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BenchMarks 2011, September 9

The Rockefeller University

SCIENCE FOR THE BENEFIT OF HUMANITY

BENCHMARKS

THE COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER OF THE ROCKEFELLER UNIVERSITY

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 9, 2011

FROM MARC TESSIER-LAVIGNE

Discussing strategy

This fall will mark the launch of the formal process to develop the university's next strategic plan, a document that will serve as the blueprint for our activities over the next seven to 10 years. Strategic planning is an essential function for an institution such as Rockefeller, and it will be the focus of much of my efforts over the coming months, so I want to take this opportunity to explain how it will work.

As you know, Paul Nurse led a similar process when he joined the university in 2003. His strategic plan led to the creation of several very successful initiatives, the centerpiece of which has been the construction of the Collaborative Research Center. The implementation of this plan is still under way, as those who work near the active construction sites can readily attest. Nevertheless, now is the time to begin working on Rockefeller's next chapter.

Much has changed in the world over the past eight years. Science has continued to advance at break-neck speed, powerful new technologies have been developed — including the ability to sequence the human genome for just a few thousand dollars — and, of course, the funding landscape in the sciences has been drastically altered. Federal money has grown tighter, the financial markets that generate income from the university's endowment have become much more volatile, and there have been changes within our network of friends and donors. The most successful organizations all embark on regular periods of self-reflection to ensure that they will continue to be successful as the world changes, and Rockefeller must do so as well.

Our planning process has, in some sense, already begun. Starting last spring and continuing during the summer, I have met with virtually all of our 74 faculty members and the active emeriti faculty. I have

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BENCHMARKS

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

Zach Veilleux, Executive Editor

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FACULTY RECRUITMENT

Alumna Vanessa Ruta named to university's faculty

by ZACH VEILLEUX

Vanessa Ruta, a Rockefeller alumna who did her doctoral studies in Roderick MacKinnon's lab, graduating in 2005, has joined the university as assistant professor and will establish the Laboratory of Neurophysiology and Behavior. She moved from a postdoc at Columbia University on September 1.

Dr. Ruta is a neuroscientist interested in understanding how circuits in the brain can be modified by experience, and she has approached her work from a variety of angles over the years. As a graduate student her focus was on structural biology, and during her time in the MacKinnon lab she was instrumental in solving the structure of a voltage-dependent potassium ion channel, a pore in the cell membrane of a neuron that controls the flow of charged particles into and out of the cell. Because the flow of these charged particles generates the electrical signals that neurons use to encode information, ion channels are central to the most basic functions of the nervous system, including the ability to think, feel and move.

More recently, as a postdoc in Richard Axel's lab at Columbia, Dr. Ruta began to explore how these electrical signals are used by neurons connected within a circuit, turning her attention to defining neural circuits that underlie instinctive behaviors in *Drosophila* fruit flies. "I reasoned that just as a crystal structure could reveal the molecular mechanisms underlying an ion channel's function, the delineation of a neural circuit might provide insight into the mechanisms that underlie sensory-evoked behaviors," Dr. Ruta says.

Dr. Ruta, who majored in chemistry at Hunter College, first became interested in neuroscience while spending the summer at the Marine Biological Laboratory in Woods Hole, Massachusetts as an undergrad. Although she originally aspired to be a ballet dancer — and in fact spent four years after high school dancing in New York City — she changed her mind after enrolling in an introductory chemistry course.

"Studying chemistry was quite a revelation to me," says Dr. Ruta. "The logic of the physical principles that govern chemical reactions seemed in extreme contrast to my life in the highly subjective ballet world, where you were judged on the whim of a director or choreographer."

It was at Woods Hole that Dr. Ruta, who was studying visual processing in the horseshoe crab (with another Rockefeller alum, Bob Barlow), first met Dr. MacKinnon and suddenly knew what she wanted to do. "Rod's work was so elegant and eloquent, and his enthusiasm for his research was overwhelming," she recalls. "I applied to Rockefeller and began working in Rod's lab even before I could officially enroll."

In Dr. Axel's lab, she developed tools that allowed her to define which of the fly's 100,000 neurons were involved in responding to a pheromone, beginning from the moment the chemical stimulus was first detected in the air and ending when the fly could modify its behavior in reaction. This ability to literally trace the path of a complete neural circuit, one synapse at a time, gave her the opportunity to address questions about how neural pathways were structured to generate certain behaviors, such as why males and females have different behavioral responses to the same pheromone.

At Rockefeller, Dr. Ruta intends to exploit the simplicity of the fly nervous system to explore the neural mechanisms that allow a fly to flexibly adapt its behavior depending on previous experience. Her initial work will focus on the complex courtship ritual that male fruit flies instinctively perform to entice females to mate. Males learn to suppress this behavior after being rejected by a female, suggesting that the neural circuits underlying the courtship ritual are functionally altered through experience. Dr. Ruta wants to understand in detail how the circuits become modified, and how those modifications, in turn, alter behavior.

