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BENCHMARKS

THE COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER OF THE ROCKEFELLER UNIVERSITY

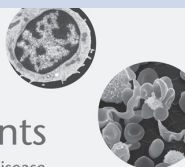
FRIDAY, DECEMBER 18, 2009

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Feeding holiday hunger. In conjunction with the student-initiated holiday food collection drive, which ran from December 1 to 18, Restaurant Associates has provided several turkeys and traditional holiday side dishes to City Harvest for its holiday dinners served to the homeless and hungry at soup kitchens across the five boroughs. City Harvest personnel will pick up the birds and fixings next week. For information on how to donate food or volunteer with City Harvest, visit www.cityharvest.org.

Town hall meeting is February 3. President Paul Nurse is hosting a town hall meeting in Caspary Auditorium on Wednesday, February 3, 2010 at 2:30 p.m. He will discuss university finances and other topics. All Rockefeller staff, students, postdocs and faculty are welcome and encouraged to attend.

Holiday Lectures are December 28. This year marks the 50th anniversary of The Rockefeller University Holiday Lectures on Science for High School Students, begun in 1959 by Alfred E. Mirsky, a biochemist and university librarian. About 400 students from schools around the city attend the lectures each year. This year's lectures will be given by Associate Professor F. Nina Papavasiliou. The subject of the lectures is "Battle of the Mutants: Using Genetics as a Weapon to Fight Disease." Tickets are required. For more information, call Gloria Phipps at (212) 327-8967.



Battle of the Mutants

Using Genetics as a Weapon to Fight Disease

Monday, December 28, 2009

Home for the holidays. The university will be closed from Friday, December 25 through Sunday, January 3 for the winter holidays. Happy new year.

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

BENCHMARKS

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

Zach Veilleux, Executive Editor
 Talley Henning Brown, Associate Editor

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FINANCE

University receives nearly \$27m in 'stimulus' grants

by TALLEY HENNING BROWN

Investigators at The Rockefeller University have so far been awarded 41 federal grants and supplemental awards through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (ARRA) — the so-called "stimulus" legislation passed by Congress last winter. The awards — 40 from the National Institutes of Health and one from the United States Department of Energy — range in size from about \$5,000 to nearly \$4.6 million and total approximately \$27 million. The funds, most of which will be spent over a two-year period, are for new and ongoing projects in biomedical and clinical research and training.

Nearly \$10 billion of the ARRA's \$787 billion in funds was designated for health research, training and construction and is being awarded by the NIH. Of that, \$8.2 billion is earmarked for investigator-initiated research projects and research training; another \$1.5 billion has been set aside for construction, renovation and maintenance of buildings and research facilities. The final \$300 million is for the purchase of shared instrumentation. Of Rockefeller's 40 NIH grants, 36 will fund research and training projects and four, totaling just over \$2.2 million, are supplements to the

university's Clinical and Translational Science Award.

Since the legislation was approved in February, Rockefeller scientists have submitted more than 120 applications for ARRA funding with support from the university's Office of Sponsored Research and Program Development. The initial round of grants was made late this summer. The NIH has so far allocated just under half of its total \$10 billion share of Recovery funds in approximately 13,000 grants, according to public reports released October 30. Granting of the other half currently awaits Congressional approval of the NIH budget for the current fiscal year, which began October 1; several additional Rockefeller awards are pending this approval.

"The Recovery funds for health research have been like an injection of adrenaline for the university," says Gila Budescu, director of sponsored research and program development. "The number of grant applications submitted by Rockefeller investigators has increased significantly this year, and our success with these grants is very encouraging. Rockefeller is obviously doing something right."

Among Rockefeller's 41 awards are

seven grants that are highly competitive, including four Challenge Grants in Health and Science Research and three Grand Opportunities (GO) grants. Charles M. Rice, for example, Rockefeller's Maurice R. and Corinne P. Greenberg Professor in Virology and head of the Laboratory of Virology and Infectious Disease, has received a nearly \$1 million Challenge Grant, and Nathaniel Heintz, Marilyn and James Simons Professor and head of the Laboratory of Molecular Biology, has received nearly \$4.6 million through the GO program. Both the Challenge Grant and GO programs were established this year specifically to channel Recovery funds.

Additionally, Leon Hess Assistant Professor Sohail Tavazoie, who came to Rockefeller this year as head of the Laboratory of Systems Cancer Biology, has received a prestigious Director's New Innovator Award and will use the \$2.5 million grant to identify individual microRNAs that may be predictors of metastasis and chemotherapy-responsiveness in colorectal cancer. For a full listing of Rockefeller ARRA grants, visit the NIH Research Portfolio Online Reporting Tool at projectreporter.nih.gov/reporter.cfm.

NEW TRUSTEE

William Huyett joins Board of Trustees

by TALLEY HENNING BROWN

William I. Huyett Jr., a director at the management consulting firm McKinsey & Company and a trustee of the Marine Biological Laboratory, has joined the university's Board of Trustees. A senior executive in McKinsey's pharmaceutical products practice, Mr. Huyett was elected at the trustees' fall meeting on November 11.

