10-2010

BenchMarks 2010, October 15

The Rockefeller University

SCIENCE FOR THE BENEFIT OF HUMANITY

BENCHMARKS

THE COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER OF THE ROCKEFELLER UNIVERSITY

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 15, 2010

FROM RUSS CARSON

A successful presidential search

A few weeks ago, I announced that Marc Tessier-Lavigne had been selected to become the tenth president of The Rockefeller University. Marc is an outstanding scientist and an experienced and thoughtful leader and I was personally delighted when he accepted our offer to serve as Rockefeller's president. I'm writing here to publicly reiterate my appreciation to the members of the search committee and to all members of the community who offered us their suggestions for helping us achieve this very successful outcome.

As you know, the search process began in April when Paul informed me that he had decided to return to London to accept the presidency of the Royal Society. After conferring with the Board's vice chairs, I convened a search committee consisting of nine Trustees, including three scientist members of the Board, and four faculty members, two of whom were elected by Academic Council. We hired an executive search firm, Spencer Stuart, to assist with the search, and drafted a "job specification" document outlining the qualities and background we felt would be desirable in a new president. We agreed that the new president should be a prominent scientist who has made and been recognized for significant contributions to his or her field, but also that he or she should have a broad view of science and the capability to recruit, develop, retain and support talented scientists. We were also looking for someone with the ability to further enhance the university's global reputation and the ability to inspire and engage with members of the Rockefeller community and beyond.

We next solicited thoughts and suggestions from the faculty and the community at large about who they felt we should consider. As I noted when we first announced Marc's ac-

continued on page 3

BENCHMARKS

Paul Nurse, President
Jane Rendall, Corporate Secretary
Joe Bonner, Director of Communications

Zach Veilleux, Executive Editor

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.

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

CAMPUS NEWS

Marc Tessier-Lavigne named president

Following a five-month search in which nearly 80 candidates were considered, the university's Board of Trustees voted on September 8 to name Marc Tessier-Lavigne, a leader in the study of brain development, president. Dr. Tessier-Lavigne, who is currently executive vice president for research and chief scientific officer at Genentech, will succeed Paul Nurse on March 1, 2011.

As head of the Genentech research organization, Dr. Tessier-Lavigne, 50, directs some 1,400 people in disease research and drug discovery in cancer, immune disorders, infectious diseases and neurodegenerative diseases. He has been on the faculty of the University of California, San Francisco, and Stanford University and has also been an investigator with the Howard Hughes Medical Institute. In addition to his research management responsibilities at Genentech, Dr. Tessier-Lavigne has maintained an active basic research laboratory focused on the mechanisms of brain development and repair.

"I am looking forward with great enthusiasm to joining Rockefeller University, a unique institution with an unparalleled record of achievement in biomedical research, and to working with its remarkable community of scientists, research fellows and graduate students," says Dr. Tessier-Lavigne. "I have immensely enjoyed my seven years at Genentech and am proud of the work my outstanding colleagues and I have done. While it was a difficult decision to leave the company, I am honored and excited to lead one of the world's premier academic scientific institutions and to help carry on its tradition of groundbreaking contributions to biology and medicine."

Dr. Tessier-Lavigne was born in Trenton, Canada, and received a B.Sc. in physics from McGill University, and a B.A. in philosophy and physiology from Oxford University, where he was a Rhodes Scholar.

PHOTO: ZACH VEILLEUX

He obtained his Ph.D. in physiology from University College London, and performed postdoctoral work at the MRC Developmental Neurobiology Unit in London and at Columbia University. Dr. Tessier-Lavigne and his colleagues have identified mechanisms important for understanding how the human brain forms during normal development. He pioneered the identification of the molecules that direct the formation of connections among nerve cells to establish neuronal circuits in the mammalian brain and spinal cord. This work has implications for neurological disorders that arise from miswiring of connections, and for repair and rewiring of connections following spinal cord injury and in neurodegenerative diseases such as Alzheimer's.

Dr. Tessier-Lavigne is the recipient or co-recipient of numerous scientific awards, including the Young Investigator Award of the Society for Neuroscience, the Charles Judson Herrick Award of the American Association of Anatomists, the Ameritec Prize for contributions toward a cure for paralysis, the Foundation Ibsen Prize in Neuronal Plasticity, the Viktor Hamburger Award of the International Society for Developmental Neuroscience, the Wakeman Award for distinction in Neuroscience research, the Robert Dow Neuroscience Award, an honorary doctorate from the University of Pavia, the Reeve-Irvine Research Medal, the Gill Distinguished Award in Neuroscience and the W. Alden Spencer Award.

He has been elected a member of the National Academy of Sciences (USA), a fellow of the Royal Society (UK), a fellow of the Royal Society of Canada, a fellow of the American Association for the Advancement of Science and a fellow of the Academy of Medical Sciences (UK). In 1999, he was named a Canadian "Leader for the 21st Century" by *Time* magazine Canada.

"We were all impressed with Marc's world class scientific achievements and reputation, his vision for the university and for science as a whole, his interpersonal skills and his executive management ability," says Rockefeller University Chairman of the Board Russell L. Carson. "He was the search committee's unanimous first choice and we are confident he will be an outstanding president."

