10-2012

BenchMarks 2012, October 5

The Rockefeller University

SCIENCE FOR THE BENEFIT OF HUMANITY

BENCHMARKS

THE COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER OF THE ROCKEFELLER UNIVERSITY

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 5, 2012

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Flu shots now available. Vaccines to protect against the seasonal influenza virus are available without an appointment, Monday through Friday from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. in the Occupational Health Services office, room 118 in The Rockefeller University Hospital. The shots are free of charge to any Rockefeller or HHMI employee or student. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention recommends annual influenza vaccination for all people ages six months and older for the 2012–2013 flu season.

Rockefeller employee art show seeks entries. Human Resources will be accepting submissions from all areas of fine and applied arts until October 11 for employees and from October 15 to 26 for children of employees (up to age 21). The annual Employee Art Show will be held October 18 to November 8 and the Children's Art Show is from November 12 to 30 in Weiss lobby. Contact Anne Debassac at x8379 or e-mail art@rockefeller.edu for more information or to submit work.

New CRC café to open. A new food venue will open on the A level of the Greenberg Building on October 8, replacing the temporary coffee cart that has been there since 2010. It will feature a barista service with specialty coffees, cappuccinos and lattes, as well as a few hot items and pastries for breakfast. Lunch will include made-to-order cold sandwiches, salads, a quiche-of-the-day and another hot lunch item rotated daily. The new café will be open from 8:30 a.m. to 6:30 p.m. For weekly menus, visit rockefeller.edu/food.

Annual blood drive collects 59 units. The university's annual blood drive, held by Occupational Health Services on September 11, collected blood from 59 donors this year. The donations are distributed by the New York Blood Center, which serves 200 hospitals throughout New York City and the surrounding areas.

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

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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CAMPUS NEWS

Flexner move-ins begin as construction winds down

by ZACH VEILLEUX

After five years of work, construction on the Collaborative Research Center is drawing to a close, and crews are now in the final stages of finishing work to outfit laboratories and install equipment in Flexner Hall.

"Labs on several floors are actually complete and the project's contractor, Turner, has handed them over to Rockefeller crews to be outfitted with networking and telephone equipment and to prepare for move-ins," says George Candler, associate vice president for planning and construction. "Actual moves began in late September and will continue through the fall."

In addition, a new kitchen and serving area on the A level is finished and ready to be connected to the Greenberg Building. And on the B floor, work is under way on the final phase of the project, the buildout of a 200-seat auditorium that will be located beneath the plaza. Until recently, this space was needed for construction staging work and material storage.

To the south, finishing work is also in the final stages at Welch Hall, where original woodwork has been painstakingly restored and new study and meeting spaces created on levels that for years had been used only for storage. The library will relocate to Welch from its temporary headquarters on the 17th floor of Weiss in December and open in January.

Related projects, such as the repair of marble walkways near Caspary (see "Following in dad's footsteps," page 2), new landscaping and access routes adjacent to Welch, and the refurbishment of the service tunnel beneath Founder's will also be wrapping up this fall. Beginning in October, construction trailers will be removed from the north end of campus and new landscaping will be installed as well as an improved parking area.

"The end is finally in sight," says John Tooze, vice president for scientific and facility operations. "Although there have been periods of noise and disruption over the past several years, we are now at the stage where we can clearly see the benefits of this work. Thanks to careful management by our staff and contractors, and the patience and cooperation of the entire community, these ambitious projects are being completed on time and within budget."

PHOTOS: ZACH VEILLEUX

Move-in condition. Construction is nearing completion on the first floor of Flexner (top) and the exterior of Welch. For more photos, visit benchmarks.rockefeller.edu.

FACULTY PROMOTIONS

Shai Shaham and Sean Brady receive promotions

by LESLIE CHURCH and ZACH VEILLEUX

Two Rockefeller faculty members have received promotions, both of which were approved by the Board at its June 7 meeting. Shai Shaham, head of the Laboratory of Developmental Genetics, has been awarded tenure and promoted to professor; Sean Brady, head of the Laboratory of Genetically Encoded Small Molecules, has been promoted to associate professor.

The Shaham lab uses the nematode *Caenorhabditis elegans* as a model for two main areas of research: the control of programmed cell death during animal development and the roles of glial cells in nervous system development and function. In addition to discovering a number of mechanisms that regulate apoptotic cell death, in 2007 the lab identified a novel, nonapoptotic cell death program that has features conserved across organisms, including vertebrates. An article published this year in *Science* pinpointed a gene involved in the new cell death program that may also be linked to certain neurodegenerative diseases such as Huntington's.

"Our goal now is to understand how this program works molecularly: what genes are involved, how they talk to each other and to what extent they are conserved in other vertebrate systems," says Dr. Shaham. In addition to its possible practical applications, this discovery has been especially gratifying for Dr. Shaham simply because it is a newly described phenomenon. "Apoptosis is the type of cell death on which researchers primarily focus. It is, therefore, exciting to discover a new program that may be similarly conserved."