Though trained in electrical engineering and computer science — his bachelor's degree and MBA are both from the University of Virginia — Mr. Huyett developed an interest in biomedicine shortly after joining McKinsey in 1987. His first year there, he was randomly assigned to participate in a pharmaceutical-industry study. "From that point, I was hooked," says Mr. Huyett. He has since become a leader in the company's pharmaceutical products practice — comprising pharmaceuticals, biotechnology and medical devices and equipment — and spent four years in McKinsey's Zurich office working in the European health care sector.



In his current capacity, Mr. Huyett works with one of the top three pharmaceutical companies and two of the top five medical device companies in the world, as well as with a handful of biotechnology

start-ups, health insurance companies and care-delivery institutions. "My initial interest tended toward product launches and other commercial work, but about 15 years ago, I became much more interested in discovery and preclinical development," he says.

As a leader in McKinsey's corporate finance and strategy practice, as well as chairman of the board of the company's investment office, Mr. Huyett also does a significant amount of work outside pharmaceutical. His interest in life sciences, however, has continued to expand, even to pro bono activities. Since 2004 he has been a trustee of the Marine Biological Laboratory, which he currently serves as vice chair. "I've developed with

continued on page 2

CAMPUS NEWS

Aetna network, Cornell psychiatrists expand reach of health plan

by ZACH VEILLEUX

Several improvements to the university's self-insured health plan and flexible spending accounts, which the university's Human Resources Office says will enhance the plans, reduce costs to the university and to plan participants and help eliminate some paperwork, have been implemented this fall.

The most sweeping change is to the network of doctors and medical facilities to which participants in The Rockefeller University's Group Health Care Expense Plan — often referred to as "Principal" after the company that administers it — have access for in-network benefits that do not require fulfilling a deductible and paying coinsurance. (Thirty-nine percent of those who receive health coverage from the university use the Rockefeller plan; the change does not apply to those who have Oxford.)

Even though the Rockefeller plan has both in-network and out-of-network benefits, participants in the plan save money when they use in-network doctors. These doctors have agreed to charge lower, prenegotiated prices for their services. While the university benefits from those discounts, plan participants also pay less, since they are responsible only for

continued on page 3

Burglary in Bronk; fire in Flexner

Alert employees help contain damage from two separate incidents in November

by TALLEY HENNING BROWN

Two incidents on campus last month demonstrated the importance of campus participation in notifying Security personnel to potential problems. A burglary in Detlev W. Bronk Laboratory on Tuesday, November 17 and a fire in Flexner Hall on Monday, November 30 were both halted in progress after individuals in the proximity alerted Security.

A report drawn up by James Rogers, director of security, and Michael Murphy, operations manager, details a burglary at about 2:50 p.m., November 17. Video surveillance verifies that a young man who has no ties to the university community and who gave a false name tried to enter campus at the 67th Street gate, telling the guard on duty he was looking for a student who worked in Bronk Laboratory. The guard sent him to the visitors' entrance at 66th Street. As the video revealed, the man waited several minutes outside the gate until the combination of a delivery truck in the driveway and a phone call from the security booth tied up the attention of the guard on duty, and then he walked quietly in the employee

entrance on the north side of the gate, opposite the guard booth. Minutes later, two phone calls came in to Security from individuals on the fourth and sixth floors of Bronk, reporting a suspicious character wandering the hallways and rooms.

Stationing themselves at several points of egress in and around Bronk, a Security team including Mr. Rogers, Mr. Murphy and Sergeants Linden Baynes and Carl Elbers quickly discovered the man in question coming out of the sixth-floor men's room, carrying a scientific journal whose mailing label was addressed to head of laboratory Ralph M. Steinman. Escorting him back to the main Security Office in Nurses Residence, Mr. Rogers and Mr. Murphy carefully questioned the man, whom they positively identified by a name other than the name he had originally given. "We were careful and respectful, as we always try to be, and exhausted every possibility that he was here legitimately. But the more questions we asked, the more his story fell apart," says Mr. Rogers. An officer from the New York Police Department's 19th Precinct arrived

in answer to a call from Mr. Rogers, who went with him back to Bronk to survey the two rooms where the suspect had been spotted. Upon discovering that a cell phone that had gone missing from Bronk was in the suspect's possession, he was arrested and escorted off campus by the police officer.

"The way this incident played out is proof positive that the mindset of 'If you see something, say something' works," says Mr. Murphy. "And we encourage people to call the minute they see something."

"It's great that we have a beautiful environment here, and we want to keep our relations with the Rockefeller community as friendly and convenient as possible, and it's this kind of participation, where two people called us as soon as their suspicions were aroused, that helps us keep it that way," says Mr. Rogers.