CAMPUS NEWS

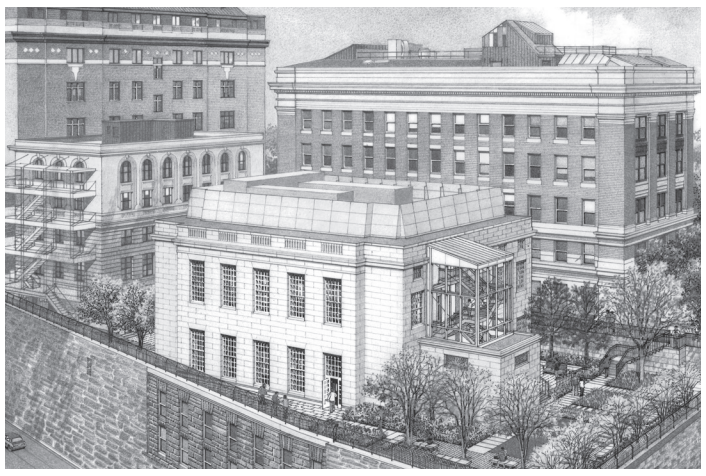
Welch Hall renovation to begin in January

by ZACH VEILLEUX

The renovation of Welch Hall, which has housed the university's library since its construction in 1929 and once served as its main dining facility, will begin in January, president Paul Nurse announced last week. The plan to modernize Welch, which has been under development for several years but was suspended after the university's finances unexpectedly worsened in 2008, was formally approved by the Board of Trustees' Finance and Operations Committee on October 6.

The decision to proceed is made possible by a new gift of $15 million from Trustee Robert Bass and his wife, Anne, earmarked specifically for Welch Hall. That gift, together with an existing $10 million gift from the estate of Rita Markus to refurbish the library, will pay for half of the projected $49.8 million cost; the remainder comes primarily from cost savings realized during the construction of the Collaborative Research Center. Robert Bass, who is president of the Keystone Group L.P., an investment firm, has been on the university's Board since 1986. Previous gifts from the Basses include funds for the endowment of the Joshua Lederberg Professorship, the creation of the Peggy Rockefeller Plaza, the renovation of the Graduate Student Residence and the construction of the CRC.

"The decision to renovate Welch Hall now means we will complete the renewal of the North campus, which is at the core of the current strategic plan, by 2012," says Russell L. Carson, chair of the university's Board. "By proceeding with this project now, concurrently with the Flexner Hall renovation, we can also take advantage of construction efficiencies which will help minimize the cost and disruption."



Looking west on Welch. Renovations will make Welch Hall, and its adjacent gardens, more accessible.

"The two main gathering spaces in Welch, the first floor reading room and the second floor common area, are among the grandest and most architecturally impressive rooms on campus, with ornate woodwork and sweeping views of the East River," says Dr. Nurse. "But they have not been well maintained over the years." The A and B levels, with a warren of mezzanines and side rooms, are currently uninhabitable. The elevator is well beyond its useful life,

continued on page 2

AWARDS AND HONORS

Jeff Friedman receives Lasker Award for discovery of leptin

Jeffrey M. Friedman, who first came to Rockefeller as a postdoc in 1980 and has been head of laboratory since 1991, is one of two recipients of this year's Albert Lasker Award for Basic Medical Research, considered the most prestigious American prize in science. The Lasker award recognized him for his "discovery of leptin, a hormone that regulates appetite and body weight, a breakthrough that opened obesity research to molecular exploration." He is the 21st Lasker recipient associated with the university.

Prior to Dr. Friedman's groundbreaking research, little was known about the components of the biologic system that controls weight, with many scientists questioning the very existence of such a homeostatic system. The discovery of leptin provided a genetic explanation of obesity and has challenged the popular belief that lack of willpower causes people to be obese.

"The identification of leptin by Jeff and his colleagues established a new paradigm for understanding how the body regulates weight," says Paul Nurse, the university's president. "It is an outstanding contribution to science and has enormous implications for improved therapies for obesity as well as other metabolic conditions for which leptin plays a crucial role." Dr. Nurse was a recipient of the Lasker Award in 1998.

In December 1994, Dr. Friedman, who is Marilyn M. Simpson Professor and head of the Laboratory of Molecular Genetics, and his colleagues published a landmark paper in the journal *Nature*, in which they identified a gene in mice and humans called *obese* (*ob*) that codes for a hormone he later named leptin, after the Greek word leptos, for thin. Dr. Friedman and colleagues showed that leptin is a hormonal signal made by the body's fat cells that regulates food intake and energy expenditure. Leptin has powerful effects on reproduction, metabolism, other endocrine systems and even immune function.

Mice that lack *ob*, and thus do not produce leptin, are massively obese, weighing as much as three times the size of their normal littermates. Dr. Friedman showed that after normal and *ob*-deficient mice are injected with synthetic leptin, they are more active and lose weight. In addition, humans lacking leptin eat copious amounts and are massively obese. Leptin treatment of these individuals leads to substantial weight loss. The dramatic effect of leptin in these patients establishes a key role for this hormone in human physiology.

However, the majority of obese people have very high levels of leptin circulating in their blood. Dr. Friedman's lab went on to show that high leptin levels are associated with resistance to leptin and provided evidence to suggest that animals destined to be obese increase their production of leptin to satisfy a higher set point for weight. These observations have reframed views on the pathogenesis of obesity and suggested that the development of approaches to improve leptin response in resistant individuals could provide new treatments for obesity.