The Shaham lab has also been adding new insights to the topic of glial cells, highly abundant nervous system cells that have historically been less explored than neurons. Glia were thought to function solely as the workhorses that brought nutrients to and cleaned up after neurons, but the Shaham lab has shown that glia are essential for neural development, promoting axon outgrowth and dendrite extension. The lab has also uncovered morphology-independent roles for glia in sensory neuron function, showing that animals lacking

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FINANCE

FY2012 budget closes with modest deficit

by ZACH VEILLEUX

The university's fiscal year 2012 operating budget ended with a $6.8 million deficit, largely the result of reduced endowment spending over the past three years. But the shortfall was expected and has been covered with reserve money from prior year budget surpluses.

"The fiscal year 2012 budget was actually better than expected, in large part because of an increase in development gifts to the university," says Jim Lapple, vice president for finance. "Such gifts increased 28 percent compared to 2011, reflecting both the generosity of the university's donors and the outstanding performance of the Development Office."

The university's budget has been under some pressure ever since the financial crisis that began in 2008. Because of the way in which the university's endowment spending is calculated, the effect of market losses from 2009 and 2010 are still impacting a major source of revenue for the operating budget. In addition, the university is now seeing a decline in revenue from government grants and contracts, down 13

continued on page 2

The Rockefeller University Press's 'Google Earth'-like tool for cell biology

by LESLIE CHURCH

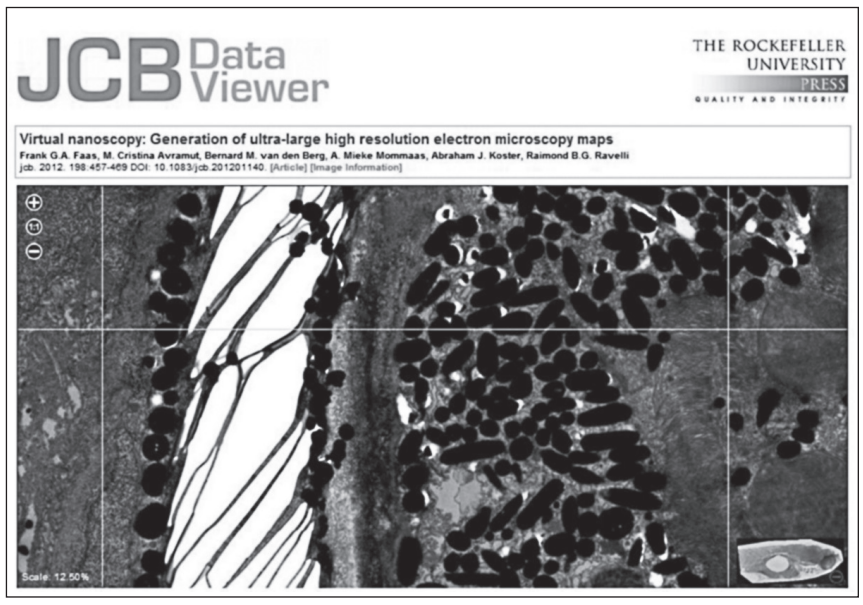
In science, seeing the big picture is key. The Rockefeller University Press has taken that literally. Using an online image publishing tool they originally developed in 2008, *The Journal of Cell Biology* (*JCB*) has released what it believes is the largest image ever published online — a 281-gigapixel photo of a 1.5 millimeter zebrafish embryo.

The unparalleled level of detail is made possible by an upgrade to the *JCB*'s DataViewer platform along with newly improved automated image-stitching technology contributed by researchers at the Leiden University Medical Center in the Netherlands. This stitching technique, so-called "virtual nanoscopy", allows researchers to assemble a mosaic of individual electron microscopy images into one large image. Readers of the journal can zoom in on specific structures of a specimen just as they would zoom in on a house using Google Earth.

The concept of stitching together images to create an ultra-large electron micrograph is not new, but the technology developed by the Dutch researchers allows it to be applied to a much broader range of electron microscopy instruments. Their zebrafish image, made up of more than 26,000 individual images, lets readers view the specimen at the organismal, tissue and subcellular levels, all at high resolution. The *JCB* worked with the technology company Glencoe Software to develop a platform that could host and present the massive image online.

"The microscope is a vital tool in cell biology, but it's limited by the small field of view captured in a single image," says Liz Williams, executive editor of the *JCB*. "You can get a very high resolution image of a select area of the cell, but if you want to get a broader sense of what's happening around that area, you lose the resolution of that cellular detail. With virtual nanoscopy, we're able to integrate high-resolution information across cells and tissues. No other journal provides authors with the technology necessary to share these types of image data."

The *JCB* DataViewer has analysis tools that let scientists examine multidimensional microscopy images and interrogate different dimensions — depth, color and time — individually or in parallel. A previous upgrade made the data downloadable in a standardized file format that allows researchers to use their own image analysis software for further examination. The journal also hosts large datasets of quantitative microscopy studies and high throughput image screens.



Zooming in. The *JCB*'s data viewer allows journal subscribers to navigate scientific images with click-and-drag ease.

Authors are not required to submit files to the *JCB* DataViewer, but since its inception, almost a quarter of the papers published in the journal have also had supplemental image data in the DataViewer. There are currently more than 100,000 images hosted on the site.