"It's a great paradigm to begin to understand more complex neural processing," Dr. Ruta says. "There's likely a certain logic in the fly circuitry that is parallel to that seen in the mammalian brain from mice to humans. Understanding how these circuits change will help us understand our own brain's ability to adapt, learn and remember, and might suggest what goes wrong in neuropsychiatric and neurodegenerative disease."

"Vanessa's studies will help illuminate a fundamental aspect of brain function and may also aid in the development of new treatments for mood, behavioral and memory disorders," says Marc Tessier-Lavigne, the university's president. "Vanessa is an exceptional scientist and will be a superb addition to our community. We are thrilled to have recruited her here."

CAMPUS NEWS

University owned building on 60th Street sells for $24 million

by ZACH VEILLEUX

A four-story warehouse purchased by the university in 2003, which at one point was slated to be converted to faculty and postdoc housing, has been sold to a Long Island-based real estate developer. The sale was approved by the university's Board in the spring and closed May 18.

The 400,000 square foot building, located at 409 East 60th Street between First and York Avenues, was acquired in July 2003 for $13.75 million. At the time, the university was projecting it would grow significantly over the coming decade and would need to find new housing to accommodate an influx of faculty members and postdocs. The 60th Street property was an unusual opportunity to acquire buildable property within a five minute walk of the campus. Preliminary plans were drawn up to replace the existing warehouse, an ice storage facility built in the 1930s, with a 15- to 20-story residential building able to accommodate around 130 residents.

But shortly after Paul Nurse became president in the fall of 2003 the plans were put on hold pending the creation of a new strategic plan for the university — the results of which suggested that additional housing would not be needed as urgently. The university retained the building, however, and over the past eight years it has been used to store furniture and equipment and, more recently, building supplies related to the construction of the CRC and Welch Hall.

The new owner, Steel Equities, based in Bethpage, New York, paid $24 million, and agreed to lease back two floors of the space to the university for a period of two years. "It has been useful to have this space available during the construction work on campus, and this arrangement will allow us to continue using it for storage until the current projects are complete," says Jim Lapple, the university's vice president for finance.

Although university administrators are still evaluating options, the proceeds from the sale may be used at least partly to pay off debt and/or stabilize the operating budget, which is projected to run a moderate deficit over the next few years.

"The property turned out to be an excellent investment for the university, and its sale comes at a time when the revenue can be useful in a number of ways," says Mr. Lapple. "The feeling among the administration and the trustees is that if we need additional housing in the future there are several options both on and off campus that we can explore."

PHOTO: ZACH VEILLEUX

Turnstile installed at 64th Street

A new full-height turnstile at Rockefeller's 64th Street pedestrian entrance, installed August 3, has allowed the university to restore 24/7 access to the south campus from York Avenue. As a result, the existing entrance gate, which had been locked on nights and weekends since last November, has been reopened.

Pedestrians entering via 64th Street at any time must now swipe their ID cards twice, once to access the pedestrian ramp near Sophie Fricke Hall and a second time to reach the stairs leading to Peggy Rockefeller Plaza. "We closed the gate last fall after determining that the suspect who stole cash from a pocketbook in Weiss was able to gain access to the campus by tailgating a member of our community through the 64th Street gate," says Michael Murphy, security operations manager. "It was clear that the existing gate was the weak point in our perimeter, so we shut it down until we could address the deficiency."

More than 600 people use the gate on an average weekday and over 200 on a Saturday. Security and Plant Operations evaluated several options for restoring round-the-clock access, but ultimately chose the combination of the gate and turnstile in order to best accommodate as many people's needs as possible, including residents, staff and families who need to access the Child and Family Center with strollers. Those carrying bulky items that do not fit easily through the turnstile can bypass it by going through Sophie Fricke Hall.

"We work to strike a balance between convenience and protection, and we believe this solution significantly enhances security while also restoring overnight and weekend access to workers and residents," Mr. Murphy says.

CAMPUS NEWS

New hospital initiatives aim to engage minorities in science

by JOSEPH BONNER

Women and minorities continue to be underrepresented in the science and technology workforce, and new initiatives at Rockefeller University are working to change that. Led by Bernice B. Rumala, community engagement specialist in the Center for Clinical and Translational Science (CCTS), the new programs aim to engage minority groups at several career stages, from high school students to early career scientists.

"At the heart of community engagement is the participation of the community itself in incorporating local priorities and expertise to solve problems," says Rhonda Kost, cochair of the CCTS's Action Committee on Community Engaged Research. "Bernice's efforts at engaging underrepresented and disadvantaged students and trainees in translational science outreach and mentoring open a pipeline of possibilities for encouraging careers in science as well as enhancing the scientific knowledge of community members."