PHOTO: ZACH VEILLEUX

Dr. Friedman's studies have elucidated the logic of an entirely new physiological system with direct implications for the pathophysiology of human obesity. In addition to providing scientists with a new target for treating obesity, the discovery of leptin has helped scientists develop treatments for other metabolic conditions, including certain forms of diabetes and for women with hypothalamic amenorrhea, infertility that is sometimes seen in extremely lean women.

"It is enormously gratifying and a tremendous honor to receive the Lasker Award," says Dr. Friedman. "Discovering a previously unknown hormone and establishing its physiological function was the greatest professional pleasure that I have known. It was the result of good fortune, the talent of many previous laboratory members and the support provided by the university and the Howard Hughes Medical Institute."

Dr. Friedman graduated from Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute and, in 1977 at the age of 22, received his M.D. from Albany Medical College of Union University. After completing a medical and chief residency at Albany Medical Center Hospital, Dr. Friedman came to Rockefeller as a postgraduate fellow and associate physician in 1980. In 1986 he received his Ph.D., working in the lab of James E. Darnell Jr., and was appointed assistant professor. In 1991 he was named head of laboratory, and in 1995 he was promoted to professor. He was appointed the Marilyn M. Simpson Professor in 1999. He has been an investigator at the Howard Hughes Medical Institute since 1986.

Dr. Friedman shares the Lasker Award with Douglas L. Coleman, emeritus scientist at The Jackson Laboratory. It was Dr. Coleman who, in the mid-1960s, first became interested in *ob* mice, then known as *diabetes* (*db*) mutant mice, for his studies of metabolic pathways. Dr. Coleman conducted a series of experiments that led him, in 1973, to propose the existence of a "satiety factor" (later identified as leptin) that the obese mice fail to produce and that the *diabetes* mice produce but do not respond to. He later wrote that his work with the *obese* and *diabetes* mice "established that the severity of the diabetes was dependent on unknown modifying genes."

Now in its 65th year, the Lasker Award is the nation's most distinguished honor for outstanding contributions to basic and clinical medical research. Seventy-nine Lasker laureates have received the Nobel Prize, including 30 in the last two decades. Dr. Friedman's award was presented at a luncheon ceremony on Friday, October 1, in New York City.

Welch Hall (continued from page 1)

the façade is in need of repair, and the building lacks a modern air circulation system. In addition, the gardens to the North and South are neglected and difficult to reach.

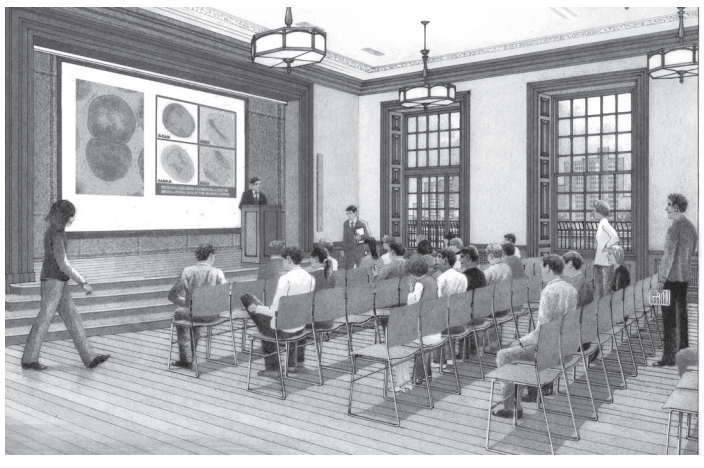
The renovated building, designed by Kliment Halsband Architects, will repair and refurbish all five levels. The first floor, which currently houses journal archives and reading spaces, will be equipped as a meeting facility, to be used for Monday lectures, Board meetings and other mid-size gatherings. The second floor will continue to be the main common area of the library, equipped with new reading and study spaces and a coffee room. The third floor mezzanine will be converted to offices, primarily for library staff. The A and B basement levels will be opened up and outfitted with study carrels, a library stack, a new computer training room to replace the existing one, and a small plating kitchen. Central air conditioning will make the building fully usable year round.

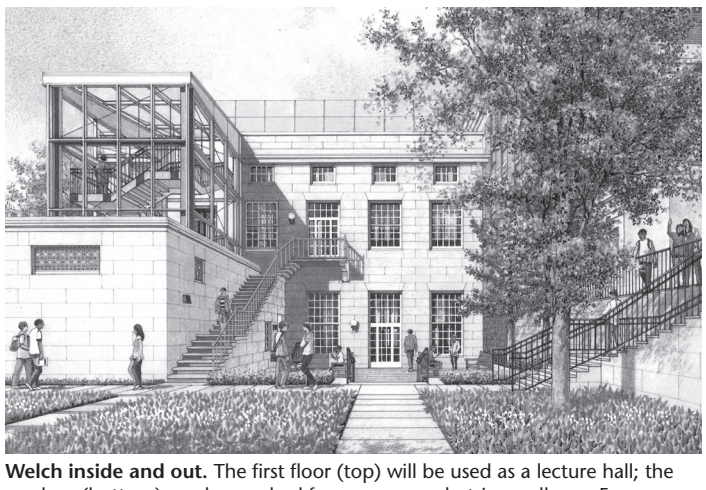
Outside, the gardens will be rebuilt, landscaped and furnished with new seating and lighting. The gardens, as well as a patio overlooking the river, will be accessible from the first and second floors of Welch as well as from a new outdoor walkway to run between Welch and Founder's Hall, connecting to Flexner and Nurses Residence.