"This is the next frontier in scientific publishing," says Ms. Williams. "The images in print journals are two-dimensional, and the traditional videos in online articles are badly compressed. We provide a new way to share image data at the full resolution at which they were acquired. If you can image it, you should be able to publish it, and now you can."

Publishing data in its rawest form also ties in with the journal's reputation for data integrity. Ten years ago it enacted a policy of using Adobe Photoshop to screen images for evidence of manipulation. The Rockefeller University Press has a team that inspects every image in a paper before it's published.

"The *JCB* DataViewer provides access to the original data underlying the figures presented in an article. It allows readers to inspect the original data for themselves," says Mike Rossner, executive director of the press, who pioneered its data integrity policy after he discovered an image in a 2002 manuscript that had been manipulated. "The primary goal for the DataViewer is to enhance data sharing among researchers, possibly leading to new discoveries, but this extra transparency is a welcome byproduct."

Following in dad's footsteps

Frank Pansini has done stone setting work all over New York City, but restoring the marble path in front of Caspary has a special meaning for him — it's the same path his father put in place 50 years ago. Mr. Pansini, owner of U.S. Stone Setting, Inc., was hired by Turner Construction to restore the marble after it was damaged by construction vehicles used in building the CRC. His father Enzo was the foreman on the installation in 1962. "He did a darn good job," says Mr. Pansini. "But I'll admit, this is a better job." Mr. Pansini comes from a long line of stone workers — his grandfather was an Italian sculptor and Enzo has owned his own stone setting business for 35 years — but he had to earn his keep in the business. He worked for his dad every summer since he was old enough to lift a marble slab and set off on his own when he was 24. "I love the hands-on work, but what I really love is all the people I get to interact with," Mr. Pansini says. The new marble is built on a concrete foundation, which should keep it in place for at least another half century, if not longer. The elder Pansini, now mostly retired, came by to check up on his son's work. "He approved," Mr. Pansini says. — LESLIE CHURCH

PHOTO: ZACH VEILLEUX

FY2012 budget (continued from page 1)

percent from last year, as federal stimulus money is phased out. On a brighter note, income from competitive private grants and contracts is up nine percent.

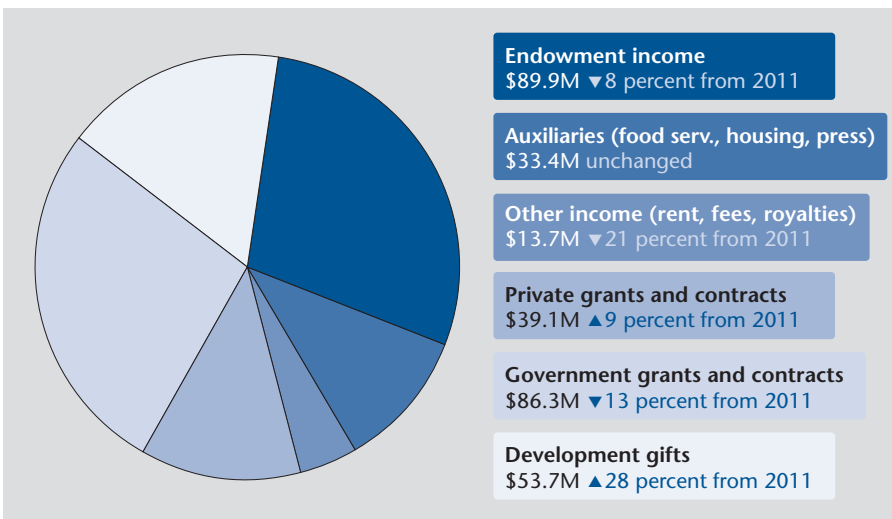
On the expenditures side of the ledger, the situation is largely unchanged compared to fiscal year 2011. "The university has successfully preserved the cost containment and reduction initiatives implemented in 2010 and as a result the size of the deficit we are now seeing has remained manageable," says Mr. Lapple.

Foreseeing the likelihood of deficits following the financial crisis, the university's Board of Trustees voted in 2009 to create a "budget stability fund," and surpluses from 2009, 2010 and 2011 were held in it specifically to offset the budget shortfalls that now exist. After applying $6.8 million from this fund to fill these gaps, the university has about $9 million remaining, a cushion that can be used for budget stabilization in the coming years.