At about 9:50 a.m. on November 30, construction work in the Collaborative Research Center sent errant sparks into Flexner Hall, igniting the ceiling in room 335, a laboratory used by Pels Family

Professor Tarun Kapoor. The guard at the Founder's Hall security desk, Clement Gomes, saw the strobe flash of the fire alarm from the building from the video surveillance feed and James Schaefer, manager of the Plant Operations Maintenance Shop, confirmed that the alarm was legitimate.

The building was evacuated and an unknown person pulled one of the building's fire alarms on the way out. Although the fire department responded with several trucks, the blaze was extinguished by Mr. Schaefer, using a fire extinguisher, before it could spread. Frank Schaefer and Anthony Santorro of the Laboratory Safety and Environmental Health Office cleared the rooms above and below the fire of all chemical substances, at the request of FDNY personnel, and microscopy equipment from room 335 and the room directly below it was protected to prevent damage.

No one was hurt in the fire, and personnel from Turner Construction and Custodial completed the cleanup of the affected rooms by the end of the same day.

AWARDS & HONORS

Pearl Meister Greengard Prize honors Australian geneticist

by TALLEY HENNING BROWN

This year's Pearl Meister Greengard Prize recognizes Suzanne Cory, an Australian geneticist whose work has included significant revelations about the workings of the immune system and the pathogenesis of cancer. President Paul Nurse presented Dr. Cory with the prize, the sixth annual award, at a ceremony in Caspary Auditorium on November 5.

The Pearl Meister Greengard Prize was established by Paul Greengard, Vincent Astor Professor at the university and head of the Laboratory of Molecular and Cellular Neuroscience, and his wife, sculptor Ursula von Rydingsvard. Greengard donated the proceeds of his 2000 Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine to Rockefeller University and, in partnership with generous supporters of the university, created the yearly award. Named in memory of Greengard's mother, the prize was founded to honor women who have made extraordinary contributions to biomedical science, a group that historically has not received appropriate recognition and acclaim. Past recipients of the award include Elizabeth H. Blackburn of the University of California, San Francisco, and Carol W. Greider of The Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine, who won shares of this year's Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine for their work involving telomeres and telomerase.

The 2009 prize recognizes Cory, a world-renowned geneticist and pioneering scientific leader. The first woman to serve as director of Australia's prestigious Walter and Eliza Hall Institute, she has been an influential force in shaping science policy in her nation. Along with her colleague and husband Jerry Adams, Cory was instrumental in introducing gene cloning technology to Australian research by establishing the country's first facility for cloning eukaryotic genes in 1977.

Research by Cory has yielded key insights in immunology and cancer biology. She and her colleagues made important contributions to understanding how immune system cells known as B lymphocytes assemble their antigen receptors by antibody gene recombination. In later work, they helped to elucidate how abnormal chromosome rearrangements can lead to the development of cancer. Cory and associates further broadened the molecular



Women's work. From left, Paul Greengard, Ursula von Rydingsvard, Suzanne Cory, Wafaa El-Sadr and Paul Nurse.

understanding of cancer through studies of mechanisms that promote tumor formation by interfering with the cell-death programs that normally protect against cancer. Her current line of research, examining the methods by which *bcl-2* and other genes affect the cell death process, carries implications not only for cancer but for certain autoimmune and neurodegenerative diseases as well.

"I feel incredibly fortunate to have been part of such a revolutionary era in biology, but the best is still to come," said Dr. Cory at the prize ceremony. "And I hope that in the future ... at least 50 percent of those driving science will be women. It concerns me greatly that too many women continue to opt out, discouraged by the difficulties of combining career and family. We simply cannot afford this brain drain. That's why I think the Pearl Meister Greengard Prize is so significant. In a sometimes hostile world, it stands as a rare beacon to inspire and encourage women of science."

Cory received her Ph.D. in 1968 from the MRC Laboratory of Molecular Biology, then the center of molecular biology research. Following postdoctoral research at the University of Geneva, she returned to Australia in 1971 and established her laboratory at the Walter and Eliza Hall Institute, where from 1988 to 2005, she was joint head, with Adams, of the molecular genetics of cancer division. From 1996 to 2009, Cory served as the institute's first female director, a position from

which she exercised a strong influence on Australian science and health policy. From 1992 to 1997 she was an international research scholar with the Howard Hughes Medical Institute. She is a fellow of the Australian Academy of Sciences and of Great Britain's Royal Society, which awarded her its Royal Medal. She is also a foreign associate of the United States National Academy of Sciences and was recently named a knight of the French Legion of Honor.

Special guest Wafaa El-Sadr, director of the International Center for AIDS Care and Treatment Programs at Columbia University and a world leader in the field of infectious diseases and public health, also spoke at the ceremony. Describing her two-plus decades of work with AIDS patients at Harlem Hospital and in Africa, she said, "What's been rather remarkable is to have witnessed the women infected with HIV, how they've ... overcome remarkable adversity in their lives — poverty, poor education, economic disadvantages — yet, often neglecting their own lives, they've been able to rise and take care of others in their community, and these women have been truly an inspiration to me.... I think the one factor that can shape the trajectory of a girl's life in the world is education. It is very important that we support girls so they are able to stay in school, so they can achieve what they have the potential to achieve.... We must match these women's courage with our own commitment to helping them achieve their dreams."