"The plans call for Welch Hall to be brought up to date with modern and functional gathering places, not available elsewhere on campus," says George Candler, associate vice president of planning and construction. "They will also connect Welch more tightly to the rest of the campus, further increasing its utility as a central hub for research and knowledge sharing."

"Proceeding with this project now makes sense for the university from both a strategic and a financial perspective, and it means we'll be getting the most we possibly can out of our current construction efforts," says Marc Tessier-Lavigne, who will become president on March 1. "When the work is completed we will have a first class library facility and a grand meeting space connected directly to our laboratory buildings on both the North and South."

While the work is under way, the building will not be available for use — much of the library's collection will be put into storage and Monday lectures will be relocated to Caspary Auditorium. However, the library will continue to provide a range of services from its temporary home on the 17th floor of Weiss, where they will have public access computers, study tables and seating areas, and a small collection of its most widely used books in cell and molecular biology, statistics, careers, science communications and recreational reading. The library staff will also remain available for assistance and training, and will work to manage and expand electronic offerings such as e-books and electronic journals.





Welch inside and out. The first floor (top) will be used as a lecture hall; the gardens (bottom) can be reached from a new pedestrian walkway. For more renderings, see benchmarks.rockefeller.edu.

PROMOTION

Paul Bieniasz granted tenure

Virologist Paul Bieniasz, who studies retroviruses such as HIV, has been instrumental in discovering how they colonize cells and interact with host proteins as they replicate. This summer, the university's Board voted to award Dr. Bieniasz tenure and promote him to professor.

Dr. Bieniasz's research has two main themes — parsing the mechanisms that viruses use to assemble new viral particles and understanding how certain cell types and organisms have become resistant to infection. The work has led to the discovery of cellular proteins that are parasitized by retroviruses to assist in their replication. It has also elucidated defenses evolved by organisms to counter attacking viruses and the means viruses have discovered to evade them.

In particular, in 2008, Dr. Bieniasz's lab discovered a "restriction factor" called tetherin that cells employ to block the spread of retroviruses, first published in *Nature*. In experiments published last year in *Cell*, he and his colleagues showed that tetherin, which is shaped like a rod with membrane anchors at each end, takes hold of the lipid envelopes that house newborn HIV viral particles and "tethers" them to an affected cell's membrane, stalling further colonization. Tetherin reveals a clever antiviral strategy because it targets the lipid envelope, which is shared by many viruses and does not mutate as do the encased viral proteins. Unfortunately, many viruses have engineered a way to thwart it. HIV, for instance, produces a protein called Vpu, which appears to block tetherin from taking root in the lipid envelope of the virus. But understanding these interactions may point the way to pharmaceutical agents that could prevent Vpu from blocking tetherin, a potential treatment for HIV.

Dr. Bieniasz, who is head of Rockefeller's Laboratory of Retrovirology, a scientist at the Aaron Diamond AIDS Research Center (ADARC) and a Howard Hughes Medical Institute investigator, has also mined the "fossil record" of extinct retroviruses that is contained in the genomes of primates, including humans. In 2007 his lab reanimated parts of an ancient virus known as HERV-K to study whether defensive proteins of the modern innate immune system could defend against them. Studying the proteins that extinguished retroviruses millions of years ago may provide new clues to fighting the ones that plague us today, he says.

Dr. Bieniasz has also made important strides toward developing a reliable animal model for HIV, the lack of which has long hampered research on the virus. In collaboration with his wife, Theodora Hatziioannou, a scientist at ADARC with whom he has worked closely over the years, Dr. Bieniasz succeeded in infecting a pig-tailed macaque with an HIV strain by altering just one gene in the virus. With further refinements, Dr. Bieniasz hopes this monkey model will enable scientists to directly study the disease in animals, and eventually to test new vaccine candidates.

Dr. Bieniasz's interest in HIV dates to the earliest days of the epidemic, when he was a young secondary school student in England. More generally, retroviruses open a window on a broad range of biological problems. "Working on retroviruses allows you to explore so many areas of biology — evolution, imaging and cell biology, molecular biology — while at the core remaining a virologist," Dr. Bieniasz says. "You never get bored."

He looks forward to improving the monkey model for HIV, which could have important clinical implications, and also finding new antiviral genes that code for proteins, such as tetherin, that could inspire new strategies for fighting the virus. "We're putting a lot of effort into discovering new antiviral genes," he says. "I think it's possible that we're just beginning to scratch the surface of how sophisticated these defenses are."

University names two new faculty members

Luciano Marraffini: understanding how bacteria acquire foreign DNA

by ZACH VEILLEUX

Luciano Marraffini, a microbiologist, is interested in how bacterial pathogens modulate the transfer of foreign DNA into their genomes. He joined the university on July 1 as assistant professor and head of the Laboratory of Bacteriology.

Fundamentally, Dr. Marraffini wants to understand how bacteria such as *Staphylococcus aureus*, the pathogen responsible for hospital-based staph infections, evolve, including how they gain the ability to resist antibiotic drugs. But unlike higher organisms which evolve by accumulating mutations in their genes, bacteria do so by incorporating short sequences of DNA from other bacteria or from the environment into their genomes. This process, called horizontal gene transfer, allows bacteria to quickly adopt successful adaptations, but also carries the risk of introducing deleterious and even lethal DNA to the cell.

PHOTO: ZACH VEILLEUX

"Because the free transfer of foreign DNA can be detrimental to the cell and will prevent the maintenance of the species, bacteria, as many other organisms, must have mechanisms that control the traffic of genetic material," Dr. Marraffini says.