Ms. Rumala, who joined Rockefeller in 2010, has for the past two years been working with Ted Scovell, director of the university's Science Outreach program for high school students and teachers, to broaden participation in the program in several city neighborhoods. To improve participation from disadvantaged students, Ms. Rumala proposed recruiting students via a matchmaking Web site that pairs teachers and students with mentors based on their interests. Because this "e-matching" approach draws from dozens of high schools in and around the city, and works with numerous science and technology professionals and organizations, students are more likely to be matched with a mentor working in their field of interest — and ultimately to feel more ownership of the partnership.

PHOTO: ZACH VEILLEUX

Cold hard facts. Ted Scovell, director of science outreach, uses liquid nitrogen to demonstrate thermodynamics to two students from the Urban Assembly School for Applied Mathematics and Science in the Bronx during the university's second Science Outreach Day last November.

"Unlike the traditional approach, the community-based participatory approach acknowledges that each stakeholder has unique needs and can contribute unique strengths to benefit the partnership," says Ms. Rumala. "The school benefits from a tailored science outreach experience and the scientists benefit from the stimulation of sharing research with inquisitive young minds who will be the scientists of the future."

Ms. Rumala and Mr. Scovell have also partnered with the National Lab Network initiative to host several Science Outreach Days each year. The first, held in May 2010, invited a chemistry class from the Renaissance High School in the Bronx, whose enrollment is largely students from underrepresented minority and socioeconomically disadvantaged backgrounds. Students from Renaissance spent a day at Rockefeller observing a science demonstration from Mr. Scovell, listening to a panel of diverse graduate students discuss what got them interested in science and touring a research laboratory.

Linda Ewool, a chemistry teacher from Renaissance High School, recalls that days after their visit to Rockefeller the students were still speaking enthusiastically about their experience. "I have never encountered such an experience with my students in my teaching career," she says.

In an effort to encourage greater awareness of diversity issues in science, Ms. Rumala is also cochairing a new tri-institutional initiative called Achieving Successful and Productive Academic Research Careers, or SPARC. In April, a SPARC conference held at Rockefeller, cohosted by Weill Cornell Medical College and Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center, was a broad-based mentoring and career development event, including opportunities for networking and a series of career development panels. A second SPARC event, held in July, focused on diversity in translational science and targeted high school and undergraduate students, teachers and parents.

"Our new initiatives to encourage students and trainees from diverse backgrounds to choose careers in science and medicine continue a proud Rockefeller tradition of encouraging all talented students to choose a scientific career in service to humanity," says Barry S. Coller, director of the Rockefeller University CCTS.

Discussing strategy (continued from page 1)

also begun meeting with research faculty, ADARC researchers and administrative departments, a process that will continue into the fall. These meetings have provided an opportunity for me to learn about the Rockefeller community and its history, and I have found them to be been uniformly stimulating, informative and enjoyable. They have left me excited by the innovative science under way in our labs and impressed and heartened by the widely held loyalty and affection people have expressed for this unique institution. They have also provided an opportunity to hear what many of you consider to be the major issues facing us in coming years.

These informal consultations are now giving way to a more formal planning process. Over the next few weeks we will finalize the membership of a strategic planning committee that will include faculty representatives from a range of research areas and career stages. This core planning committee will meet regularly during the fall to discuss big picture issues as well as more in-depth details of Rockefeller's operations. The committee will be advised by a series of ad-hoc groups that will focus on specific areas (such as the hospital, the resource centers and IT), and will consult widely with colleagues and coworkers as it proceeds, so that as many ideas as possible can be considered and included. Our goal will be to conclude our discussions by the end of the fall and spend the winter months drafting a plan that can be circulated, refined and finalized by the beginning of the summer. The Board will vote on it at their June meeting and, if approved, it will guide the university's financial and operational decision making beginning in the 2012–2013 fiscal year.

Although we are only at the very beginning of this process, my discussions with many of you have highlighted important areas for us to focus on, including:

Faculty recruitment. Any plan for our future must include a continued focus on hiring the most creative and dynamic faculty. Although the open search has been highly successful, it will be important to assess whether there are opportunities for improving this process. Are we accessing all the most talented junior faculty candidates? What is the optimal balance between junior and mid-career hiring? What type of search will yield the best mid-career candidates? How many faculty should we aim to hire over a five-year period? Clear answers to these questions are needed to guide our recruitment activities.

Research portfolio and programmatic development. Closely related to issues of faculty recruitment are questions about what fields and technologies we want to invest in. Where can we as a small institution have the most impact in the coming years, and how can we build on our existing strengths? And how can we ensure that our faculty have all the resources needed to be successful in their research? These considerations will help prioritize fundraising and investments in new instrumentation and infrastructure, and help shape our recruiting.

Translational and clinical research. Our hospital is a unique and powerful resource and a large segment of our faculty have interests in disease research and translational applications. How can we maximize the impact of the hospital, and are there things we can do better to bridge the gap between laboratory discovery and disease treatment? This is an area that is of keen interest not just to faculty but also to our Board and supporters, and where my prior experience in industry can be of some help.

