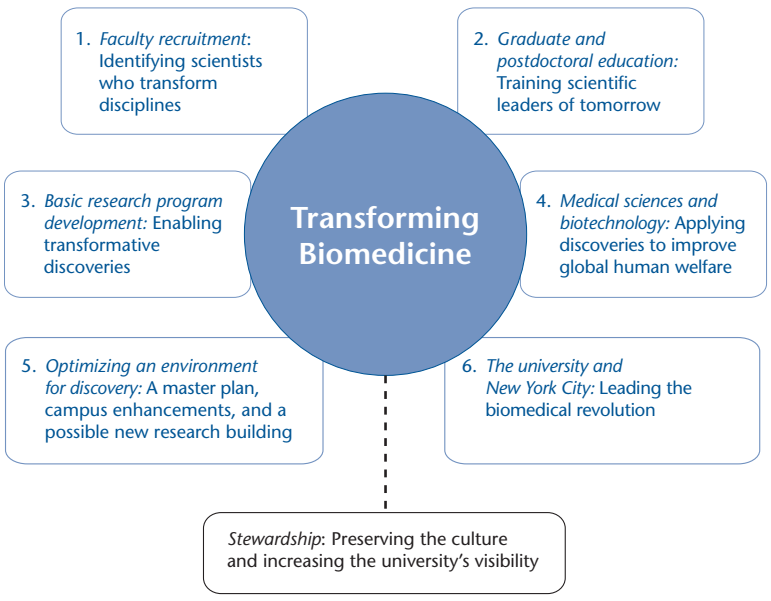
Board approves nine-year strategic plan

by ZACH VEILLEUX

Following nearly a year of development, the university's strategic plan titled "Transforming Biomedicine" has been approved by the Board of Trustees. The plan, which will guide the university's activities over a nine-year period ending in 2020, was authored by a 13-member strategic planning committee that has met weekly since September. Themes developed by the committee were previewed before several audiences, including the Board, Academic Council, in *BenchMarks* and at a town hall meeting for the university community held in May, and the plan itself was fully reviewed by the faculty and by the Board this month. As legal trustees of the university, the Board has the final say over its operations.

"We set out to develop a new strategy for the university at a time when the objectives of the previous strategic plan, the Campaign for Collaborative Science, were nearing completion," says Marc Tessier-Lavigne, the university president and chair of its strategic planning committee. "Today I am pleased to report that the work of creating the new strategy is complete and it has been ratified by our Board."

"The new plan addresses several challenges that the university will face in the coming years, including the likelihood of ongoing economic instability, competition for top scientific talent and the need to provide access to expensive yet critical technology. It sets a course that will allow us to seize new opportunities in order to remain as successful in coming decades as we have been in the past."



"Over the past decades we have seen scientific advances that the founders of this institution could not imagine," says Russell L. Carson, chairman of the Board of Trustees. "With this plan, which emphasizes both a renewed commitment to fundamental science and bridging that science with research on disease, the stage has been set for the university to push the boundaries of human knowledge even further. I am confident that as we enter the next era of biomedical discovery, Rockefeller will continue to play a prominent leadership role in advancing science, and in the development of new tools, new medicines and new strategies for fighting disease."

The plan's theme, transforming biomedicine, signifies a commitment to basic research as the surest way to make transformative advances in medicine while also

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CAMPUS NEWS

Nobel winnings to fund Cohn-Steinman professorship

by ZACH VEILLEUX

Ralph M. Steinman, head of the Laboratory of Cellular Physiology and Immunology, died just three days before winning the Nobel Prize last year. But his legacy at the university will live on: with a gift from the Steinman family and the support of over 120 donors including many of his colleagues and lab alumni, the university has established the Cohn-Steinman Professorship at Rockefeller.

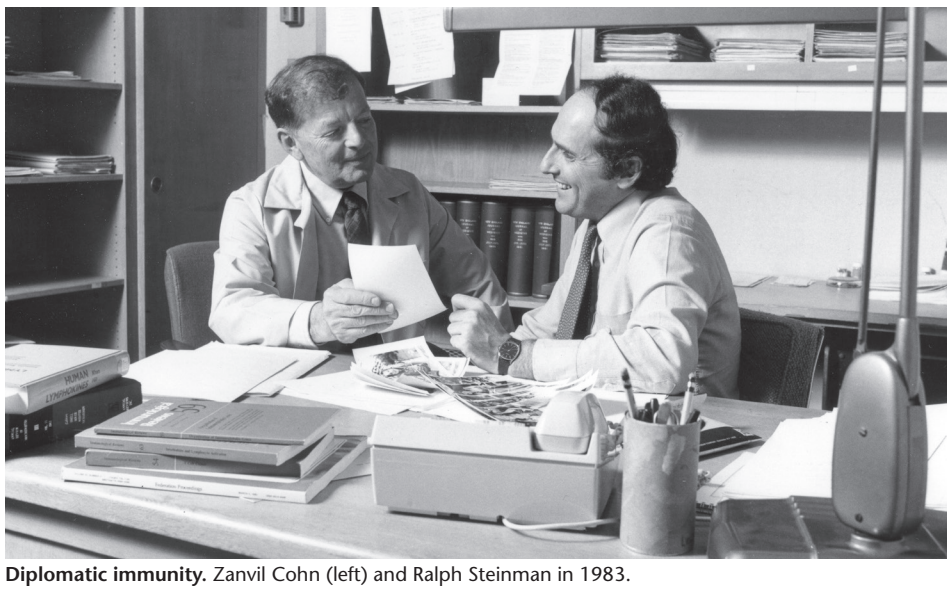
The $500,000 donated by the Steinmans comes directly from Dr. Steinman's Nobel Prize winnings. It was Dr. Steinman's wish during his life to honor his mentor and collaborator, Zanvil A. Cohn, with whom he discovered dendritic cells and made scientific discoveries that transformed the field of immunology.