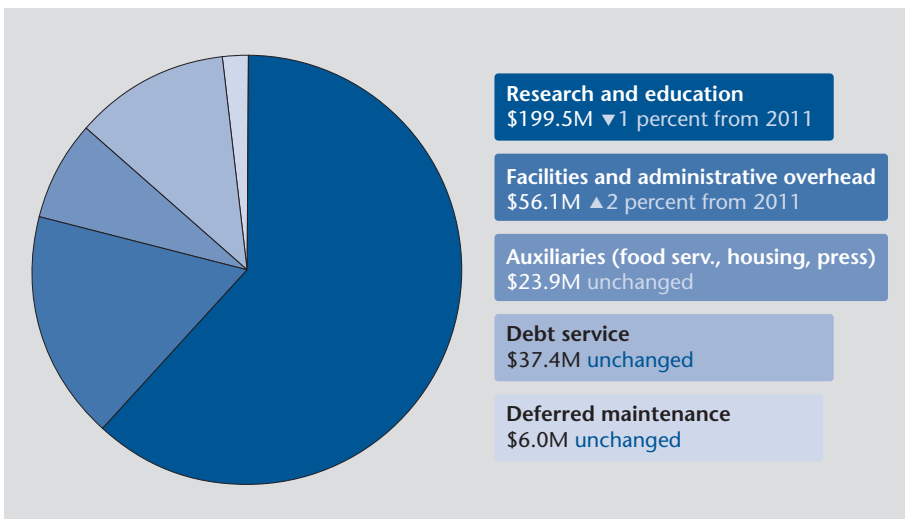
It is not predicted to be needed in 2013, but the picture beyond that is unclear. "The university is currently projecting a balanced budget for fiscal year 2013, with continued strong fundraising and modestly improved endowment returns projected to keep up with expenditures even as government grants continue to decrease," Mr. Lapple says. "Future budget stability largely depends upon ongoing cost discipline, strong endowment performance, continued success in fundraising and securing sponsored research grants."

Endowment market value: FY2007 to FY2012

FY2012 total revenues: $316.1M ▼3 percent from fiscal year 2011



FY2012 total expenditures: $322.9M unchanged from fiscal year 2011



Shaham and Brady receive promotions (continued from page 1)

glia exhibit profound sensory deficits. Recent research has centered on the communication between glia and neurons at the synapse, and the role of glia in regulating the function of synaptic receptors.

Dr. Shaham, who was born in Israel, always knew he wanted to be a scientist: he was raised by an astrophysicist father and a mother who studied human genetics. But it wasn't until college at Columbia University that he switched his focus from physics to join the explosion of research coming out of molecular biology. If there is a theme running through Dr. Shaham's research, it is his desire to explore uncharted scientific territory.

"A common complaint about biology is that it's not quantitative enough; it's hard to make simple predictions about biological systems," says Dr. Shaham. "On the other hand, this complexity is wonderful because there is so much that is unexpected; there are a lot of places to be surprised. And this is exciting."

Dr. Shaham received his A.B. degree in biochemistry with a minor in mathematics from Columbia University in 1989. At the Massachusetts Institute of Technology he studied apoptotic cell death in the lab of Robert Horvitz and graduated with a Ph.D. in biology in 1995. After postdoctoral studies at the University of California, San Francisco, with Ira Herskowitz and Cori Bargmann, Dr. Shaham was hired at Rockefeller as assistant professor in 2001, and promoted to associate professor in 2007.

In 2010 Dr. Shaham received an NIH Director's Transformative Research Award and in 2009 he won a Blavatnik Award for Young Scientists, a highly regarded award for early-career researchers. He has also received a Klingenstein Fellowship Award in the Neurosciences and a Breast Cancer Alliance Masin Young Investigator Award, and has been named a scholar of both the Rita Allen Foundation and the Sidney Kimmel Foundation for Cancer Research.

Sean Brady, who joined the university in 2006, is interested in the discovery of new genetically encoded small molecules from bacterial sources, chemicals that may be useful for the study of life or that may play a role in the development of new pharmaceuticals. Since launching his laboratory six years ago, Dr. Brady and his collaborators have shown that it is possible to use uncultured bacteria — principally bacteria harvested from soil — as a source of new small molecules, and that these molecules are biologically active.

"There's a lot of chemistry in these bacteria, but because they cannot be grown in the laboratory, much of it has been inaccessible," says Dr. Brady. "We've worked to develop tools that allow us to characterize and evaluate the natural products produced by a wide range of unstudied bacteria, and we're now focused on screening for natural products that are the most relevant." Because uncultured bacteria vastly outnumber their cultured counterparts, they represent one of the largest remaining pools of unexplored genetic diversity, and the chemicals they produce could potentially be the basis for new antibiotics, antifungal agents or anticancer drugs, to name a few.

"Rather than approach nature with specific problems to solve, we're taking the opposite approach: asking what solutions it has come up with that might be useful for humans," Dr. Brady says.

In addition to its work with uncultured bacteria, the lab also has recently begun to use techniques it has developed to try to better understand the role that small molecules play in pathogenic bacteria. By studying the genetics behind the complex collections of small molecules used by bacterial pathogens to initiate and sustain infections, they hope to identify new mechanisms by which the process can be disrupted.

Dr. Brady graduated with a degree in molecular biology from Pomona College in 1993. He received his Ph.D. in organic chemistry in 2001 from Cornell University, where he studied under Jon Clardy. He was at Harvard Medical School before joining Rockefeller. Dr. Brady is an early career scientist at the Howard Hughes Medical Institute and has been named a Searle Scholar, an Irma T. Hirschl Scholar, an Alexandrine and Alexander L. Sinsheimer Scholar and an Arnold and Mabel Beckham Young Investigator.