Education. How well are we fulfilling our mission to mentor and develop future generations of scientists — not just our graduate students but also our postdocs, and even other types of trainees, such as undergraduates and high school students who do research in our labs? Are we recruiting the best people, supporting them properly and giving them the tools they need both to make an impact here and to be successful once they leave?

As our strategic brainstorming progresses, we will also touch on many other areas, including our collaborations with neighboring institutions, the upkeep of our aging south campus buildings and issues of governance and administrative transparency. I have been impressed with the quality of our administrative functions, but as a matter of course it will also be important to assess whether they can be made even more efficient and effective.

And it goes without saying that a central focus will be on finances, making sure that our operations over the next several years will remain stable, and developing a fundraising campaign to replace the recently concluded Campaign for Collaborative Science.

Developing a strategic plan is labor-intensive, but it's my belief that the conversations we have over the coming months — among the faculty on the planning committee and with students, staff and laboratory members in formal and informal gatherings — will be both insightful and rewarding. I hope and trust that I can count on all members of the Rockefeller community to participate in this process to the full. Your input is essential to our continued success as an institution over the next decade and beyond. I look forward to working with you on what promises to be a most exciting — and essential — project.

AWARDS AND HONORS

Pearl Meister Greengard Prize to be awarded to McGill memory researcher

In the early 1950s, Brenda Milner was making a name for herself among researchers in the memory field, studying memory defects in epileptic patients who had undergone surgery on the brain's frontal lobe. By 1955, Dr. Milner's work attracted the attention of a Connecticut neurosurgeon, William Scoville, whose patient, known by his initials H.M., suffered severe memory loss after having parts of the temporal lobe on both sides of his brain removed to treat severe epilepsy. The surgery rendered H.M. unable to form any new memories, although his personality was unchanged and he retained all memories of what happened in his life before the operation.

Dr. Milner's work with H.M. and other patients over the last 60 years has provided many landmark discoveries in the study of human memory and the brain's temporal lobes, which play a key role in emotional responses, hearing, memory and speech. She has spent her career unraveling the mysteries of the brain, and she has been credited by Nobel Prize winner Eric Kandel with merging the fields of psychology and neurobiology to create the field of cognitive neuroscience.

Dr. Milner, whose discoveries revolutionized the understanding of memory, will be awarded the 2011 Pearl Meister Greengard Prize from The Rockefeller University. The prize, which honors female scientists who have made extraordinary contributions to biomedical science and carries an honorarium of $100,000, will be presented at a ceremony on Thursday, November 3 in Caspary Auditorium.

The Pearl Meister Greengard Prize was established by Paul Greengard, Vincent Astor Professor and head of the Laboratory of Molecular and Cellular Neuroscience, and his wife, sculptor Ursula von Rydingsvard. Dr. Greengard donated the proceeds of his 2000 Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine to Rockefeller University and, in partnership with other supporters of the university, created the annual award. The award is named in memory of Greengard's mother, who died giving birth to him.

"Brenda Milner is a great neuroscientist, and the founder of the field of neuropsychology. By virtue of her stature as a preeminent scientist, she has greatly advanced efforts to achieve acceptance and respect for women in science," says Dr. Greengard.

"I am absolutely delighted and amazed to receive this special award and so proud and honored to be representing women scientists in this context. I am very privileged for having been able to pursue my sense of curiosity within the culture of excellence at the Montreal Neurological Institute, as well as to train and encourage talented young students — driving forces throughout my career to which I attribute much of my success," says Dr. Milner.

Dr. Milner is the Dorothy J. Killam Professor at McGill University's Montreal Neurological Institute (MNI) and professor in the department of neurology and neurosurgery at McGill University. She was chosen as the 2011 recipient of the Pearl Meister Greengard Prize by the selection committee of 10 jurors, of which five are Nobel Laureates.

PHOTO: OWEN EGAN

Dr. Milner began her career studying experimental psychology at the University of Cambridge, where she received a bachelor's degree in 1939. She soon joined a team interested in distinguishing fighter pilots from bomber pilots in aptitude tests at the beginning of the Second World War. In 1950, she began doctoral studies with Donald Hebb, in the department of psychology at McGill University, and pursued her research at the MNI at McGill. She also worked closely with MNI founder Wilder Penfield, who was developing a surgical technique to relieve epileptic seizures that entailed removal of one part of the temporal lobe. For her doctoral research, Dr. Milner studied and tested Dr. Penfield's patients before and after surgery. She found mild deficits in certain visual perceptual tasks, particularly in patients who had surgery on the right temporal lobe. However, some of these patients, especially those with lesions on the left temporal lobe, complained of memory problems. She decided to change the course of her research and focus on memory.

Dr. Milner later studied patients with damage to the brain's frontal lobe, and found that this type of injury impairs a person's ability to adapt to change. This discovery flew in the face of conventional wisdom at the time, which downplayed the importance of this brain region.

Among Dr. Milner's findings from her work with H.M. was that the human brain has more than one memory system. Her research has also shed light on how the right and left hemispheres of the brain complement each other. Her research today continues to focus on the interaction between the brain's hemispheres, and she has begun to use functional imaging in human subjects to explore this interaction.