"We believe there could be no more fitting tribute to the work of these two brilliant scientists than the establishment of a named chair in their honor. The Cohn-Steinman Professorship would honor Zan and Ralph in perpetuity and celebrate the extraordinary roles they played both on the Rockefeller campus and in the global scientific community," says Marc Tessier-Lavigne, the university's president.

To create the Cohn-Steinman chair, Rockefeller has received 129 gifts totaling $2.6 million toward its $3 million goal. A total of 129 gifts and pledges from Dr. Steinman's colleagues, trainees and friends have been received by the university in amounts ranging from $100 to $1 million. One Rockefeller alumnus and former faculty member anonymously contributed $1 million to the chair in honor of Steinman and Cohn, with whom he worked while at Rockefeller.

The Steinman family has contributed an additional $250,000 from the Nobel Prize to The Steinman Family Foundation to support the careers of young scientists and science education.

"As a family we were very moved by the creation of this chair in Ralph and Zan's honor," says Claudia Steinman, Ralph's wife. "The Rockefeller University was Ralph's scientific home for 40 years. His commitment to mentoring and cooperation were hallmarks of his career as they were for his dear friend Zan Cohn. Ralph often said 'none of us is as smart as all of us.' We know that the establishment of The Cohn-Steinman Professorship will carry on that spirit of collaboration."



Diplomatic immunity. Zanvil Cohn (left) and Ralph Steinman in 1983.

Strategic plan (continued from page 1)

acknowledging that biomedicine has reached a point where the discoveries of fundamental science can be applied broadly and systematically to accelerate the understanding of human biology and disease.

The plan has six components:

1. Faculty recruitment. The strategic plan reaffirms the importance of the open search mechanism to recruit junior faculty. The open search, which has already been in use for six years, allows the university to pursue the best and brightest scientists regardless of their field of study. The plan calls for the continuation of the open search, to be augmented by a more active search component that will take advantage of existing faculty relationships in order to reach out to talented candidates that might not otherwise submit applications to Rockefeller.

It also calls for increased hiring of mid-career scientists, who have already achieved a track record of success at other institutions and who are still in the ascent of their careers. Overall, the plan calls for the addition of 12 tenure-track and six mid-career scientists over a nine-year term, a pace of hiring that Dr. Tessier-Lavigne says will compensate for retirements and departures and maintain the university's current size of approximately 70 to 75 labs.

2. Education. As expected, the plan reaffirms the importance of providing financial support to graduate students and postdoctoral researchers, a practice that allows the university to compete for top students. The strategy calls for working to increase Rockefeller's visibility to potential applicants and improving mechanisms for identifying talent overseas.

3. Basic research program development. Generous direct support to individual faculty has been a key component of the university's success over the years, making it possible for scientists to embark on projects for which grant funding might be difficult to secure. The plan calls for the continuation of this practice, which is not widely used elsewhere and is therefore an important recruiting and enabling tool.

The plan also calls for the creation of new interdisciplinary research centers, where opportunities exist. The centers, which seek to increase interactions and collaboration among labs that are working in similar areas, may also invest in shared technologies and infrastructure and help individual labs better take advantage of economies of scale. Eight research centers currently exist, including the new Center for Basic and Translational Research on Diseases of the Digestive System; a ninth, to be called the Center for Genomic Medicine, is in development.

4. Medical sciences and biotechnology. Members of the strategic planning committee reaffirmed the university's commitment to one of its unique institutions: its clinical research hospital that has since its founding served as a model for the investigation of human disease. Under its current leadership, the hospital has successfully lowered barriers to conducting human subjects research, and as a result a record number of laboratories — almost half — have protocols using human subjects. The plan calls for a continued commitment to the hospital and its programs, including necessary renovations. It also calls for enhancements to hospital infrastructure to support future translational work, to be pursued in collaboration with Weill Cornell Medical Center and Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center.

5. Environment for discovery. "Providing our scientists with access to the tools and technology they need to make discoveries is absolutely vital to the university's mission," says Dr. Tessier-Lavigne. The planning committee has identified two areas where there are immediate needs for investment: in DNA sequencing and in bioinformatics. The plan calls for access to DNA sequencing via the New York Genome Center and complementary upgrades to bioinformatics capabilities on campus to facilitate the analysis of genomic data. Additional investments may be required as new technologies become available and as faculty needs change.