Trustee (cont'd from page 1)

both my client work and my work with MBL a pretty intense interest in how great science gets done, in the sociology of scientific discovery, if you will," Mr. Huyett says.

D. Ronald Daniel, an emeritus trustee of the university and a retired partner at McKinsey, introduced Mr. Huyett to the possibility of joining Rockefeller's board earlier this year. Mr. Huyett is also acquainted with current Board member Peter A. Flaherty and vice chair Richard E. Salomon, both through McKinsey & Company. "What really attracted me to Rockefeller is the distinctiveness of its people," says Mr. Huyett. "When you serve on boards, you realize that the difference between being with the most distinctive people in their field and just pretty good ones is enormous."

Mr. Huyett is joining the Board's technology transfer committee and is considering other committees. "Technology has begun to completely transform some of the fundamental aspects of how people interact in the world, and that is keenly reflected in the life sciences, which has transformed from a field where individual specialists and small laboratories accounted for a huge share of the breakthroughs to a field of large international groups employing multidisciplinary approaches to problems," he says. "I believe that Rockefeller has an opportunity to exploit that faster and better than other institutions." Central to that goal and to Rockefeller's success in general, according to Mr. Huyett, is the ability to attract the best possible researchers. "I believe that when you pick the best people, everything else follows. Rockefeller has a talent flow unlike any other institution I know of, but expectations among the younger generations of scientists have shifted and will continue to shift dramatically. Our challenge in the coming decades is to make sure that our value proposition to them stays current."

In addition to Rockefeller and MBL, Mr. Huyett is active on a number of social service and university boards, including the YMCA of Greater Boston, the Concord Museum of Concord, Massachusetts, the Engineering Leadership Advisory Board of Boston University and the Darden School Foundation at the University of Virginia. He and his wife, Lauren Huyett, have five children and live in Concord, Massachusetts.

Boil, boil, toil and trouble

New boiler to increase efficiency of university's heating and cooling

by TALLEY HENNING BROWN

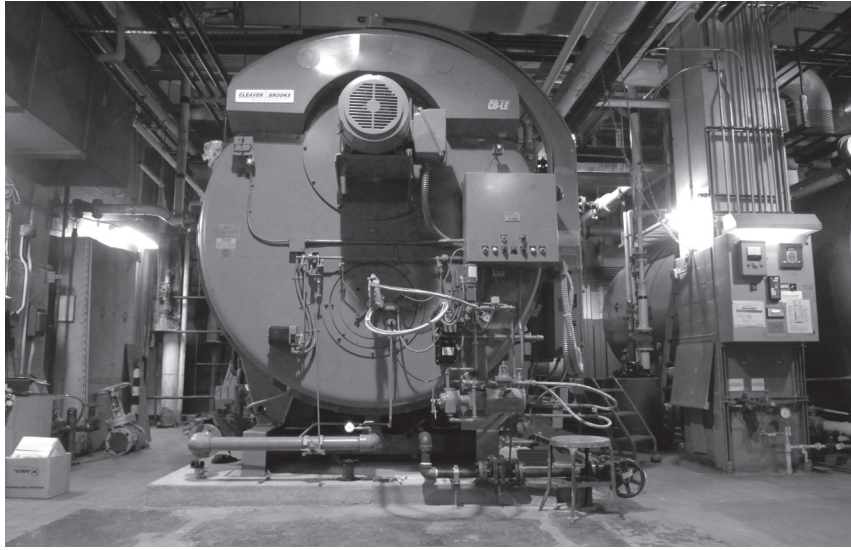
Below the buildings of the south campus, three levels underground and reached by a labyrinth of stairways, are the millions of pipes, pistons and valves that keep the university engine running. Among the normal sound and fury of machinery that supplies 24-hour heat and cooling for the hundreds of radiators, hot water taps and autoclaves on campus, this fall brought a tumult of new activity — in the form of a new boiler. In an effort that required dozens of overnight workers, a wall full of permits from city agencies and the disassembly of a sizeable corner of the Power House, Plant Operations has replaced a 21-year old Nebraska waste-heat boiler with

a new dual-fuel Cleaver-Brooks model. The new, more efficient boiler, which will be operational later this winter, is projected to use 25 percent less fuel compared to the replaced boiler — the investment in the boiler should pay itself off in about three to five years — and will also be necessary to power two new chillers that will serve the Collaborative Research Center upon its completion.

Rockefeller's five boilers — three or four of which are running at any given time — provide steam that heats buildings and provides hot water and also runs a range of laboratory equipment from absorption chillers to autoclaves. Installed in 1988, the original Nebraska boiler was engineered specifically to work in conjunction with a cogenerator, a turbine generator that runs

on exhaust gas from the waste-heat boiler. As the cogenerator system became more costly and less efficient to run over the years, it was taken off-line this year.