Dr. Milner is a foreign associate of the National Academy of Sciences and a fellow of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences. She has been awarded honorary degrees from more than 20 different universities around the world. In 2010 she was named one of 25 Transformational Canadians. Dr. Milner is the recipient of numerous scientific awards including the International Balzan Prize for Cognitive Neurosciences, the Gairdner Foundation International Award and the Prix Wilder-Penfield (Prix du Québec). She is a fellow of The Royal Society (London) and The Royal Society of Canada and was promoted to Companion of the Order of Canada in 2004. In 2007, she created the Brenda Milner Foundation to support and foster young researchers in the field of cognitive neuroscience through postdoctoral fellowships at the MNI.

MILESTONES (continued from page 4)

Sara Steenrod, postdoctoral associate, Freiwald Lab.

Maria Strano Moraes, postdoctoral associate, Konarska Lab.

Zhenwei Su, postdoctoral associate, MacKinnon Lab.

Gianna Triller, research assistant, Papavasiliou Lab.

Ana Tuyama, instructor in clinical investigation, Breslow Lab.

Amit Vashishtha, postdoctoral associate, Tuschl Lab.

Guillaume Voisinne, visiting fellow, Siggia Lab.

Anderson Wang, postdoctoral associate, Smogorzewska Lab.

Wei Wang, postdoctoral associate, Coller Lab.

Wei W. Wang, postdoctoral associate, Coller Lab.

Claire Warriner, research assistant, Heintz Lab.

Nathan Westcott, postdoctoral associate, Hang Lab.

Dannikay Wilson, animal attendant, Comparative Bioscience Center.

Wing Wong, cage card compliance assistant, Comparative Bioscience Center.

Elizabeth Wood, visiting student, Nurse Lab.

Hui-Wen Wu, postdoctoral fellow, Chua Lab.

Zhuhao Wu, postdoctoral associate, Tessier-Lavigne Lab.

Meng Xu, postdoctoral associate, Joel Cohen Lab.

Jing Yang, postdoctoral associate, Tessier-Lavigne Lab.

Yao Yao, postdoctoral associate, Strickland Lab.

Wilbert Zarco, postdoctoral associate, Freiwald Lab.

Wenwen Zeng, postdoctoral associate, Friedman Lab.

Promoted (academic appointments):

Marta Cortes-Canteli, to research associate, Strickland Lab.

Christina Hughes, to research associate, Allis Lab.

Xiaoling Li, to research associate, Steller Lab.

Lisa Postow, to research associate, Funabiki Lab.

Chaolin Zhang, to research assistant professor, Robert Darnell Lab.

Promoted (staff):

Bryan Baker, to associate director CBC, Comparative Bioscience Center.

Meagan Brooks, to senior manuscript coordinator *JEM*, Rockefeller University Press.

Saad Chiguer, to administrative assistant, Brivanlou Lab.

Emily Conrad, to development officer, Development.

Sylvia Cuadrado, to supervising manuscript coordinator, Rockefeller University Press.

Jean Falconer, to development assistant II, Development.

Kennisha Farrell, to office administrator, Planning and Construction.

Elizabeth Fitzgerald, to laboratory administrator, Hang Lab.

Janine Fleri, to senior manuscript coordinator *JCB*, Rockefeller University Press.

Dustin Gerding, to development officer, Development.

Ross Gillman, to project manager IT, Information Technology.

Emily Harms, to associate dean, Dean's Office.

Clarisse Kayembe, to CBC group leader, Comparative Bioscience Center.

Steve Kovalenko, to mechanic II, Plant Operations Power House.

Francis Lach, to laboratory manager, Smogorzewska Lab.

Ka Yee Lam, to research assistant, Hirsch Lab.

Sarah Lee, to development officer, Development.

Svetlana Mazel, to director of flow cytometry resource center, Flow Cytometry Resource Center.

Janiris Mejia, to head teacher, Child and Family Center.

Aleksandra Mihailovic, to laboratory manager, Tuschl Lab.

Dale Miller, to IRB specialist, Hospital Institutional Review Board.

Kwan Ng, to senior Web programmer, Information Technology.

James Pring, to research assistant, Steinman Lab.

Serhiy Pylawka, to research specialist, Hudspeth Lab.

Nicholas Riedinger, to senior help desk and computer support specialist, Information Technology.

Raymond Schmidt, to watch engineer, Plant Operations Power House.

Peter Selestrin, to watch engineer, Plant Operations Power House.

Annmarie Sharak, to CBC supervisor finance and business, Comparative Bioscience Center.

Benjamin Short, to senior Ph.D. science writer, Rockefeller University Press.

Navdeep Singh, to senior applications database administrator, Information Technology.

Teresa Solomon, to associate general counsel, General Counsel.

Hamidah Sultan, to research support associate, High Throughput Screening Resource Center.