Just as important is the ongoing need for modern, well equipped lab space that can support the requirements of today's collaborative, technology-intensive research environments. An analysis of the university's space, accounting for new recruitment as well as attrition, projects a need for approximately 66,000 square feet of ready-to-use lab space over the nine-year term of the plan — about twice what the university has available. "What this means is that although we do not currently have a shortage of space, we expect to face one in about four to five years," says Dr. Tessier-Lavigne. "At that point we will have two options: we can build or we can renovate."

The strategic planning committee, as well as the master planning committee that has been charged with evaluating the university's infrastructure needs, favors a plan developed by Rafael Viñoly Architects to expand the campus eastward by creating a two-story laboratory building on a long platform over the FDR Drive. This plan, which would in effect increase the size of the campus by two acres and would feature a landscaped roof level with and linked to the current grounds, would contain as much as 160,000 square feet of space as well as additional facilities such as a new café and administrative offices. This "river building" would preserve existing views and leave the remainder of the campus available for future development if needed. (More details about the proposed building will be discussed in a future *BenchMarks*.)

An alternative to new construction would be renovations to multiple floors in the Weiss Building, built in the early 1970s. Although this option, which is less expensive than building from scratch, would buy time, it would not address the university's long-term need for space.

"While the Rafael Viñoly plan would be a phenomenal addition to the campus, much work needs to be done over the next several months to evaluate its feasibility and fundability," says Dr. Tessier-Lavigne. "We plan to pursue city approval for this project and further refine the cost estimates for the river building, and both the Academic Council and the Board will continue to study our options with the goal of making a decision on how to proceed in the next year."

In addition, improvements will need to be made to several other buildings over the coming years, including the Graduate Student Residence and Sophie Fricke Hall, and a permanent location will need to be found for the Information Technology department, which is currently located in a temporary building.

6. Beyond our walls. Although New York City receives more NIH grant money than all but one other city — Boston — it is not traditionally seen as a biomedical powerhouse. The planning committee, however, believes New York is on the cusp of realizing its potential, and that Rockefeller can play a leadership role in helping make this happen. "By joining with other institutions in the city, as well as with the region's growing biotechnology and pharmaceutical industries, we can help foster productive collaborations in the academic sector and also accelerate the movement of discoveries to the commercial sector," says Dr. Tessier-Lavigne.

In addition to these six main components, there are two additional ongoing areas of focus that the committee felt should be pursued vigorously: the preservation of the university's culture and the enhancement of its visibility locally, nationally and internationally. This is to be accomplished by continuing to invest in outreach and communications programs that engage with the community and the public at large.

"The plan we have now adopted is an ambitious one and there is much work to be done to implement all that has been proposed," says Dr. Tessier-Lavigne. "But this is an institution that has sustained its excellence and remained at the leading edge of scientific discovery for more than a century. Members of our community at all levels have thought carefully about the concepts presented in this plan, and I'm confident that this strategy is the right one for the university as we position Rockefeller for success in the next decade and beyond."

Fundraising campaign (continued from page 1)

"Marilyn and I are pleased to support The Rockefeller University as it enters an exciting new chapter in its history," says Dr. Simons. "The university sets an exceptionally high bar in the laboratory heads it recruits. World class faculty, in turn, help to attract the best graduate students and postdoctoral fellows, thereby creating a vibrant culture for excellent research."

Other major gifts in this year's total include a previously announced donation of $10 million from the Robertson Foundation, headed by Trustee Emeritus Julian Robertson, to support the university's search for the best early-career scientists to join the faculty. In addition, a grant of $15 million from the Leona M. and Harry B. Helmsley Charitable Trust has created a new interdisciplinary center in research related to diseases of the digestive system.

The university's *Women&Science* initiative, now in its 15th year, raised a record $5.1 million for breast cancer research, far surpassing its original goal of $3.5 million. Leadership benefactors including Trustee Marlene Hess, Jeanne Donovan Fisher and the Helena Rubinstein Foundation provided challenge grants, which are donations that match the university's fundraising efforts from other sources. The Irene Diamond Fund was also a major contributor.

The effort to raise funds for the Cohn-Steinman Professorship announced in April has also been highly successful (see "Nobel winnings to fund Cohn-Steinman professorship," page 1).

Among the specific fundraising goals of the Campaign for Transforming Biomedicine are $60 million for the recruitment of new faculty, $50 million for funds to support medical sciences and biotechnology, including translational research pilot grants and the development of new therapeutics, and $100 million to strengthen the university's endowment. Additional funds will benefit human genetics research, including the creation of the new Center for Genomic Medicine, and provide for the acquisition of new technologies.

In addition, the need for laboratory renovations and other campus construction projects constitute a major funding goal. The university aims to raise between $115 million and $365 million toward building costs, depending on the outcome of the master planning process now under way (see "Board approves nine-year strategic plan," page 1). If university officials decide to proceed with a new research building over the FDR Drive, the financial goal would rise above $600 million.