Dr. Marraffini studies one such mechanism, known as CRISPR interference, for Clustered Regularly Interspaced Short Palindromic Repeats. CRISPR relies on short sequences of DNA — typically 24 to 48 nucleotides in length — that are transcribed into small RNA segments to selectively block the incorporation of foreign DNA into bacteria, in much the same way that the RNA interference process works in mammals. The segments of bacterial DNA found between two repeats of the CRISPR array is often DNA that has been incorporated from bacteriophage — viruses which invade bacteria — or conjugative plasmids, independent DNA molecules that are transferred between bacteria.

"CRISPR plays a role in determining whether or not these DNA molecules become part of the bacterial genome — it has the power to block bacteriophage infection and plasmid conjugation," Dr. Marraffini says. "My goal is to figure out how they do this. I want to tackle the phenomenon using a variety of techniques in biochemistry and genetics, in order to figure out what are the important genes and protein machinery for this mechanism to work."

Not only would insight into CRISPR's mechanism suggest ways in which bacterial evolution could be manipulated, blocking adaptations that would allow deadly pathogens to resist drugs, but the mechanism itself could potentially be harnessed to create useful genetically engineered bacteria. A better understanding of CRISPR would also allow scientists to better interpret the historical record of past phage and plasmid infections contained within the bacteria's DNA, shedding light on how they have developed over millions of years.

Dr. Marraffini, a native of Argentina, received his undergraduate degree from the University of Rosario in Argentina, and his Ph.D., in microbiology, from the University of Chicago in 2007. He was a postdoc at Northwestern University until this summer.

At Rockefeller, Dr. Marraffini plans to pursue further studies of the CRISPR mechanism in *Staphylococcus* as well as in other bacteria. But his broader goal is to analyze not only the relationship between bacteria and phages, but between those phages and the humans that host the bacteria they invade. "We know a lot about how these phages impact the bacteria they invade," Dr. Marraffini says, "but what is the effect of a phage infection on the human microbiota? Rockefeller is the perfect place to ask these kinds of questions."

Daniel Kronauer: using molecular genetics to study social evolution in insects

by BRETT NORMAN

Daniel Kronauer, who will join Rockefeller in July 2011 as head of the Laboratory of Insect Social Evolution, is interested in understanding how evolution operates at different levels of organization in the rich context of insect societies, from the gene to the individual and society as a whole.

Insect societies are often integrated to such a degree that they are conceptualized as "superorganisms," where individuals are morphologically and behaviorally differentiated into castes with different functions, analogous to different tissues in conventional organisms. Dr. Kronauer uses an integrative approach combining genomics and transcriptomics, population genetics, molecular phylogenetics, chemical ecology, laboratory-based behavioral experiments and fieldwork to explore how natural selection has shaped these social systems at different hierarchical levels.

PHOTO COURTESY DANIEL KRONAUER

"The study of social insects brings an extra layer to the understanding of evolution," says Dr. Kronauer. "It adds the dimension of the society. As the societies get more and more complex, you have to understand how these different hierarchical levels are interacting with one another. Cooperation has to be maintained, and conflicts have to be resolved or suppressed, and understanding that is one of my major interests."

In the lab, Dr. Kronauer primarily works with *Cerapachys biroi*, an ant species that is attractive as an experimental system because its populations exhibit the interesting social behavior of army ants but reproduce asexually, providing control over the genetic background. Dr. Kronauer will sequence the genome and transcriptome of the species to establish this ant as a model system in which he can study behaviors such as reproduction and foraging.

Dr. Kronauer also studies nomadic species of army ants in the field, ranging from Kenya to the New World tropics of Venezuela, where he tracks colonies, some of which move as much as 100 meters each night. Previous work has shown that army ant colonies have very complex pedigree structures and an idiosyncratic way of reproducing by fission. He hopes to understand how and why this system has evolved and how it has shaped altruistic worker behavior and social conflicts in evolutionary terms. He is also interested in the evolution of morphological and behavioral worker castes, particularly in response to ecological changes, as well as ant symbionts including microbes and arthropods.

Dr. Kronauer, who is originally from Germany, received his Ph.D. at the University of Copenhagen in 2007 and was a postdoc there as well as at the University of Lausanne before joining Harvard University as a junior fellow in July 2008. He was the first to develop and use population genetic markers for a broad range of army ant species, and his research showed that many of the most complex insect societies, like those of army ants, rely on high genetic diversity. In army ants this is typically achieved by single queens that mate with an extraordinary number of males, a finding Dr. Kronauer published in 2007 in *Evolution*, or, in one special case, by colonies that host multiple queens, published the same year in *Current Biology*.

Dr. Kronauer also is an avid nature photographer, shooting ants in the field. His close-up images of ants have appeared on the covers of journals such as *Current Biology*, *Evolution* and *The Journal of Evolutionary Biology*. "It's a hobby, a nice complement to the scientific work I'm doing. It's a way to access the world of the ants and discover things you couldn't see with your eyes alone."

A successful presidential search (continued from page 1)

ceptance, this outreach was enormously helpful: we received 195 nominations which, after eliminating duplicates, contained the names of 78 recommended individuals.

At two lengthy meetings in May and June the committee discussed every one of the 78 candidates on our list. Virtually all of the candidates were known to at least one of the scientific members of the search committee; based on their insights, on the community's recommendations and on research compiled by Spencer Stuart, we emerged from the meetings with a short list of eight individuals whom we felt should be interviewed.