Rockefeller's boilers can run on either oil or natural gas — depending on which



Boiler number four. The new Cleaver-Brooks boiler in its new home.

is most economical at a given time — and operate at a maximum input of 30 million British thermal units (BTUs) per hour each, the maximum allowed by New York City for an institution of Rockefeller's size. (In comparison, the average single-family residential boiler runs at about 80,000 BTUs per hour.) They consume an average of 240 billion BTUs of fuel each year. While most industrial boilers top-out at a maximum of 80 to 85 percent efficiency, the old boiler was averaging between 60 and 65 percent.

A number of cost-cutting strategies — including a well-timed renegotiation of the university's electricity contract that saved approximately \$1.3 million as well as campus-wide efforts to reduce power and fuel consumption — contributed to the savings that funded the \$1.6 million purchase and

installation of the boiler. Though the new boiler — boiler number four out of the five — has a slightly shorter lifespan than the university's existing Babcock and Wilcox boilers installed in 1955, it is one-third the price of a similar B&W model. It also heats

up faster and — a surprisingly important detail — it fits far more easily in the tight space afforded by the university's boiler room.

Starting on November 19 and working through the night, Plant Ops personnel, along with a rigging crew from Boilermatic, the contractor hired to install the boiler, brought the 30-ton machine into the Power House from a flat-bed truck parked in two southbound lanes of the Franklin Delano Roosevelt Drive, which were closed to traffic.

Because the size of the boiler nearly equaled the size of the entrance, the teams had first to disassemble overhead pipes to clear a passageway inside the building, and then detach the hundreds of wires and other components on the outside of the boiler's main vessel, mapping the location of each piece for its reassembly later. Even with the massive extra effort, the crews had only about half an inch of clearance to get the boiler tank into the building. Engineers are now completing the intricate reassembly process and testing the new machine before integrating it into the system.

"What's amazing is that after all that work, you push a button and it all works beautifully. I'm always astonished," says Brendan Bolger, Plant Ops' chief engineer and manager.

new guidelines. The NIH also announced an application process for institutions interested in making stem cell lines derived using non-federal funds available for federally funded research, which should lead to a new NIH Registry that contains a much larger and more varied number of human embryonic stem cell lines.

According to Amy Wilkerson, associate vice president for research support, the university started the application process for the two lines in mid-September. "We filed under the procedure for administrative review, which requires that the provenance of the lines meets all requirements of the current NIH guidelines for research with human embryonic stem cells," says Ms. Wilkerson.

As part of the review process, the university submitted information about the process used to obtain informed consent from embryo donors; the NIH administrative review process confirms that the submissions met specific requirements regarding informed consent.

The process leading up to this approval began in February 2002, when Acting President Thomas P. Sakmar initiated a working group to explore conducting human embryonic stem cell research at Rockefeller. Ms. Wilkerson and Ms. Imhoff, along with Harriet Rabb, vice president and general counsel, Deborah Yeoh, deputy general counsel, and Kathleen Denis, associate vice president for technology transfer, played key roles in establishing the early strategy for supporting human embryonic stem cell research at Rockefeller.

Health plan changes (cont'd from page 1)

a flat copayment per visit. Since January 1, 2005, the Rockefeller University plan has used the PHCS (Private Healthcare Systems, now part of MultiPlan) network, which consists of approximately 450,000 health care providers and 4,000 medical facilities such as hospitals and clinics nationwide.

Effective November 1, the university replaced PHCS with the Aetna Signature Administrators (ASA) network, which consists of approximately 939,000 health care providers and more than 5,000 facilities nationwide. The larger network means that people will have more doctors and hospitals from which to choose without having to pay their yearly deductible. Because Aetna has been able to negotiate more favorable rates with doctors, the switch is also projected to save the university as much as \$1.5 million in benefit claim costs.

"This is really a win-win situation," says Virginia Huffman, vice president for human resources. "We're getting a broader network and we're reducing our costs."

Though the possibility of switching networks has been under consideration by Human Resources since moving to Principal in January 2008, before pulling the trigger Ms. Huffman wanted to ensure that the disruption to members of the health care plan would be minimized. "To measure the projected impact, we ran a simulation in which 12 months of real claims were put through the system as though they would be paid using Aetna's network," Ms. Huffman explains. "We found that the disruption was minimal, as the vast majority of PHCS doctors that our members were seeing also belong to Aetna."

In a second expansion to the plan, the university has also added a small but specialized group of doctors to the Weill Cornell network, which members of the Rockefeller plan can see for a flat \$10 copay. Announced in October, but retroactive to July 1, visits to any of the participating doctors in the department of psychiatry of the Weill Cornell Physicians Organization (WCPO) will be covered as an in-network benefit. Although most WCPO visits have been counted as in-network since 2007, mental health visits to WCPO psychiatrists had previously not been included.