Joby Thomas, to lead payroll applications architect, Information Technology.

Aaron Torres, to carpenter III, Plant Operations Carpenter Shop.

Srinivas Voruganti, to lead HRMS applications architect, Information Technology.

Laura Votey, to development assistant II, Development.

OBITUARY

Stanley Fowler

A security guard since November 2009, Stanley Fowler mostly worked the evening and overnight shifts. He died in August at the age of 58. Originally from England, Mr. Fowler moved to the U.S. in 2002 and had worked as a guard at Elmhurst Hospital in Queens, where he lived, before joining Rockefeller. He is remembered for his warm personality and witty sense of humor, and for his skills as a painter and artist; a painting he created, donated to the university by his ex-wife, is on display in the main security office on the first floor of Nurses Residence.

"Stanley loved it at Rockefeller and wanted to continue working as much as possible even as his health was declining," says Jim Rogers, director of security. "He was a dedicated and reliable worker who always showed up for work in a cheerful mood."

Melvin White, to environmental waste coordinator, Comparative Bioscience Center.

Mireille Williams Sharp, to development assistant II, Development.

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:

Cori Bargmann, the 11th Perl-University of North Carolina Neuroscience Prize. The award, which Dr. Bargmann shares with Catherine Dulac of Harvard, is worth $10,000 and is awarded this year for the discovery of chemosensory circuits that regulate social behaviors. Dr. Bargmann, Torsten N. Wiesel Professor, head of the Lulu and Anthony Wang Laboratory of Neural Circuits and Behavior and a Howard Hughes Medical Institute investigator, will deliver her prize lecture at the UNC Neuroscience Symposium on October 13.

Jean-Laurent Casanova, the 2011 InBev-Baillet Latour Health Prize, Beligum's highest scientific honor. With a value of 250,000 euros, the InBev-Baillet prize recognizes the practical application of basic research; Dr. Casanova is honored for his work on the identification of genes that predispose for human infectious disease. Dr. Casanova is head of the St. Giles Laboratory of Human Genetics of Infectious Disease.

Winrich Freiwald, a 2011 McKnight Scholar Award. Granted to young scientists who are in the early stages of establishing their own independent neuroscience laboratories, the McKnight Scholar Awards seek to support innovative research designed to bring sciences closer to the day when diseases of the brain can be accurately diagnosed, prevented and treated. The award is worth $75,000 a year for three years. Dr. Freiwald is head of the Laboratory of Neural Systems.

Mary Jeanne Kreek, the Wellesley College Alumnae Achievement Award, the highest honor given to Wellesley alumnae for excellence in their field. Dr. Kreek is Patrick E. and Beatrice M. Haggerty Professor and head of the Laboratory of the Biology of Addictive Disease.

Bruce S. McEwen, the 2011 Edward M. Scolnick Prize in Neuroscience, from the McGovern Institute for Brain Research at MIT. The Prize, worth $60,000, is awarded annually in recognition of outstanding advances in the field of neuroscience. Dr. McEwen is Alfred E. Mirsky Professor and head of the Harold and Margaret Milliken Hatch Laboratory of Neuroendocrinology.

Fernando Nottebohm, the Mortimer D. Sackler Prize for Distinguished Achievement in Developmental Psychobiology. The award, presented by Weill Cornell Medical College and the Columbia University College of Physicians and Surgeons, recognizes Dr. Nottebohm's seminal work in songbirds that has led to the discovery of neuronal replacement. Dr. Nottebohm is Dorothea L. Leonhardt Professor and head of the Laboratory of Animal Behavior.

Donald Pfaff, the Daniel S. Lehrman Lifetime Achievement Award in Behavioral Neuroendocrinology from the Society for Behavorial Neuroscience. The award recognizes Dr. Pfaff's discovery of hormone receptors in the brain, his description of the first neural circuit for mammalian behavior and his mentoring of a large number of creative scientists who have developed outstanding research programs of their own. Dr. Pfaff is head of the Laboratory of Neurobiology and Behavior.

Alexander Ploss, the Astellas Young Investigator Award from the National Foundation for Infectious Diseases and the Infectious Diseases Society of America. The award, worth $50,000, provides funding to young investigators who have demonstrated outstanding research in any area of current interest in the field of infectious diseases. Dr. Ploss is research assistant professor in Charles M. Rice's Laboratory of Virology and Infectious Disease.

The Rockefeller University Hospital, accreditation from the Association for the Accreditation of Human Research Protection Programs (AAHRPP). Considered the "gold seal" for human subject protection programs, accreditation from the AAHRPP recognizes research organizations' commitments to providing strong safeguards on behalf of human research participants.

Marc Tessier-Lavigne, the W. Maxwell Cowan Award for outstanding achievement in developmental neuroscience from the Cajal Club and the editors of the *Journal of Comparative Neurology*. Sponsored by scientific publisher Wiley-Blackwell, the biennial award commemorates Max Cowan, a previous editor of the journal. The award will be presented during the Society for Neuroscience meeting in November. Dr. Tessier-Lavigne is head of the Laboratory of Brain Development and Repair.