"Compared to previous campaigns, this one is very ambitious given that the economy is still challenged," says Marnie Imhoff, vice president for development. "It's clear that private support is more critical now than ever before, as NIH funding has been flat and instability of capital markets means uncertainty about the future of our endowment returns. Thanks to the generosity of the university's supporters, we are off to a great start on this campaign."

"A strategic plan is only as strong as the funding behind it," says Dr. Tessier-Lavigne. "We are grateful to have so many benefactors who believe in Rockefeller's mission and continued success as an engine of transformative discoveries. It's the donors that will turn this plan into a reality and enable our researchers to make those discoveries."

CAMPUS NEWS

Genome Center to operate at Rockefeller in interim

by LESLIE CHURCH

The New York Genome Center (NYGC), the nonprofit institution set to become one of the largest bioinformatics and genomics facilities in North America, is launching its pilot lab operations at The Rockefeller University while a search is conducted for a permanent facility.

Rockefeller, which is one of the Center's institutional founding members, was chosen as the temporary site because it had modern lab space available that required few modifications to accommodate the scientists and equipment. The center began operating on the east side of Smith Hall's C floor in June.

"The space in this area of Smith Hall is newly renovated and is suitable for the Genome Center's needs, and it is not currently being used by the university," says John Tooze, vice president of scientific and facility operations. "Our agreement to lease them this ready-to-use space is a demonstration of our commitment to this cooperative New York City research initiative and it will allow them to get their lab work under way quickly."

The Genome Center began processing sequencing requests this spring and is expected to open the doors to its permanent facility early next year. The pilot lab at Rockefeller will enable NYGC to expand its service operations in advance of the opening in 2013.

There will be 8 to 10 sequencing and bioinformatics scientists from the NYGC working in the lab, which can accommodate up to 10 high-throughput sequencing machines and support equipment. The center signed a one-year lease with Rockefeller, with the option to extend if necessary.

The NYGC collaboration will bring scientists and physicians from member institutions together to share diverse clinical and genomic data in order to discover the molecular underpinnings of disease, identify and validate biomarkers, and accelerate development of novel diagnostics and targeted therapeutics to improve clinical care.

In February the center announced a major initiative to sequence whole genomes of Alzheimer's patients with the goal of understanding the genetic basis of susceptibility to Alzheimer's disease, a condition about which very little is currently known. Together with the Feinstein Institute for Medical Research, part of founding member North Shore-Long Island Jewish Health System, the NYGC plans to sequence up to 1,000 genomes over four years.

The NYGC also has begun a project with Jean-Laurent Casanova, head of the St. Giles Laboratory of Human Genetics of Infectious Diseases at Rockefeller, to sequence 1,000 exomes as part of his immune disorder research.

Recent computer attacks on campus target Macs, e-mail

by LESLIE CHURCH

It's not just biologists who are studying infection at Rockefeller. Computer security experts based in the IT Pavilion have been kept busy in recent months managing outbreaks of viruses and other malware on campus computers.

In June more than a dozen people on campus fell victim to a phishing attack, a type of attack in which hackers send e-mails from what appears to be a trustworthy source asking for personal information such as a username and password. And the IT staff spent much of April working to repair damage caused by the Flashback trojan, a piece of malware that infected 30 Macintosh computers on campus and hundreds of thousands worldwide.

In the phishing attack, hackers sent e-mails to campus users stating that their e-mail quota was at capacity and prompting them to follow a link to fix the problem. Users who clicked the malicious link were prompted to enter their passwords, which the hackers then used to log on to that person's e-mail account and send thousands of malicious e-mails to both university members and external e-mail addresses. This led HHMI, AOL and Gmail, among others, to quickly throttle the university's e-mail traffic, drastically slowing the rate at which Rockefeller e-mails could be delivered.

"IT will never ever ask you for your password," says Marty Leidner, chief information security officer. "Users must be particularly careful to only enter their passwords on a Web site they purposely went to. You can also hover your mouse, without clicking, over a link in an e-mail to see where the link will take you. If it looks the least bit suspicious, don't click on it."

The Flashback trojan works like the Trojan horse for which it is named: it sneaks onto computers when the user visits an infected Web site and agrees to a seemingly innocuous download of bad code. On the surface everything looked fine. But back in the IT pavilion, staff could see that computers on campus were being hijacked and forced to join a botnet: a network of computers controlled by a cybercriminal.

Meanwhile, the Flashback trojan was at work on the users' browsers, intercepting search queries and returning fraudulent results. It's part of a global criminal scheme: every time someone clicks on one of the fake results, the owners of the botnet get paid.

"This isn't the lone hacker making a name for him or herself and showing off how cool they are," says Bart Mallio, information security intelligence analyst at Rockefeller. "When the internet got monetized with electronic commerce, organized crime groups started getting involved. The cybercriminals behind Flashback struck a deal with companies to get paid for making their sites come up first in a search results list."