"We're very pleased that we've been able to offer access to these services," says Ms. Huffman. "It can be difficult to find psychiatrists in New York City that accept insurance plans at all, and this arrangement will allow members of the Rockefeller community to seek mental health care at an affordable cost and without having to pay up front and then submit claims for reimbursement."

Although Ms. Huffman reports that the transition to the Aetna network and the WCPO psychiatry practice have mostly gone smoothly, there are likely to be a few bumps in coming months, particularly as doctors begin to file claims using the new networks. "We encourage people to call Principal or our benefits office if they are having problems," Ms. Huffman says.

Finally, members of the community who take advantage of the university's flexible spending accounts for health care expenses — a way to set aside money for certain out-of-pocket health care expenses before it is taxed — now have the option of charging eligible expenses to a special debit card rather than submitting receipts and waiting for reimbursement from Principal.

"This is going to be a great convenience for many people, and it will save a lot of paperwork," says Doreen Look, senior benefits administrator.

Debit cards will be distributed by early January to those who have elected to participate in the program.

Rockefeller stem cell lines among first to be NIH-approved

by JOSEPH BONNER

Two human embryonic stem cell lines derived at Rockefeller are among the first to be approved for use in federally funded research since the National Institutes of Health adopted new guidelines in July 2009.

The approval means that cell lines derived at the university can be made available to any scientist, including those supported by NIH grants, for further research. The two lines, called RUES1 and RUES2, are among the initial 13 to be approved and represent the first new lines of human embryonic stem cells available for NIH-funded research since the restrictions on using federal money for work on stem cells were loosened under President Barack Obama.

RUES1 and RUES2 were derived in the Laboratory of Molecular Vertebrate Embryology, headed by Ali H. Brivanlou, in 2005 using private funds. The embryos used for the derivation of the lines were originally generated for reproductive purposes and subsequently donated for research purposes following consent of the donors. The stem cell lines were shared with nine different researchers at eight different institutions before an application was filed with the NIH.

"I am very happy that the Rockefeller-derived stem cell lines will now be available to any NIH-supported researcher," says Dr. Brivanlou, who is Robert and Harriet Heilbrunn Professor at Rockefeller. "It is humbling to think that future discoveries by NIH-funded researchers will be based on this primary work done at Rockefeller."

President George W. Bush announced on August 9, 2001 that only those hESC lines

derived prior to that date would be eligible for research funded by federal money. In the end, 21 human embryonic stem cell lines were included on the original NIH Registry, but scientists criticized these lines as flawed — some had damaged chromosomes and all were kept viable using mouse feeder cells that introduced animal viruses into the human cells — and unfit for use in human patients.

"There was an extraordinary outpouring of support from Rockefeller's community of benefactors to keep the university's stem cell studies moving forward," says Marnie Imhoff, vice president for development. "More than \$8 million was contributed by nearly 40 trustees, Rockefeller University Council members and other friends of the university. Then in June 2005, The Starr Foundation made a \$50 million commitment to fund collaborative stem cell studies at Rockefeller, Memorial Sloan-Kettering and Weill Cornell."

In March 2009, President Obama issued Executive Order 13505: Removing Barriers to Responsible Scientific Research Involving Human Stem Cells, which allows for a broadening of the number of lines available for use in federally funded research and the ability to add new lines to the NIH Registry moving forward. By July, the NIH had published its Guidelines for Human Stem Cell Research and implemented the executive order, opening the door for researchers to apply to the NIH for grants to conduct research with human embryonic stem cells derived both before and after August 9, 2001 that meet the criteria described in the

MILESTONES

PROMOTIONS, AWARDS AND PERSONNEL NEWS

Awarded:

Michael Crickmore, Grand Prize in the 2009 GE & *Science* Prize for Young Life Scientists, an essay competition. Dr. Crickmore, a postdoctoral fellow in Leslie B. Vosshall's Laboratory of Neurogenetics and Behavior, won for his essay titled "The Molecular Basis of Size Differences," based on graduate work he completed at Columbia University.

Elaine Fuchs, a Distinguished Investigator Award from the Emerald Foundation. The award comes with \$125,000 a year for two years in support of her laboratory's research on stem cells. Dr. Fuchs is head of the Laboratory of Mammalian Cell Biology and Development.

Shai Shaham and **Sreekanth H. Chalasani**, 2009 Blavatnik Awards for Young Scientists from the New York Academy of Sciences. Dr. Shaham, head of the Laboratory of Developmental Genetics, will receive \$15,000, in addition to the \$10,000 he received as a Blavatnik finalist in September. Dr. Chalasani, postdoctoral associate in Cori Bargmann's Laboratory of Neural Circuits and Behavior, will receive \$10,000, in addition to the \$5,000 he received as a finalist. Created in 2007, the Blavatnik Awards were made possible by a grant from the Blavatnik Family Foundation and are administered by the New York Academy of Sciences. The awards were announced at the NYAS' annual Science and the City gala November 16.