"The prospect of coming to as renowned a place as Rockefeller in 2006 was daunting, especially considering that at the time I was the first junior faculty member to be recruited in several years, but my worries were unfounded," says Dr. Brady. "The fact is I probably could not have succeeded as well anywhere else."

"Shai and Sean represent the future of Rockefeller," says Marc Tessier-Lavigne, the university's president. "They are innovative and creative scientists who have harnessed new technology and invented new tools in the pursuit of undiscovered biological and biochemical knowledge. Their research has already led to several important findings in the areas of neurobiology, developmental biology and microbiology, and we can expect much from them in the years ahead. It is a privilege to see their work rewarded with these well-deserved promotions."

MILESTONES (continued from page 4)

William Ramirez, research support assistant, Transgenic Services.

Allison Richards, research assistant, Strickland Lab.

Camille Rogacion, clinical research nurse, Hospital Nursing Outpatient.

Brad Rosenberg, postdoctoral associate, Rice Lab.

Yuki Saito, postdoctoral fellow, R. Darnell Lab.

Roberto Salazar, teacher, Child and Family Center.

Poulami Samai, postdoctoral associate, Marraffini Lab.

Lisa Sandmann, visiting student, Rice Lab.

Kierstin Schmidt, postdoctoral associate, Rice Lab.

Artem Serganov, research assistant, Tuschl Lab.

Elizabeth Sharer, teacher, Child and Family Center.

Syed Shehab, research assistant, Heintz Lab.

Stephen Shepherd, postdoctoral associate, Freiwald Lab.

Vishnuram Shiwpal, supply technician, Comparative Bioscience Center.

Amir Shlomai, instructor in clinical investigation, Rice Lab.

Naglaa Shoukry, visiting associate professor, Rice Lab.

Jessica Sigalow, assistant director, RU Council, Development.

Sulekha Singh, accounts payable analyst, Finance Accounting Services.

Subhash Sinha, member of the adjunct faculty, Greengard Lab.

Yitzhak Spiegel, visiting professor, Shaham Lab.

Ilene Spitzer, senior analyst, Investments.

Jenny Stanwix, clinical research coordinator, Hospital Program Direction.

Richard Stein, postdoctoral associate, Konarska Lab.

Emma Stevens, development assistant I, Development.

Hemant Suryawanshi, visiting student, Tuschl Lab.

Deniz Temel, visiting fellow, Rout Lab.

Mary Thompson, research assistant, Rout Lab.

Melanie Tobin, foreign research intern, Hudspeth Lab.

Alyssa Trochtenberg, research assistant, McEwen Lab.

Sarah Van Driesche, postdoctoral associate, R. Darnell Lab.

Nermarie Velazquez Gonzalez, visiting student, Friedman Lab.

Michael Virk, visiting fellow, Greengard Lab.

Taia Wang, postdoctoral associate, Ravetch Lab.

Benjamin Webb, postdoctoral associate, E.G.D. Cohen Lab.

Wendy Wenderski, research assistant, Allis Lab.

Laura Winzenread, visiting student, Bargmann Lab.

Shannon Wood, head teacher, Child and Family Center.

Leah Yanachek, teacher, Child and Family Center.

Ee-Lynn Yap, research assistant, Greengard Lab.

James Young, member of the adjunct faculty, Nussenzweig Lab.

Galit Yovel, visiting professor, Freiwald Lab.

Steven Zhang, research assistant, Tavazoie Lab.

Promoted (academic appointments):

Sean Brady, to associate professor and head of laboratory, Brady Lab.

Lars Brichta, to senior research associate, Greengard Lab.

Xiaofei Kong, to instructor in clinical investigation, Casanova Lab.

Ivo Melcak, to research assistant professor, Blobel Lab.

Manish Ponda, to assistant professor of clinical investigation, Breslow Lab.

Shai Shaham, to professor and head of laboratory, Shaham Lab.

Promoted (staff):

Luz Alequin, to metabolic cook, Hospital Bionutrition.

Joseph Alonzo, to manager of building services and student housing, Housing Scholars Residence.

Selvin Barrett, to mechanic II, Plant Operations Power House.

Eddy Caraballo, to facility coordinator, Comparative Bioscience Center.

Emmeline Cardozo, to development associate, Development.

Brianna Caszatt, to senior copy editor, Rockefeller University Press.

Camille Clowery, to production coordinator, Rockefeller University Press.

Frank Colosi, to lead mechanic, Plant Operations Maintenance Shop.

Eric Davis, to associate network engineer, Information Technology.

Gina Dipiero, to head teacher, Child and Family Center.

Altiman Dyer, to CBC supervisor, Comparative Bioscience Center.

Maya Frank-Levine, to assistant production editor, Rockefeller University Press.

Cynthia Fuqua, to senior manager administrative post award, Sponsored Research and Program Development.

Carlen Gelfond, to assistant director, development, research and writing, Development.

Allison Goff, to research assistant, Vosshall Lab.

Adriana Gonzalez, to research specialist, Krueger Lab.

Evan Greene, to associate director, development MIS, Development.

Jeffrey Hayward, to associate director of user services, Information Technology.

Peh Hsia, to senior manager, training and program development, Sponsored Research and Program Development.