It's not known who created the malware, but with more than 600,000 computers infected worldwide, it's estimated the criminals were raking in $10,000 a day.

Rockefeller's information security personnel responded to the outbreak by first quarantining and then patching the affected computers with software that blocks the trojan. Although no data was stolen, the potential for a data breach exists whenever a virus, worm or trojan enters the Rockefeller network.

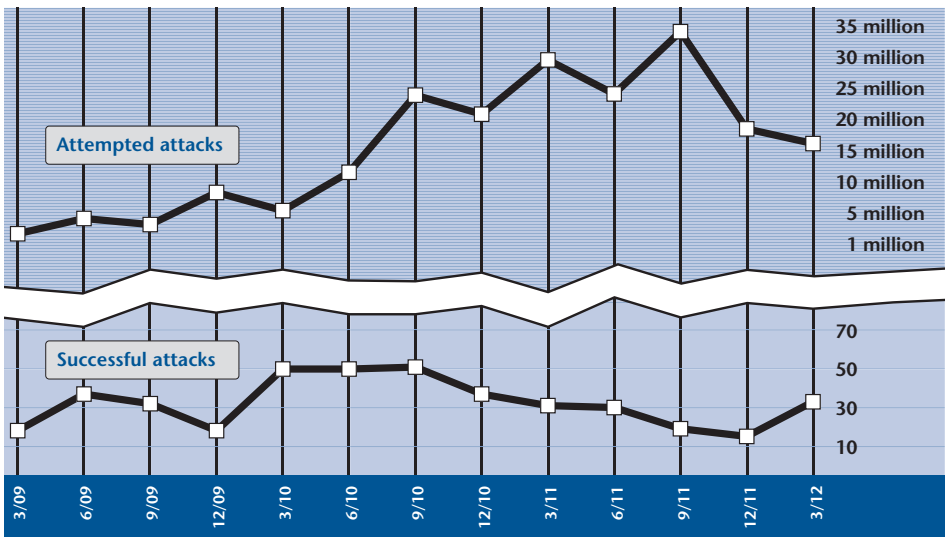
"The malware had control of people's machines — it could have done many damaging things. It could have, for example, stolen electronic banking credentials," says Leidner.

The fact that only Mac computers were targeted shows a shifting trend in the world of computer viruses and hacking. Macs were traditionally thought to be resistant to malware because hackers would create viruses that targeted the majority of machines out there: Windows PCs. As Apple's popularity has risen — Macs constitute about 40 percent of campus computers — cybercriminals see an easy target on devices that often don't have antimalware software installed.

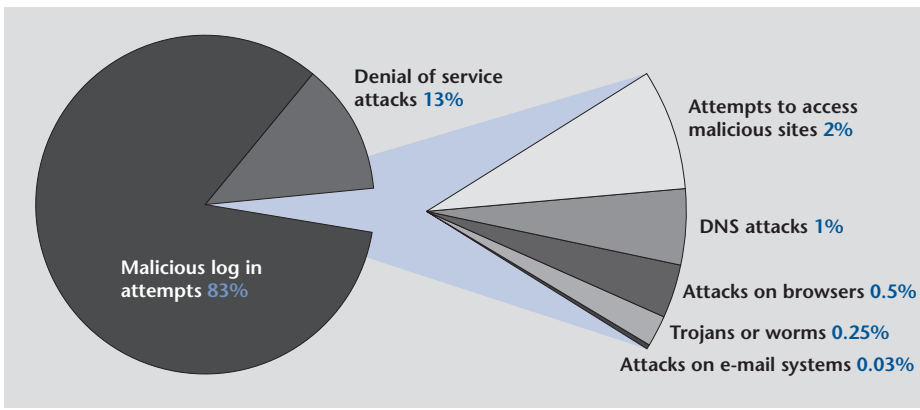
While the number of attempted attacks on all campus computers has seen a sharp rise in the last three years, the number of attacks that successfully infected computers has dropped, thanks to upgraded network hardware and antimalware software on campus computers. In the first four months of this year there has been a 60 percent reduction in malicious attacks on the campus compared to the same time frame in 2011 (see charts, left). However, although there have been fewer attacks, the severity of the average attack is increasing, requiring more time and resources to mitigate.

The most important steps one can take to safeguard a computer are to run antimalware and promptly and regularly patch all computer programs. IT launched a campus ad campaign in April to encourage Mac users to download Symantec Endpoint Protection, which is available for free to the Rockefeller community. The campaign resulted in over 200 Mac users on campus installing Symantec for the first time.

