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Leading expert to talk on ethics of DNA technology Friday lecturer to speak on nerve development

In celebration of the 50th anniversary of the discovery at The Rockefeller University that genes are made of DNA, Nancy Wexler—professor at Columbia University, adviser to the Human Genome Project and a leader in the field of research on Huntington's disease—will speak on "DNA Technology and its Social Consequences" on Mon., Apr. 18, at 6:00 P.M. in Caspary Auditorium.

"Nancy Wexler's experience as an eminent scientist, an adviser to the Human Genome Project and a counselor of individuals at risk for genetic diseases gives her a unique perspective from which to speak on the ethical dilemmas presented by our increasing knowledge of molecular genetics," said President Torsten Wiesel. "I am pleased that the university is hosting a lecture on this important topic as part of our 50th anniversary celebration of the discovery by Oswald Avery, Colin MacLeod and Maclyn McCarty that DNA contains the genetic substance."

Wexler's most important scientific contribution is her work on Huntington's disease. In 1979, she learned of the world's largest community with Huntington's disease which lives along the shores of Lake Maracaibo, Venezuela. For the last 13 successive years, she and her colleagues have studied the disease in hundreds of patients and persons at risk. They have constructed a pedigree of over 12,000 people, collecting blood samples from 3,000 people in the family. Analysis of these samples led to the recent discovery by scientists at Harvard University and Massachusetts General Hospital of the Huntington's dis-



Nancy Wexler will give a public lecture on ethics Mon., Apr. 18.

ease gene at the tip of human chromosome four. Identification of this mutated gene makes it possible to identify who is a carrier of the fatal gene prior to the onset of symptoms. In her lecture, Wexler will discuss the social consequences of the identification of genes related to specific human characteristics and disease.

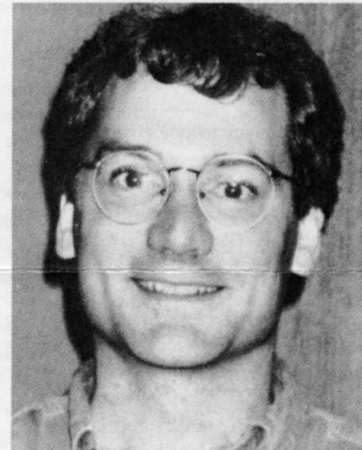
Wexler received an A.B., cum laude, in social relations and

English from Radcliffe College in 1967, and a Ph.D. in clinical psychology from the University of Michigan in 1974. Prior to joining Columbia University in 1984, Wexler was a health science administrator with the National Institute of Neurological Disorders and Stroke, and executive director of the Congressional Commission for the Control of Huntington's Disease and its Consequences.

Wexler chairs the committee on the ethical, legal and social implications of mapping and sequencing all of the genes in human DNA. This committee was established by the National Institutes of Health and the Department of Energy as part of the Human Genome Project. She is also president of the Hereditary Disease Foundation, a driving force in the research effort that succeeded in identifying the Huntington's disease gene.

Wexler received the prestigious Albert Lasker Public Service Award last year. She has also received a Fulbright fellowship, the National Institutes of Health Directors Award, the first Robert J. and Claire Pasarow Foundation Award, the Living Legacy Award, the Alumnae Athena Award from the University of Michigan, and numerous honorary degrees.

The lecture is free and open to the public. For additional information, call Himatee Patel, x8963.



Marc Tessier-Lavigne will speak at the Friday lecture today (Apr. 15).

Marc Tessier-Lavigne, assistant professor in the Department of Anatomy at the University of California, San Francisco (UCSF), will speak on "Identification of Axonal Chemoattractants in the Developing Vertebrate Spinal Cord" at the Friday lecture today (Apr. 15).

The smooth functioning of the nervous system is largely dependent on an intricate network of connections between neural cells established during embryogenesis. During this early period of development, each neuron sends out an axon to form connections with appropriate target cells. Tessier-Lavigne and his colleagues are studying the mechanisms guiding developing axons to their targets, including long-range chemoattractants, or chemical signals, which until very recently had never been isolated. In his lecture, Tessier-Lavigne will describe his laboratory's recent isolation of a family of axonal chemoattractants that can direct the growth of axons in the developing vertebrate spinal cord.