I contacted the candidates personally and had initial conversations with all eight. Three of them were unable to consider the job, one expressed interest during an initial interview with me but later decided not to proceed further with the process and the remaining four were interviewed by both myself and the full committee during June and July. These interviews consisted of lengthy, in depth discussions in New York, primarily focused on the candidates' scientific and executive experience, their interest in the position and their vision for the university.

Marc immediately impressed us, in terms of his scientific achievements, his reputation and his interpersonal and managerial style. He was well known to several members of the search committee, had been recommended by several members of the university community and quickly emerged as our leading candidate. The committee conducted a second interview with Marc a couple of weeks after the first which included his wife Mary Hynes, who is also an accomplished scientist. That interview went extremely well and we concluded that Marc and Mary would be an ideal addition to the university. At the authorization of the search committee, I formally offered Marc the position and commenced negotiations that resulted in his acceptance of our offer in late August. As you know, he will formally assume the presidency on March 1 of next year.

Although Marc does not come directly from academia, he served on the faculties of the University of California, San Francisco, and at Stanford University before moving to Genentech in 2003. He is well known for his groundbreaking discoveries in the area of neuroscience, for which he has received numerous awards. He was a Howard Hughes investigator prior to leaving academia, continued to have his own lab while serving as executive vice president and chief scientific officer of Genentech, and will maintain a lab at Rockefeller with several of his colleagues from California who will also relocate to New York.

Marc has been to Rockefeller many times over the years, and knows a number of the faculty and administrators here already. He is very enthusiastic about coming and will be meeting with many of you over the next few months to help ensure a smooth transition. Paul's shoes, of course, will not be easy to fill, but Marc steps in at an exciting time for the university, with the finances stable, the new Collaborative Research Center now open and several very talented junior faculty members recruited in recent years. I have every confidence that his presidency will be an outstanding one.

I want again to thank the members of the search committee for their participation, particularly our three scientist Trustees, David Botstein, Joe Goldstein and David Hirsh, and the four faculty members of the committee, Cori Bargmann, Rod MacKinnon, Michel Nussenzweig and Mike Young. The process, though it proceeded smoothly, required an intensive commitment of time and energy. The dedication of all of the members of the committee and their valuable insights not only led us to this successful conclusion, but served as a reminder to me of what a privilege it is to serve as chair of the university's Board.

MILESTONES

PROMOTIONS, AWARDS AND PERSONNEL NEWS

Awarded:

Jean-Laurent Casanova, a Grand Challenges Explorations grant from the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation. The $100,000 grant is one of 78 announced by the foundation in May to support scientists exploring bold and largely unproven ways to improve health in developing countries. Dr. Casanova is head of the St. Giles Laboratory of Human Genetics of Infectious Diseases.

Paul Greengard, the Karolinska Institute's Bicentennial Gold Medal, to be issued during the Swedish medical university's 200th anniversary celebrations. The award recognizes an individual not permanently located at the Karolinska Institute who has contributed to and achieved acknowledged eminence in the university's activities. Dr. Greengard, Vincent Astor Professor and head of the Laboratory of Molecular and Cellular Neuroscience, received the prize on September 23 at the residence of the Swedish ambassador to the U.S.

Jürg Ott, the 2010 William Allan Award from the American Society of Human Genetics. The prize, which is the society's top honor, is presented annually to recognize an individual for substantial contributions to human genetics carried out over a lifetime of scientific inquiry. The award, including a medal and $10,000, will be presented on November 4 in Washington, D.C. Dr. Ott is emeritus professor and head of the Laboratory of Statistical Genetics.

Robert G. Roeder, the 2010 Salk Institute Medal for Research Excellence. The award honors Dr. Roeder's contributions to the understanding of RNA synthesis in animal cells. Dr. Roeder is Arnold and Mabel Beckman Professor and head of the Laboratory of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology. The medal will be awarded on October 29 at the Salk Institute in La Jolla, California.

Named:

Winrich Freiwald, a 2010 Pew Scholar in the Biomedical Sciences. Freiwald, head of the Laboratory of Neural Systems, will receive $240,000 in funding over four years. He is one of 21 Pew Scholars named this year.

Paul Nurse, "the most important person in British science," according to a list compiled by *Eureka*, the monthly science magazine of London's *The Times*. The scientists in the inaugural Eureka 100, billed as a guide to the most important contemporary figures in British science, were chosen by a panel of scientists and journalists. Dr. Nurse is president and head of the Laboratory of Yeast Genetics and Cell Biology.

Agnel Sfeir, a finalist in the fourth annual Blavatnik Awards for Young Scientists. Established by the New York Academy of Sciences and the Blavatnik Charitable Foundation to recognize the contributions of young scientists and engineers in New York, New Jersey and Connecticut, the program awards finalists between $5,000 and $10,000. The winners in each category, to be announced in November, will receive an additional $10,000 to $15,000 respectively. Dr. Sfeir is a postdoc in Titia de Lange's Laboratory of Cell Biology and Genetics.

Elected:

Robert B. Darnell and **Titia de Lange**, to the Institute of Medicine, the health branch of the National Academy of Sciences. Drs. Darnell and de Lange are among 65 new members and five foreign associates to be elected this year, and are recognized for "demonstrating outstanding professional achievement and commitment to service." Dr. Darnell is Robert and Harriet Heilbrunn Professor and head of the Laboratory of Molecular Neuro-oncology; Dr. de Lange is Leon Hess Professor and head of the Laboratory of Cell Biology and Genetics. Sixteen current members of the university's faculty are now members of the Institute of Medicine.