Number of attacks per quarter: 2009 to 2012

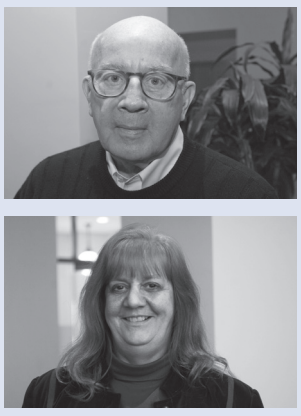


Type of attacks: 2011



Employees honored for longtime service to university

Members of the Rockefeller faculty and staff were recognized for their service to the university with two recent events. The Employee Recognition Cocktail Reception in February honored employees who had worked at the university for 20 and 25 years. Fifty-nine employees celebrated 20 years of service and 29 celebrated 30 years. In June the university held an anniversary dinner for employees celebrating major anniversaries of 30 or more years as well as retirements. Honorees at that dinner are pictured below. To see more photos, visit www.rockefeller.edu/employeerecognition.



"It's the people. There's something about working with wacky geniuses that brings out the best in you."

◀ **Regina Metz**, 30 years

"There is always a feeling that we are a close-knit family, which has made it a place I enjoy coming to every day."

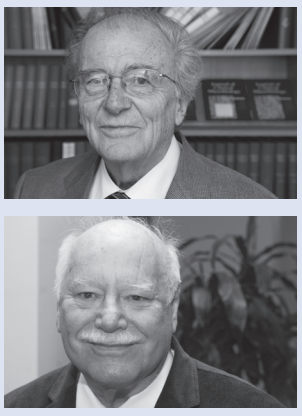
◀ **Frank Colosi**, 45 years

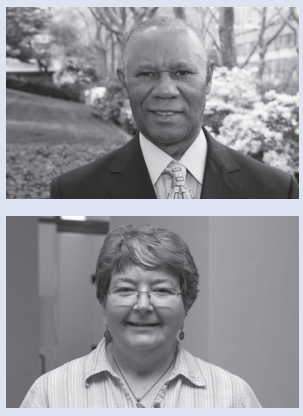
"The students are exceptional. The staff is extraordinarily helpful. And one is surrounded by…excellent scientists in many fields. What more can one want?"

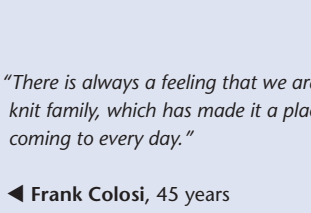
David Mauzerall, 55 years ▶

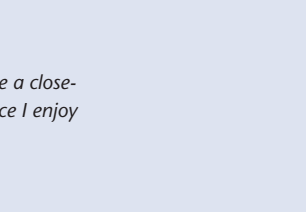
"Rockefeller has an uncanny ability to renew itself so that it always remains young and vibrant."

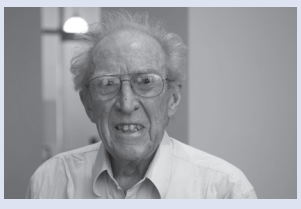
◀ **Emil Gotschlich**, 50 years

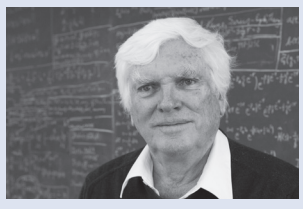












MILESTONES

PROMOTIONS, AWARDS AND PERSONNEL NEWS

Awarded:

Jesse H. Ausubel, the 2012 National Ocean Champion Award, presented by the Urban Coast Institute of Monmouth University in New Jersey, for his contributions to marine science and management. Mr. Ausubel joins a distinguished group of awardees, including Jean-Michel Cousteau, who won in 2011. He is the director and senior research associate of the Program for the Human Environment.

Cori Bargmann, the 2012 Kavli Prize in Neuroscience, which is awarded biennially for outstanding achievement in advancing knowledge and understanding of the brain and nervous system. Dr. Bargmann is among the first women scientists to receive the $1 million prize, which was first awarded in 2008 and recognizes her efforts in elucidating basic neuronal mechanisms underlying perception and decision. Dr. Bargmann is the Torsten N. Wiesel Professor at Rockefeller, head of the Lulu and Anthony Wang Laboratory of Neural Circuits and Behavior and an investigator at the Howard Hughes Medical Institute.

Cori Bargmann, the 2012 Dart/NYU Biotechnology Achievement Award in Basic Biotechnology, for her work in deciphering the neural networks that define individual and group behaviors. Presented by the Biotechnology Study Center of NYU School of Medicine, the prize recognizes the role of pure science in the development of pharmaceuticals and honors scientists whose work has led to major advances in improving patient care.

Jan L. Breslow, the 2012 Robert I. Levy Award, presented by the Kinetics and Metabolism Society. The award, presented in April, is given to a researcher who has made valuable contributions to the field of lipoprotein metabolism. Dr. Breslow is senior attending physician, Frederick Henry Leonhardt Professor and head of the Laboratory of Biochemical Genetics and Metabolism.

Brian T. Chait, the 2012 Pehr Edman Award from the International Association for Protein Structure Analysis and Proteomics. The award is presented to individuals whose efforts have significantly advanced the fields of protein chemistry, protein structure analysis or proteomics. Dr. Chait is the Camille and Henry Dreyfus Professor and head of the Laboratory of Mass Spectrometry and Gaseous Ion Chemistry.