Sohail Tavazoie, a Young Investigator Award from the Emerald Foundation. The award provides \$50,000 a year for three years and will fund a project titled "Dissecting the Mechanisms That Regulate the Expression of Human Metastasis Suppressor microRNAs." Dr. Tavazoie is head of the Laboratory of Systems Cancer Biology.

OBITUARY

Philip Siekevitz, pioneer in cell biology, dies at 91

by JOSEPH BONNER

Philip Siekevitz was a passionate New Yorker. Through a nearly century-long life, he was an active participant in the city's cultural, music, art and architecture scenes — and, especially, in its science. Professor Emeritus Philip Siekevitz, a member of The Rockefeller University community for over 30 years, died in Manhattan on Saturday, December 5, of a stroke. He was 91.

Born in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, on February 25, 1918, Dr. Siekevitz received a B.S. in biology from the Philadelphia College of Pharmacy and Science in 1942 and spent the following three-plus years in the Army Air Force. He received a Ph.D. in biochemistry from the University of California, Berkeley, in 1949, and then joined the Huntington Laboratories of Harvard University at the Massachusetts General Hospital as a Public Health Service Fellow.

Dr. Siekevitz was associated with a number of significant contributions in the field of cell biology. As one of the first National Institutes of Health Postdoctoral Fellows at Harvard, he and his colleagues

Named:

Attalah Kappas, life member of the visiting committee to the division of biological sciences and the Pritzker School of Medicine of The University of Chicago. Dr. Kappas, professor and physician in chief emeritus of Rockefeller University, is a Pritzker alumnus and a former member of the medical school faculty.

Published:

Joel E. Cohen, a book titled *International Perspectives on the Goals of Universal Basic and Secondary Education*, published by Routledge this month. The book focuses, from many diverse perspectives, on a single question: What do people want to accomplish through universal basic and secondary education? Dr. Cohen is head of the Laboratory of Populations.

Promoted (academic appointments):

Haiteng Deng, to research associate professor, Office of Academic Affairs.

André Hoelz, to research assistant professor, Blobel Lab.

Alexander Ploss, to research assistant professor, Rice Lab.

Anne Schaefer, to senior research associate, Greengard Lab.

Hong Wang, to senior research associate, Greengard Lab.

Hired:

Darym Alden, research assistant, Brivanlou Lab.

Bryan Baxter, research assistant, Freiwald Lab.

Soren Beinke, visiting scientist, Tarakhovskiy Lab.

Christine Borowski, executive editor, *JEM*, The Rockefeller University Press.

Miguel Brown, research assistant, Tuschl Lab.

Victoria Cabot, research assistant, Hudspeth Lab.

Diany Calderon, postdoctoral associate, Pfaff Lab.

Sue Chiu, project coordinator, Heintz Lab.

Robert Ciesielski, research associate, Goulianos Lab.

Sophie Cypowyj, postdoctoral associate, Casanova Lab.

Paul D'Agostino, postdoctoral associate, McEwen Lab.

Olof Dallner, postdoctoral fellow, Friedman Lab.

Matthew Degennaro, postdoctoral associate, Vosshall Lab.

Oliver Dreesen, visiting fellow, Papavasiliou Lab.

Terence Duarte, postdoctoral associate, Heintz Lab.

Filipp Esselborn, foreign research intern, Blobel Lab.

Stanley Fowler, security guard, Security.

Alejandra Gonzalez, animal health technician I, Comparative Bioscience Center.

Scott Gottlieb, member of the adjunct faculty, Coller Lab.

Dylan Hershkowitz, research assistant, Tavazoie Lab.

Ka Ying Hung, research assistant, Robert Darnell Lab.

Shigehiro Kawashima, postdoctoral fellow, Kapoor Lab.

Valeri Khoze, member of the adjunct faculty, Goulianos Lab.

Tim Lentini, research assistant, Krueger Lab.

Aliza Lloyd, research support associate, Flow Cytometry Resource Center.

Katherine Maloney, administrative assistant, Steinman Lab.

Fung Ying Man, research assistant, Tavazoie Lab.

Klaas Max, postdoctoral associate, Tuschl Lab.

Jack Merrin, postdoctoral associate, Libchaber Lab.

Spyridon Mylonas, research associate, Brivanlou Lab.

Rupa Ram, visiting student, Gadsby Lab.

Barrie Rich, visiting fellow, Simon Lab.

Yasuo Sakuma, member of the adjunct faculty, Pfaff Lab.

Ana Sastre-Perona, visiting student, Fuchs Lab.

Edward Scovell, member of the adjunct faculty, Coller Lab.

Mousumi Sengupta, data manager, Hospital Informatics.

Albert Shpuntoff, scientific educator, Hospital Informatics.

Guillermo Solovey, postdoctoral associate, Magnasco Lab.

Vikas Sonakya, computational biologist, Hospital Biostatistics.

Jonathan Tobin, member of the adjunct faculty, Coller Lab.

Jonathan Touboul, postdoctoral associate, Magnasco Lab.