Promoted (academic appointments):

Paul Bieniasz, to professor, head of laboratory, Bieniasz Lab.

Marc-Werner Dobenecker, to senior research associate, Tarakhovsky Lab.

Hired:

Alexandre Alcais, visiting professor, Casanova Lab.

Tashanna Allen, outpatient unit coordinator, Hospital Nursing Outpatient.

Dany Arango, animal attendant, Comparative Bioscience Center.

Lizzie Atomi Pamen, research support assistant, High Throughput Screening Resource Center.

Brian Bae, postdoctoral associate, Darst Lab.

Adesh Bajnath, laboratory technician, Pfaff Lab.

Mehrpouya Balaghy Mobin, foreign research intern, Tuschl Lab.

Aubrey Barbosa, assistant teacher, Child and Family Center.

Hourinaz Behesti Isfahani, postdoctoral associate, Hatten Lab.

Daniel Belkin, visiting medical student, Krueger Lab.

Julia Berthet, research assistant, Tavazoie Lab.

Meredith Betterton, visiting assistant professor, Siggia Lab.

Matthew Bick, postdoctoral associate, Darst Lab.

Mykhailo Borysov, computer programmer, Freiwald Lab.

Stylianos Bournazos, postdoctoral associate, Ravetch Lab.

Lucas Brane, laboratory technician, Steinman Lab.

Stephen Brohawn, postdoctoral associate, MacKinnon Lab.

Jordan Brown, research assistant, Ravetch Lab.

Jens Caap Hallgren, visiting student, Pfaff Lab.

Jaqueline Carroll, research assistant, Ravetch Lab.

Christina Caserio, research support assistant, Genomics Resource Center.

Murat Cevher, postdoctoral associate, Roeder Lab.

Praveen Chatani, research assistant, McEwen Lab.

Shasha Chen, research assistant, Kreek Lab.

Pak Cho, postdoctoral associate, Steller Lab.

Revathy Chottekalapanda, postdoctoral associate, Greengard Lab.

Joel Cohen-Solal, scientific editor, Rockefeller University Press.

Stephen Conway, research assistant, Vosshall Lab.

Kathleen Cook, visiting fellow, Fuchs Lab.

Rita Devine, nursing clinical operations manager, Hospital Nursing Administration.

Alexandra DeWitt, research assistant, Breslow Lab.

Chad Euler, postdoctoral associate, Fischetti Lab.

Jean Falconer, development assistant I, Development.

Marshall Fordyce, instructor in clinical investigation, Ho Lab.

Scott Forth, postdoctoral associate, Kapoor Lab.

Nathan Franck, research assistant, Fischetti Lab.

Sebastien Frey, foreign research intern, Tuschl Lab.

Joanna Ganowiak, visiting student, Pfaff Lab.

Pedro Garrido Vega, visiting fellow, McEwen Lab.

Ron Gejman, research assistant, Tarakhovsky Lab.

Conrad Gleber, research assistant, Brady Lab.

Chloe Goldman, research assistant, Vosshall Lab.

Elvis Golja, mechanic II, Plant Operations Power House.

Andres Gottfried, visiting fellow, McEwen Lab.

Jerome Graber, visiting fellow, Robert Darnell Lab.

Denise Oliveira Guimaraes, visiting fellow, Brady Lab.

Louise Hansen, visiting student, Sakmar Lab.

Asma Hatoum, postdoctoral associate, Marraffini Lab.

Doowon Huh, research assistant, Tavazoie Lab.

Ismail Ismailoglu, postdoctoral associate, Brivanlou Lab.

Mitsuhiro Ito, member of the adjunct faculty, Roeder Lab.

Ali Jabbari, visiting fellow, Krueger Lab.

Abdulai Jalloh, animal attendant, Comparative Bioscience Center.

Tamika Johnson, animal attendant, Comparative Bioscience Center.

Alia Kamal, research assistant, Rout Lab.

Neeraj Kapoor, postdoctoral associate, Sakmar Lab.

Shirin Kasturia, research assistant, Greengard Lab.

Erica Keen, postdoctoral associate, Friedman Lab.

Milene Kennedy, visiting medical student, Krueger Lab.

Molly Kottemann, postdoctoral fellow, Smogorzewska Lab.

Andrew Krutchinsky, senior research associate, Chait Lab.

Anita Kulukian, postdoctoral fellow, Fuchs Lab.

Michael Laha, research assistant, Rice Lab.

Pak Kin Lee, postdoctoral associate, MacKinnon Lab.

Tiffany Lee, visiting student, McEwen Lab.

Katherine Leon, research assistant, Darst Lab.

Rebecca Leshan, postdoctoral associate, Pfaff Lab.

Danielle Little, laboratory helper, Brivanlou Lab.

Barbara Maier, foreign research intern, Rice Lab.

Shmuel Malkin, member of the adjunct faculty, Mauzerall Lab.

Seyed-Ehnahal Mansoorizangir, research assistant, Casanova Lab.

Ane Marquina, visiting student, Rout Lab.

Luciano Marraffini, assistant professor, head of laboratory, Marraffini Lab.

Mukul Mathur, grants management specialist, Sponsored Research and Program Development.