James E. Darnell Jr. and **Robert G. Roeder**, the 2012 Albany Medical Center Prize in Medicine and Biomedical Research, for pioneering achievements in understanding how genes are regulated and expressed. The nation's largest prize in medicine at $500,000, the award is given to scientists or physicians whose work has led to significant advances in health care and scientific research with demonstrated translational benefits. Dr. Darnell is the Vincent Astor Professor Emeritus and head of the Laboratory of Molecular Cell Biology. Dr. Roeder is the Arnold and Mabel Beckman Professor and head of the Laboratory of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology. Three other Rockefeller scientists have previously received the prize.

Titia de Lange, the Dr H.P. Heineken Prize for Biochemistry and Biophysics for her research on telomeres. The award was presented by the Royal Netherlands Academy for Arts and Sciences and included a $150,000 prize. It was the first time this award was given to a woman. Past Rockefeller recipients include Christian de Duve and Paul Nurse. Dr. de Lange is the Leon Hess Professor and head of the Laboratory of Cell Biology and Genetics.

Herminia de Lencastre, the Professor Nicolau van Uden Prize from the Portuguese Society of Microbiology for lifetime contributions in the field. The prize consists of a personal diploma and honorary membership in the society. Dr. de Lencastre is a senior research associate in Alexander Tomasz's Laboratory of Microbiology and Infectious Diseases.

Andrey Feklistov and **Nicholas Stavropoulos**, Blavatnik Awards for Young Scientists. The awards are given to researchers under the age of 42 who demonstrate highly innovative, impactful and interdisciplinary accomplishments in the life sciences, physical sciences, mathematics and engineering. Dr. Feklistov, a research associate in Seth A. Darst's Laboratory of Molecular Biophysics, is being recognized for his work resolving a fundamental transcription mechanism also important for drug design. Dr. Stavropoulos, a research associate from Michael W. Young's Laboratory of Genetics, is being awarded for his research on the function and regulation of sleep. They will each receive $15,000 and will be honored at the New York Academy of Sciences's ninth annual Science and the City Gala in November.

Susana Gardete, the 2012 Young Investigator Award from the Palm Beach Infectious Diseases Institute. The $50,000 award is given to a young investigator to support research in infectious diseases and career development. Dr. Gardete is a postdoctoral fellow in Alexander Tomasz's Laboratory of Microbiology and Infectious Diseases.

Alexander Ploss, a 2012 American Liver Foundation Gregg Allman Liver Scholar Award. The award is given to early-career scientists to encourage the study of liver physiology and disease. Dr. Ploss, a research assistant professor in Charles M. Rice's Laboratory of Virology and Infectious Disease, will receive $225,000 over three years.

Jeffrey V. Ravetch and **Michael W. Young**, the Canada Gairdner International Award, presented by The Gairdner Foundation, for significant discoveries in medical science. The award is Canada's highest scientific award and is considered among the top 10 most prestigious international prizes in science. Dr. Ravetch is recognized for his work demonstrating how our immune system can be both protective and harmful. He is the Theresa and Eugene M. Lang Professor and head of the Leonard Wagner Laboratory of Molecular Genetics and Immunology. Dr. Young is honored for his research on circadian rhythms. He is the Richard and Jeanne Fisher Professor and head of the Laboratory of Genetics. Drs. Ravetch and Young each received a $100,000 prize.

Vanessa Ruta, a McKnight Scholar Award, for her research on the functional organization of the neural circuits underlying olfactory learning. Presented by the McKnight Endowment Fund for Neuroscience, this year's McKnight awards were given to six early-career scientists who have established independent laboratories and have demonstrated a commitment to neuroscience. Dr. Ruta is assistant professor and head of the Laboratory of Neurophysiology and Behavior. She is one of seven Rockefeller faculty who have won the award, and will receive $75,000 per year for three years.

Caspar Schwiedrzik, the Human Frontier Science Program Long-term Fellowship. The fellowships are given to biologists who wish to broaden their training in a different field of the life sciences in another country. Dr. Schwiedrzik joined Winrich Freiwald's Laboratory of Neural Systems as a postdoctoral fellow in January.

Caspar Schwiedrzik, the Barbara Wengeler Award, from the Barbara Wengeler Foundation in Germany. The €10,000 award recognizes research conducted at the intersection of neuroscience and philosophy, work that Dr. Schwiedrzik did at the Max Planck Institute for Brain Research.

Marc Tessier-Lavigne, the Henry G. Friesen International Prize in Health Research, established by the Friends of Canadian Institutes of Health Research in collaboration with the Canadian Academy of Health Sciences. The prize recognizes exceptional innovation by a visionary health leader of international stature. It awards $35,000 and an invitation to deliver a public lecture in Ottawa. Dr. Tessier-Lavigne is head of the Laboratory of Brain Development and Repair.

Elected:

Cori Bargmann, to the American Philosophical Society, which elects members who have shown extraordinary accomplishments in the fields of math and physics, biology, humanities and social sciences, among others. She is the ninth Rockefeller University faculty member to be inducted to the society.