Maya Woodbury, research assistant, Greengard Lab.

Matthew Wrobel, bioinformaticist, Hospital Informatics.

Liang Zhang, postdoctoral associate, Fuchs Lab.

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

demonstrated for the first time that protein synthesis could be studied using radioactive amino acids on isolated cell components called organelles. He then joined Van R. Potter's laboratory at the University of Wisconsin, Madison, where he worked from 1951 to 1954 as an oncology fellow and where he made important contributions in the control of energy metabolism in mitochondria, the organelle responsible for energy production in the cell.

In 1954 Dr. Siekevitz joined the laboratory of Keith Porter and George E. Palade at Rockefeller as an assistant in cytology. He worked on the isolation and description of ribosomes, the major sites of protein synthesis in the cell, and of the endoplasmic reticulum, intracellular structures on which ribosomes reside. Drs. Siekevitz and Palade's research on pancreatic cells led to a greater understanding of protein synthesis and protein secretion in cells. In addition, they investigated the organization, function and differentiation of several intracellular membranes in an effort to determine how the many membrane compo-

nents function together as a unit, and how they are differentially formed. Dr. Siekevitz was appointed associate professor at Rockefeller in 1959 and professor in 1966. His later work was devoted to the study of events occurring at the neural synapse on the level of intracellular structures. He was coauthor, with Ariel G. Loewy, of the first textbook on cell biology, titled *Cell Structure and Function*, published in 1963. Dr. Siekevitz retired from Rockefeller in 1988.

"Phil was a brilliant scientist who very much enjoyed doing his own experiments rather than delegating them to postdocs or students," says Günter Blobel, head of the Laboratory of Cell Biology and former postdoc in the joint Palade/Siekevitz lab.

In addition to his research, Dr. Siekevitz was an advocate of the social responsibilities of scientists. He believed that it is the duty of those engaged in basic research to inform the public about the potential risks involved. A founding member and treasurer of the New York Scientists Committee for Public Information, he wrote extensively on science and public policy, and his

articles appeared in *The Nation*, *The New York Times* and *Nature*.

Dr. Siekevitz was a member of numerous scientific societies including the National Academy of Sciences. He was an honorary fellow of the New York Academy of Sciences, serving as its president in 1976, and a fellow of the American Association for the Advancement of Science. He was a consultant to several scientific organizations including the Panel on Molecular Biology of the National Science Foundation, the National Research Council, the National Cancer Program of the National Cancer Institute and the International Cell Research Organization of UNESCO.

Dr. Siekevitz received two honorary degrees, one in 1971 from his alma mater, which also honored him with its Alumni Award in 1973, and the other from the University of Stockholm in 1974.

Dr. Siekevitz is survived by his wife, the former Rebecca Burstein, of New York City, and his daughters, Ruth, of New York City, and Miriam, of Redwood City, California.

OBITUARY

Microchemist S. Theodore Bella dies at 88

S. Theodore Bella, retired long-time microanalyst at The Rockefeller University, died Monday, November 23 at his Florida home after a long struggle with Parkinson's disease and cardiac issues. He was 88.

Mr. Bella operated a laboratory in Flexner Hall for 41 years, using emerging techniques in chromatography to provide quick, precise in-house analyses for the Rockefeller community's medical researchers. Among his numerous successful collaborations, he assisted William H. Stein and Stanford Moore, who won the Nobel Prize in Chemistry in 1972 for their elucidation

of the structure-function relationship of enzymes, as well as R. Bruce Merrifield, who won the same prize in 1984 for developing a novel method of peptide synthesis. Mr. Bella also assisted other notable Rockefeller researchers, including Donald D. Van Slyke and Detlev W. Bronk, both National Medal of Science winners, and Lyman C. Craig, an Albert Lasker Medical Research Award recipient. Mr. Bella retired from Rockefeller in 1988.

Mr. Bella was born in Brooklyn, New York, on June 15, 1921, to Angelo and Marietta Bella. After graduating from

Townsend Harris High School and City College of New York, he served in the United States Army during World War II, where he worked with Italian prisoners of war and served as a riflery instructor. Later, the Army stationed him at Cornell University, where he met D. Mima Bella, whom he married in 1946. They moved to Brooklyn the following year and then to Teaneck, New Jersey, in 1959, where they raised two sons, Rick and Bill. After Mr. Bella's retirement, the couple moved to Nokomis, Florida, in 1991, where Mr. Bella served as a literacy volunteer. He also enjoyed

bird-watching, target-shooting, attending the theater and studying Italian culture. He was a member of the American Chemical Society, the National Italian American Foundation and Italic Institute of America.

Mr. Bella was predeceased by his wife in 2000. He is survived by his brother, Robert of Dunnellon, Florida; special friend, Eva Berrish of Venice, Florida; sons, Rick of Portland, Oregon, and Bill of Houston, Texas; and one grandson, Timothy of Ramsey, New Jersey. Memorial contributions may be made to the American Heart Association or the National Parkinson Foundation.