Dr. Tessier-Lavigne, the Sloan-Kettering Medal for Outstanding Contributions to Biomedical Research. The honor was presented at MSKCC's 2011 academic convocation in May, at which Dr. Tessier-Lavigne was the keynote speaker.

Wilbert Zarco, a Pew Latin American Fellowship in the biomedical sciences. Awarded each year to 10 outstanding early-career scientists from Latin America, the fellowships provide $60,000 in support over two years and an additional $35,000 upon returning to Latin America. Dr. Zarco is a postdoc in Winrich Freiwald's Laboratory of Neural Systems.

Elected:

Jesse H. Ausubel, to the American Academy of Arts and Sciences, an honorary society and independent policy research center. Mr. Ausubel, who will be inducted this fall, is senior research associate and director of the Program for the Human Environment.

Paul Bieniasz, a fellow of the American Academy of Microbiology. Fellows of the American Academy of Microbiology are elected annually based on their records of scientific achievement and original contributions that have advanced microbiology. There are now over 2,500 Fellows representing all subspecialties of microbiology. Dr. Bieniasz is head of the Laboratory of Retroviology, and is also an ADARC researcher and an investigator of the Howard Hughes Medical Institute.

Michel C. Nussenzweig, to the National Academy of Sciences. Announced in May at the institute's annual meeting in Washington, D.C., Nussenzweig is among 72 new members and 18 foreign associates elected from 15 countries this year. The NAS is an organization of scientists and engineers dedicated to the furtherance of science and its use for the general welfare. Dr. Nussenzweig is Sherman Fairchild Professor and head of the Laboratory of Molecular Immunology; he is also a Howard Hughes Medical Institute investigator.

Hired:

Paul Abelkop, research assistant, Greengard Lab.

Jessica Ables, postdoctoral associate, Heintz Lab.

Mary Agramonte, teacher, Child and Family Center.

Mauricio Aguilera, animal attendant, Comparative Bioscience Center.

Farzana Ahmed, administrative assistant, Information Technology.

Tamer Ali, animal attendant, Comparative Bioscience Center.

Lisa Ambrosini Vadola, postdoctoral associate, Hang Lab.

Beatriz Antolin-Fontes, visiting student, Heintz Lab.

Pradeep Bandaru, research assistant, Tuschl Lab.

Kailyn Barreto, laboratory helper, Roeder Lab.

Selvin Barrett, mechanic III, Plant Operations Power House.

Yamina Berchiche, postdoctoral fellow, Sakmar Lab.

David Bikard, postdoctoral associate, Marraffini Lab.

Erik Bloss, member of the adjunct faculty, McEwen Lab.

Andrew Bonda-Riva, mechanic III, Plant Operations Power House.

Anne Bothmer, postdoctoral associate, Nussenzweig Lab.

Anekia Brown, teacher, Child and Family Center.

Adam Brownstein, research assistant, Kreek Lab.

Michele Buonora, research assistant, Kreek Lab.

Colin Buss, research assistant, Tavazoie Lab.

Youda Cao, research assistant, Greengard Lab.

Emmeline Cardozo, development assistant I, Development.

Bryce Carey, postdoctoral associate, Allis Lab.

Amy Cassano, visiting fellow, Comparative Bioscience Center.

Eric Chan, research assistant, Greengard Lab.

Victoria Chernow, research assistant, Tuschl Lab.

Meike Chevillotte, postdoctoral associate, Rice Lab.

Young Cheul Chung, postdoctoral associate, Strickland Lab.

Denise Collado, animal technician, Tessier-Lavigne Lab.

Chereen Collymore, postdoctoral associate, Comparative Bioscience Center.

Frederico Costa Pinto, postdoctoral fellow, Mucida Lab.

Devon Davenport, research assistant, Casanova Lab.

Elizabeth Davis, research assistant, Darst Lab.

David DiLillo, postdoctoral associate, Ravetch Lab.

Joseph Dobrin, visiting medical student, Steinman Lab.

Bridget Donovan, research assistant, Rice Lab.

Mayawatee Donzo, animal attendant, Comparative Bioscience Center.

Elena Dragomir, research assistant, Shaham Lab.

Noel Dublin, animal attendant, Comparative Bioscience Center.

Joshua Dubow, research assistant, Gilbert Lab.

Cynthia Duggan, postdoctoral associate, Tessier-Lavigne Lab.

Charles Dutreil, foreign research intern, Casanova Lab.

Ana Emiliano, instructor in clinical investigation, Friedman Lab.

Marisa Evelyn, postdoctoral associate, Magnasco Lab.

Amy Falls, chief investment officer and vice president for investments, Investments.

Melania Fanok, research assistant, Mucida Lab.

Philip Feinberg, research assistant, Greengard Lab.

Sarah Feray, foreign research intern, Casanova Lab.