Betsy Joy, to accounts payable analyst, Finance Accounting Services.

Lisa Kressbach, to senior director, RU Council, Development.

Erika Layfield, to associate director, Parents & Science, Development.

Amanda Martinez, to associate director, Women & Science, Development.

Milorad Martinovic, to chief engineer and manager, Plant Operations Power House.

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

Marivel Mendez, to senior employment specialist, Human Resources.

Alexa Pomales, to assistant director of the child and family center, Child and Family Center.

Amy Pomerantz, to director, Parents & Science, Development.

Anita Ramnarain, to laboratory manager, Papavasiliou Lab.

Nicholas Riedinger, to information security analyst, Information Technology.

Mark Rinaldi, to human resources associate, Human Resources.

Vincent Romano, to operations lead, Comparative Bioscience Center.

Frank Schaefer, to director, Laboratory Safety and Environmental Health.

Angelica Segui, to head teacher, Child and Family Center.

Peter Selestrin, to assistant chief engineer and assistant manager, Plant Operations Power House.

Naomi Seufert, to facility manager, Comparative Bioscience Center.

Rita Sullivan King, to communications coordinator, Rockefeller University Press.

Melinda Ternei, to research assistant, Brady Lab.

Marlowe Tessmer, to senior editor, *JEM*, Rockefeller University Press.

Christopher Vancil, to senior identity management and business process engineer, Information Technology.

Yakov Vizelter, to assistant director for helpdesk and AV/media, Information Technology.

Laura Votey, to development associate, Development.

Melvin White, to environmental assistant II, Laboratory Safety and Environmental Health.

Craig Douglas Winton, to voice communications manager, Information Technology.

Maria Woloshyn, to associate, Investments.

Zhu Xue, to research specialist, Roeder Lab.

New faces on campus

The newest graduate students are here and ready to don their lab coats. There are 27 students — 18 are a part of the Rockefeller Ph.D. program, one student is in the Tri-Institutional Chemical Biology program and eight are M.D.-Ph.D. students. **First row:** Mariel Bartley, Joan Pulupa, Dylan Kwart, May Dobosiewicz; **Middle row:** Mya Thandar, Maria Sacta, Michelle Siao, Maria Moya, In Hae Lee, Melissa Pamula, Sofia Landi, Remzi Karayol; **Back row:** Zhenrun Zhang, Avital Percher, Robert Heler, Julien Azimzadeh, Laura Seeholzer, Jonathan Steinman, Corynn Kasap, Hugo Decker, Melissa Jarmel, Wendy Wang, Tasos Gogakos, Iain Martyn, Dimitrios Moirogiannis; **Not pictured:** Ian Butler and Jesse Hauver.

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

MILESTONES

PROMOTIONS, AWARDS AND PERSONNEL NEWS

Awarded:

C. David Allis, a grant from the Caring for Carcinoid Foundation, for research on tumor suppressor activities of ATRX and Daxx mutations through epigenomic profiling and animal models. Dr. Allis, the Joy and Jack Fishman Professor and head of the Laboratory of Chromatin Biology and Epigenetics, will collaborate with scientists at Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center on the $450,000, two-year project.

Jean-Laurent Casanova, the Seymour and Vivian Milstein Award for Excellence in Interferon and Cytokine Research, for his contributions to the field, including the discovery of a new group of genetic defects that predispose healthy individuals or populations to infection. Dr. Casanova is senior attending physician at The Rockefeller University Hospital and head of the St. Giles Laboratory of Human Genetics of Infectious Diseases.

Robert B. Darnell and **Thomas Tuschl**, 2012 NIH Director's Transformative Awards, prestigious five-year grants from the High Risk–High Reward program supported by the National Institutes of Health Common Fund. Dr. Darnell is senior attending physician at The Rockefeller University Hospital, Robert and Harriet Heilbrunn Professor and head of the Laboratory of Molecular Neuro-oncology. The award will support the study of the dysregulation of RNA using his lab's HITS-CLIP technology and a new method, synaptic translational profiling. Dr. Tuschl, head of the Laboratory of RNA Molecular Biology, will study the interaction network of mRNA-binding transport and shuttling proteins. Drs. Darnell and Tuschl are both Howard Hughes Medical Institute investigators.

Jeffrey M. Friedman, the 11th Endocrine Regulation Prize from the Fondation IPSEN, for his discovery of the hormone leptin and its role in regulating body weight. The French foundation awards the prize to a researcher or physician who has carried out work essential to understanding the role of neuroendocrine interactions in regulating metabolic function. Dr. Friedman is Marilyn M. Simpson Professor and head of the Laboratory of Molecular Genetics and is a Howard Hughes Medical Institute investigator.

Xin Jin and **Tamara Ouspenskaia**, International Student Research Fellowships from the Howard Hughes Medical Institute. The graduate fellows are two of 50 promising individuals from 19 countries being awarded the $43,000 per year fellowship, which supports students from the third through fifth years of graduate school. Ms. Jin, from Cori Bargmann's Laboratory of Neural Circuits and Behavior, will be exploring the molecular mechanism of food choice imprinting in *C. elegans*. Ms. Ouspenskaia, of Elaine Fuchs's Laboratory of Mammalian Cell Biology and Development, will research the crosstalk between cell cycle and cytoskeletal rearrangements during hair follicle morphogenesis.