Larissa Mattei, research assistant, Strickland Lab.

Benjamin Matthews, postdoctoral fellow, Vosshall Lab.

Brandan Mayer-Blackwell, research assistant, Kreek Lab.

Ian Maze, postdoctoral associate, Allis Lab.

Kelly McLees, university print production specialist, Communications and Public Affairs.

Justin McManus, postdoctoral associate, Gilbert Lab.

Alexander Meyer, visiting student, Coller Lab.

James Miller, postdoctoral associate, McEwen Lab.

Melinda Miller, postdoctoral associate, McEwen Lab.

Jana Mitchell, visiting student, Blobel Lab.

Marcela Moncada Velez, visiting student, Casanova Lab.

Michael Moore, postdoctoral fellow, Robert Darnell Lab.

Mary Beth Moorefield, senior research associate, Konarska Lab.

Daniel Mucida, assistant professor, head of laboratory, Mucida Lab.

David Murphy, research assistant, Hatten Lab.

Golam Nabi, security guard, Security.

Fumiaki Nin, postdoctoral associate, Hudspeth Lab.

Tiffany Nivare, laboratory manager, Casanova Lab.

Daibhid O Maoileidigh, postdoctoral associate, Hudspeth Lab.

Javier Ocasio, mechanic III, Plant Operations Power House.

Maria-Eleni Papaioannou, postdoctoral associate, Brivanlou Lab.

Kristine Parks, animal attendant, Comparative Bioscience Center.

Lucy Petro, research assistant, Freiwald Lab.

Sarah Pickett, research assistant, Heintz Lab.

James Pring, laboratory technician, Steinman Lab.

Sahand Jamal Rahi, fellow, Center for Studies in Physics and Biology.

Nina Rapaport, teacher, Child and Family Center.

Skye Rasmussen, assistant director, Comparative Bioscience Center.

Sarmistha Ray-Saha, postdoctoral associate, Sakmar Lab.

Assaf Raz, postdoctoral associate, Fischetti Lab.

Boojala Vijay Reddy, senior research associate, Brady Lab.

Brittany Regis, human resources assistant, Human Resources.

Bernardo Reis, postdoctoral associate, Mucida Lab.

Lisa Robinson, assistant general counsel, General Counsel.

Renata Rodrigues, visiting fellow, Goulianos Lab.

Aneta Rogoz, research assistant, Mucida Lab.

Michelle Romanick-Rodriguez, specialist, clinical and translational science communications, Hospital Medical Science.

Jordan RoseFigura, postdoctoral associate, Hang Lab.

Chelsea Rouson, laboratory helper, Media and Glassware Resource Center.

Tamara Rowe, assistant director, Child and Family Center.

Darren Ruane, visiting student, Steinman Lab.

Amanda Rubin, research assistant, Greengard Lab.

Avery Ryou, assistant waste manager, Lab Safety and Environmental Health.

Julia Sable, laboratory manager, Rice Lab.

Marie-Laure Schneider, foreign research intern, Shaham Lab.

Laura Seeholzer, research assistant, Vosshall Lab.

Michelle Seth-Smith, research assistant, Steinman Lab.

Yelena Shatalina, research specialist, Nussenzweig Lab.

Sonia Shirley, laboratory technician, Rice Lab.

Yevgeniy Sirotin, neuroscience fellow, White and Levy Center for Mind, Brain and Behavior.

Peter Smith, research assistant, Simon Lab.

Steven Soll, postdoctoral associate, Bieniasz Lab.

Christina Sorensen, research support assistant, Genomics Resource Center.

Marguerite Spellman, copy editor, Rockefeller University Press.

Kimberly Such, postdoctoral associate, Comparative Bioscience Center.

Marlowe Tessmer, scientific editor, Rockefeller University Press.

Stefanie Tignor, recruitment assistant, Hospital Medical Science.

Suzanne Tintle, visiting medical student, Krueger Lab.

Nima Tishbi, laboratory technician, Shaham Lab.

Ann Travers, assistant to the finance director, Rockefeller University Press.

Giraldina Trevejo, instructor in clinical investigation, Casanova Lab.

Boo Shan Tseng, postdoctoral associate, Funabiki Lab.

Christina Vanarthos, office administrator, Technology Transfer.

David Varon, visiting professor, Coller Lab.

Haley Vecchiarelli, research assistant, McEwen Lab.

Massimo Vergassola, visiting professor, Siggia Lab.

Uma Veturi, research assistant, Smogorzewska Lab.

Guillaume Vogt, postdoctoral associate, Casanova Lab.

Rosanna Volchok, laboratory administrator, Kreek Lab.

Qiong Wang, postdoctoral associate, Fischetti Lab.

Shu-Ping Wang, postdoctoral associate, Roeder Lab.

Malte Warncke, visiting student, Freiwald Lab.

Fredrik Wermeling, postdoctoral associate, Ravetch Lab.

Iddo Wernick, senior research associate, Program for the Human Environment.

Elizabeth Williams, executive editor *JCB*, Rockefeller University Press.

Pawel Wojcik, research assistant, White and Levy Center for Mind, Brain and Behavior.

Bryan Yipp, instructor in clinical investigation, Steinman Lab.

Ming Yu, postdoctoral associate, Roeder Lab.

Neeha Zaidi, visiting fellow, Steinman Lab.

Lori Zbytnuik, research assistant, Steinman Lab.

Li Zhang, research assistant, Steinman Lab.

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