Hired:

Elizabeth Adler, executive editor *JGP*, Rockefeller University Press.

Leandro Alonso, visiting student, Magnasco Lab.

Jeffrey Barnett, research assistant, Breslow Lab.

Claudia Bognanni, research assistant, Tuschl Lab.

Dennis Brown, security guard, Security.

Rachel Chiaroni-Clarke, research assistant, Simon Lab.

Leslie Church, assistant editor, Communications and Public Affairs.

Anne Debassac, human resources administrator, Human Resources.

Rickpaul Dhindsa, analyst, Investments.

Larissa Costa Faustino, visiting student, Pfaff Lab.

Michele Filgate, laboratory administrator, Chait Lab.

Ksenia Gnedeva, postdoctoral associate, Hudspeth Lab.

Jamie Lynn Harden, postdoctoral associate, Krueger Lab.

Raimond Herzog, member of the adjunct faculty, Greengard Lab.

Zachi Horn, postdoctoral fellow, Hatten Lab.

Chung-Hao Huang, visiting student, Chua Lab.

Agata Jacewicz, postdoctoral associate, O'Donnell Lab.

Trevor Johnson, research assistant, Simon Lab.

Christine Lai, research support assistant, Genomics Resource Center.

Emily Lowry, postdoctoral associate, Strickland Lab.

Hector Lugo, animal attendant, Comparative Bioscience Center.

Joel Lutomiah, visiting student, Vosshall Lab.

Juan Carmelo Magniez, foreign research intern, Libchaber Lab.

George Martinez, animal attendant, Comparative Bioscience Center.

Ruben Martinez Barricarte, postdoctoral associate, Casanova Lab.

Cristina Mascaraque, visiting student, Mucida Lab.

Amanda Perkins, teacher, Child and Family Center.

Erica Sanborn, genetic counselor, Smogorzewska Lab.

Claudia Scheckel, postdoctoral fellow, R. Darnell Lab.

Lianna Schwartz-Orbach, research assistant, Rice Lab.

Julia Sliwa, postdoctoral associate, Freiwald Lab.

Brendan Smith, research support assistant, High Throughput Screening Resource Center.

Judit Soy-Platero, visiting student, Chua Lab.

Tom Szymczyk, Web site builder and programmer, Information Technology.

Tiberiu Tesileanu, visiting fellow, Leibler Lab.

Yuko Ulrich, postdoctoral fellow, Kronauer Lab.

Amy Vonk, laboratory administrator, Nottebohm Lab.

Promoted (academic appointments):

Erin Norris, to senior research associate, Strickland Lab.

Julio Cesar Padovan, to senior research associate, Chait Lab.

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

NEW TRUSTEE

Thomas P. Maniatis elected to Board

by LESLIE CHURCH

PHOTO: ZACH VEILLEUX

The university Board of Trustees elected Thomas P. Maniatis as its newest member at its spring meeting on March 14, bringing the total number of trustees to 43.

Dr. Maniatis is the Isidore S. Edelman Professor and Chairman of the department of biochemistry and molecular biophysics at Columbia University Medical Center. He received his B.S. and M.S. degrees from the University of Colorado, Boulder, in chemistry and biology, and his Ph.D. in molecular biology from Vanderbilt University. After postdoctoral studies at Harvard University and the Medical Research Council Laboratory of Molecular Biology in Cambridge, England, Dr. Maniatis held faculty positions at Harvard, the Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory and the California Institute of Technology.

"Tom is a preeminent scientist and scientific leader who will be a superb addition to our Board," says Marc Tessier-Lavigne, the university's president. "He already knows the university well through his outstanding service on the Board's Committee on Scientific Affairs, and his perspective will serve to complement those of his fellow Board members, the majority of whom are leaders in business and finance."

Dr. Maniatis is known for pioneering the development of gene cloning technology and its application to basic research and biotechnology. His research has impacted a broad spectrum of biomedical fields, from basic mechanisms of gene regulation to human genetic and inflammatory diseases. His laboratory is currently focused on molecular neuroscience, with interests in the role of single cell diversity in the brain and disease mechanisms in ALS (Lou Gehrig's Disease).

In the past 30 years Dr. Maniatis has cofounded three biotechnology companies. He is currently a member of the board of directors of Acceleron Pharma and Constellation Pharma, and is a science partner of The Column Group, a biotechnology venture capital firm.

Dr. Maniatis is a member of the Jackson Laboratory Board of Trustees and has served on the Board of Trustees of the Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory. He currently serves on The Rockefeller University Committee on Scientific Affairs and is a former member of the Board of Scientific Consultants at Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center. He is a cofounder of the New York Genome Center and sits on its Executive Committee.

"Rockefeller is an extraordinary research institution, and I have many friends and colleagues on both the faculty and the Board," says Dr. Maniatis. "I enjoy serving on the Rockefeller Committee on Scientific Affairs, and was honored to be asked to join the Board. I look forward to working with Marc and the other Board members to maintain Rockefeller's preeminent position in the life sciences."