Michael Feulner, research assistant, Rice Lab.

Zak Frentz, postdoctoral associate, Leibler Lab.

Tamar Friling, research assistant, Rice Lab.

Kirin Furst, research assistant, White and Levy Center for Mind Brain and Behavior.

Daniel Gareau, instructor in clinical investigation, Krueger Lab.

Gregoire Gessain, visiting student, Casanova Lab.

Alyssa Goodman, research assistant, Pfaff Lab.

Jolanta Gorecka, research assistant, McEwen Lab.

Jodi Gresack, research specialist, Greengard Lab.

Henning Gruell, visiting student, Nussenzweig Lab.

Brian Houck-Loomis, laboratory manager, Robert Darnell Lab.

Hun-Way Hwang, postdoctoral fellow, Robert Darnell Lab.

Naoko Imanaka, research assistant, Rice Lab.

Jingjing Jin, visiting student, Chua Lab.

Agnieszka Kalska, research assistant, Young Lab.

Sharon Karmon, instructor in clinical investigation, Ho Lab.

Ulrike Kaunzner, visiting fellow, McEwen Lab.

James Keller, grants management specialist, Sponsored Research and Program Development.

Felice Kelly, postdoctoral associate, Nurse Lab.

Mallory Kerner, research assistant, Greengard Lab.

Anmo Kim, postdoctoral associate, Maimon Lab.

Daesoo Kim, visiting professor, Greengard Lab.

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

Rachael Labitt, research assistant, Rice Lab.

Melody Li, postdoctoral associate, Rice Lab.

Xiaoping Liu, postdoctoral associate, Blobel Lab.

Yevgeniya Livshits, postdoctoral associate, Fuchs Lab.

Emily Louis, animal attendant, Comparative Bioscience Center.

Tapan Maniar, postdoctoral associate, Bargmann Lab.

Noa Manor, laboratory administrator, Kapoor Lab.

Adrian Manrique, human resources assistant, Human Resources.

Irina Matos, postdoctoral associate, Fuchs Lab.

Jerron McCleod, porter, Housing Faculty House.

Jennifer McQuillan, administrative assistant, Nussenzweig Lab.

Sarah Meller, research assistant, Greengard Lab.

Abbey Mills-Dugan, administrative assistant, E.G.D. Cohen Lab.

Sheyla Mirabal, research assistant, James Darnell Lab.

Jyotika Nayi, clinical research nurse, Hospital Nursing Outpatient.

Eiko Nishiuchi, research assistant, Rice Lab.

Ilona Nudelman, postdoctoral associate, Rout Lab.

Olav Olsen, senior research associate, Tessier-Lavigne Lab.

Peter Oxley, postdoctoral associate, Kronauer Lab.

Ulrike Pachmann, foreign research intern, Tuschl Lab.

Minyoung Park, postdoctoral associate, Sakmar Lab.

Bongsoo Park, postdoctoral fellow, Chua Lab.

Margherita Peliti, postdoctoral associate, Shaham Lab.

Ana Pereira, instructor in clinical investigation, McEwen Lab.

Josue Pierre, laboratory helper, Media & Glassware Resource Center.

Ka Lai Poon, research assistant, Strickland Lab.

Carl Procko, postdoctoral associate, Shaham Lab.

Christina Pyrgaki, postdoctoral associate, Heintz Lab.

Tyler-Lauren Rainer, recruitment assistant, Hospital Clinical Research Office.

Georgia Rapti, postdoctoral associate, Shaham Lab.

Gordon Roble, visiting fellow, Comparative Bioscience Center.

Madeline Rooney, research assistant, Greengard Lab.

Srivatsun Sadagopan, postdoctoral associate, Freiwald Lab.

Mohsan Saeed, postdoctoral associate, Rice Lab.

Andrew Satchwell, cage card compliance assistant, Comparative Bioscience Center.

Eric Sawey, scientific editor, Rockefeller University Press.

Troels Scheel, postdoctoral associate, Rice Lab.

Isabelle Schmutz, postdoctoral associate, de Lange Lab.

Daniel Schramek, postdoctoral associate, Fuchs Lab.

Heidi Schreiber, postdoctoral fellow, Nussenzweig Lab.

Jeremy Segal, instructor in clinical investigation, Fuchs Lab.

Stanka Semova, research support specialist, Flow Cytometry Resource Center.

Martin Seybold, foreign research intern, Krueger Lab.

Begum Sezer, research assistant, Greengard Lab.

Lauren Shanker, research assistant, Greengard Lab.

Alok Sharma, postdoctoral associate, Blobel Lab.

Yi Shi, postdoctoral associate, Chait Lab.

Rachel Shively, visiting medical student, Fischetti Lab.

Prerana Shrestha, postdoctoral associate, Heintz Lab.

David Simon, postdoctoral associate, Tessier-Lavigne Lab.

Nimisha Singh, postdoctoral associate, Blobel Lab.

Aylesse Sordillo, research assistant, Friedman Lab.