Daniel Kronauer, **Gaby Maimon** and **Luciano Marraffini**, 2012 NIH Director's New Innovator Awards, prestigious five-year grants from the High Risk–High Reward program supported by the National Institutes of Health Common Fund, given to investigators who are within 10 years of their terminal degree or clinical residency and have not yet received an NIH Research Project Grant. Dr. Kronauer, head of the Laboratory of Insect Social Evolution, will use the grant to develop the ant *Cerapachys biroi* as a novel genetic model system to study the molecular components that enable individuals to function as a society. Dr. Maimon, head of the Laboratory of Integrative Brain Function, will examine how genes in fruit flies, through their effect on the electrical activity of neurons, influence behavioral choices. Dr. Marraffini, head of the Laboratory of Bacteriology, will study the molecular mechanism and possible applications of CRISPR immunity, a prokaryotic adaptive immune system, using *Streptococcus pneumoniae* as a model organism.

Jeffrey V. Ravetch, the 2012 Sanofi – Institut Pasteur Award, for discovering mechanisms by which antibodies carry out their diverse biological functions. The award honors four scientists with €120,000, or about $147,000, for their past or ongoing studies advancing understanding of the life sciences. Dr. Ravetch is the Theresa and Eugene M. Lang Professor and head of the Leonard Wagner Laboratory of Molecular Genetics and Immunology.

Michael W. Young, the 2012 Massry Prize, for his groundbreaking work on the molecular biology of circadian rhythms. Established by the Meira and Shaul G. Massry Foundation, the prize recognizes outstanding contributions to the biomedical sciences and the advancement of health. Dr. Young shares the honor with Michael Rosbash and Jeffrey C. Hall of Brandeis University, who also study circadian rhythms. He is Richard and Jeanne Fisher Professor and head of the Laboratory of Genetics.

Named:

The American Association of Immunologists' AAI-Steinman Award for Human Immunology Research, in honor of **Ralph M. Steinman**. The award, for which Dr. Steinman helped garner sponsorship when it was created in 2004, recognizes an individual who has made significant contributions to the understanding of immune processes underlying human disease pathogenesis, prevention or therapy. Steinman was senior physician at The Rockefeller University Hospital, Henry G. Kunkel Professor and head of the Laboratory of Cellular Physiology and Immunology.

Hired:

Eliza Adams, research assistant, Young Lab.

Sha-har Admoni, visiting student, Vosshall Lab.

Christian Albornoz, research assistant, Greengard Lab.

Roberto Alvarez del Blanco, visiting professor, Magnasco Lab.

Claire Atkinson, postdoctoral associate, Simon Lab.

Felix Baier, research assistant, Vosshall Lab.

Lindsey Baker, postdoctoral associate, Allis Lab.

Anat Barnea, visiting professor, Nottebohm Lab.

Christy Barrow, development assistant I, Development.

Cherise Bernard, assistant technology manager, Technology Transfer.

Ankit Bhatta, research assistant, Rice Lab.

Benedetta Bigio, scientific programmer, Hospital Medical Science.

Lauren Biller, legal assistant, General Counsel.

Alex Brody, research assistant, Greengard Lab.

Claudia Brunetti, postdoctoral associate, Rice Lab.

David Buchholz, postdoctoral associate, Hatten Lab.

Noreen Buckley, director of clinical operations for the vaccine center, Steinman Lab.

Claudia Buitrago Murcia, postdoctoral associate, Coller Lab.

Nathalie Burg, instructor in clinical investigation, Coller Lab.

Scott Campbell, member of the adjunct faculty, Young Lab.

Melanie Cheung, visiting fellow, Nottebohm Lab.

Hachung Chung, postdoctoral associate, Rice Lab.

Louis Cohen, instructor in clinical investigation, Brady Lab.

Mary Ellen Conley, visiting professor, Casanova Lab.

Joel Correa da Rosa, research associate, Krueger Lab.

Maria Cruz de Carvalho, postdoctoral fellow, Chua Lab.

David Darcy, visiting fellow, Simon Lab.

George David, research assistant, Coller Lab.

Molly Deutsch-Feldman, research assistant, Kreek Lab.

Nikhil Dhingra, visiting medical student, Krueger Lab.

Benjamin DiMatteo, development assistant, Development.

Jennifer Drayer, administrative assistant, Information Technology.

Katharina Essig, foreign research intern, Tuschl Lab.

Emily Fan, research assistant, Greengard Lab.

Stephanie Fernandez, dean's office assistant & SURF coordinator, Dean's Office.

Robert Finney, postdoctoral associate, Krueger Lab.

Peter Forgacs, instructor in clinical investigation, Pfaff Lab.

Julia Fram, research assistant, Greengard Lab.

OBITUARY

Gloria Chang DiGennaro

by LESLIE CHURCH

Gloria Chang DiGennaro, an assistant director of human resources who worked at the university for 16 years, died August 25 after a long battle with cancer. She was 68 years old.

"She was a very special person and a dear friend to us," says Virginia Huffman, vice president for human resources. "This is a great loss."

Ms. Chang DiGennaro joined Rockefeller as assistant director of human resources in 1996 after working previously as director of human resources at Manhattan Eye, Ear and Throat and New Rochelle Hospital Medical Center. She received her B.A. and M.A. in French from the University of Colorado, and her J.D. from Pace University. Her educational background and extensive experience positioned her as a key contributor to all aspects of human resources.

Ms. Chang DiGennaro was born in Shanghai, China, on July 9, 1944, where her father was the editor of an English-language paper. Forced to flee China in 1950 as communism was taking hold, Ms. Chang DiGennaro's father left for Singapore, and he was joined by his wife and seven daughters several years later. The family immigrated to the United States in 1956 and settled in Colorado Springs, where Ms. Chang DiGennaro spent the rest of her childhood.

"Gloria was a very refined woman," says Ms. Huffman. "She loved travel, theatre, film, music, art and language and availed herself frequently of New York City's cultural opportunities." In addition to French and Russian, Ms. Chang DiGennaro was fluent in two dialects of Chinese.

Known for her strong work-ethic, she managed a number of initiatives in human resources, including the university's affirmative action plan and several campuswide training courses.

Perhaps influenced by her time spent at Rockefeller, Ms. Chang DiGennaro participated in clinical trials at Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center, helping advance scientific understanding of the disease by testing new drugs.

She is survived by Michael DiGennaro of New Rochelle and their two children, Paul, 36, and Leah, 34.

Christine Friedman, research assistant, Shaham Lab.

Ilana Gabanyi, visiting student, Mucida Lab.

Cristina Ghenoiu, postdoctoral associate, Funabiki Lab.

William Gibson, research assistant, Papavasiliou Lab.

Melissa Giorgio, security guard, Security.

Erin Glennon, research assistant, McEwen Lab.

Gloria Gordon, lab technician, Vosshall Lab.

Jodi Gresack, research associate, Greengard Lab.

Jenieve Guevarra, research assistant, Tarakhovsky Lab.

Annie Handler, research assistant, Greengard Lab.

Dewi Harjanto, postdoctoral associate, Papavasiliou Lab.

Ryo Hayama, postdoctoral associate, Rout Lab.

Karen Hoary, clinical research nurse, Hospital Nursing Outpatient.

Ana Hocevar Brezavscek, fellow in physics and biology, Feigenbaum Lab.

Leeza Holguin, teacher, Child and Family Center.

Diedra Howson-Barker, manuscript coordinator, *JCB*, Rockefeller University Press.

A.F.M. Rizwanul Huq, research assistant, Freiwald Lab.

Zintis Inde, research assistant, Greengard Lab.

Michelle Itano, postdoctoral associate, Simon Lab.

Adrian Jacobo, postdoctoral associate, Hudspeth Lab.

David Jordan, postdoctoral associate, Leibler Lab.

Barbara Juncosa, postdoctoral associate, Fischetti Lab.

Aparna Junuthula, evaluation application developer, Hospital Biostatistics.

Hahk-Soo Kang, postdoctoral associate, Brady Lab.

Shengdong Ke, postdoctoral associate, R. Darnell Lab.

Mariko Kobayashi, postdoctoral associate, R. Darnell Lab.

Khalil Koiner, laboratory helper, Media & Glassware Resource Center.

Fabien Lafaille, postdoctoral fellow, Casanova Lab.

Kaamashri Latcha, research assistant, Friedman Lab.

Lily Lau, teacher, Child and Family Center.

Manuel Leonetti, postdoctoral associate, MacKinnon Lab.

Sagi Levy, postdoctoral associate, Bargmann Lab.

Wanhe Li, postdoctoral associate, Young Lab.

Xiangqing Li, research support assistant, Transgenic Services.

Xiaochun Li, postdoctoral associate, Blobel Lab.

Marianne Lovendorf, visiting scientist, Krueger Lab.

Jad Maamary, postdoctoral associate, Ravetch Lab.

Margaret Markey, head teacher, Child and Family Center.

Caitlin McCready, administrative assistant, Office of Academic Affairs.

Michiel Mommersteeg, visiting student, Rice Lab.

Carine Monnier, postdoctoral associate, Ruta Lab.

Juan Monteagudo, visiting scientist, Coller Lab.

Patricia Murphy, member of the adjunct faculty, Young Lab.

Miho Nakajima, postdoctoral associate, Heintz Lab.

Syan Nandi, visiting fellow, Tuschl Lab.

Patrick O'Donoghue, mechanic III, Plant Operations Power House.

Fena Ochs, foreign research intern, de Lange Lab.

Thomas Oh, postdoctoral associate, Rice Lab.

Lynda Olender, director of nursing and patient care services, Hospital Administration.

Joseph Osmundson, postdoctoral associate, Darst Lab.

Joon Seok Park, visiting student, Tarakhovsky Lab.

Frances Quiroz, assistant teacher, Child and Family Center.

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