A graduate of McGill University (B.Sc., 1980), Oxford University (B.A., 1982, Rhodes Scholar), and University College, London (Ph.D., 1986), Tessier-Lavigne completed his postdoctoral studies at University College, London

Swedish, American scientists meet



A joint symposium of The Rockefeller University and Sweden's Karolinska Institutet [sic] early this week brought together scientists from both institutions for a two-day symposium focusing on eukaryotic gene expression. Here, they break from the lectures for lunch.

2 Double life of a research assistant

2 Full week for winter holiday

3 Taking our daughters to work

RU research assistant leads double life

By Jennifer Horne King

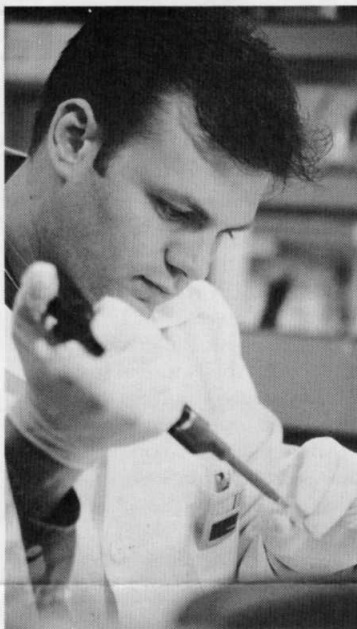
By day, David Miller works as a research assistant in the Wright lab, helping to purify a protein called septin in human blood; by night, he is either performing on stage in a musical or honing his singing, acting and dancing skills.

"It's a crazy life," said Miller, who is 26, "but I can't live without music. Fortunately, my abilities in science have made it possible for me to combine these two lifestyles and subsist."

However, a typical day, which can include an audition at lunch and a voice lesson or exercise class after work—not to mention tap-dancing and acting classes on the weekends—has made Miller consider a more flexible and lucrative career as physician's assistant. "The training is only two years and by graduation a well-paid, flexible job is virtually guaranteed," he explained. "With a job like that, I can more easily audition and fit in daytime rehearsals. Right now, I can only accept parts in shows that rehearse at night—and those are hard to come by."

Miller has juggled science and theater since college, where he first signed up for voice lessons in order to lighten up a heavy premedical course load at Brandeis University. "This was when I picked up the theater bug," he said. "After these first lessons, I tried out for a Gilbert and Sullivan show and was cast as the lead. I haven't shaken it since."

Since those early college days, Miller's talent as a tenor and actor



David Miller works both as a research assistant in the Wright lab (left) and as an actor (right).

has landed him parts in "The Mayor Musicals" at the 91st Street Playhouse, "Just Desserts: World Premiere," at Fordham-Lincoln Center, in which he played the lead, and more recently in "Tintypes," a turn-of-the-century Americana musical at the Broadhollow Theater on Long Island.

"So far, I have thrived on a life of juggling theater and science," said Miller, who thinks nothing of carrying two different résumés, one of which includes a glossy photo portrait. "Sometimes I think my dual life is advantageous," he con-



Courtesy of David Miller

fided. "Auditioners will often ask, 'And what do you do to earn a living?' and instead of answering the usual, like waiting tables, I'll answer—oh, so casually—I do research in cellular physiology and immunology." I walk out of auditions feeling pretty confident that they'll remember me. After all, how many people can say they're working actors and lab assistants?"

Friday lecture to focus on nerve development

(continued from page 1)

(1986-87) and Columbia University (1987-91). In 1991, he was appointed assistant professor in the Department of Anatomy and member of the Programs in Developmental Biology, Cell Biology and Neuroscience at UCSF.

Tessier-Lavigne has won numerous honors and awards, including a Searle Scholarship, a McKnight Scholarship, a Klingenstein Fellowship, the Basil O'Connor Starter Scholar Research Award from the March of Dimes Birth Defects Foundation, and a McKnight Investigator Award. Tessier-Lavigne currently serves on the editorial advisory board of *Development*.

The lecture will be held in Caspary Auditorium at 3:45 P.M. and preceded by tea in Abby Aldrich Rockefeller Hall at 3:15 P.M. All are welcome.

Winter holiday to last full week

The Rockefeller University will be closed during the entire week of Dec. 26, 1994 to Jan. 1, 1995, for the Christmas and New Year's holidays.

Traditionally, the university allots a total of four days over the course of two weeks for Christmas and New Year's, but this year these two holidays both fall on Sundays. In recognition of the conscientious and productive service and many creative contributions by the faculty and staff, President Torsten Wiesel decided to take the opportunity to add two days to the holiday schedule this year and to close the university for a complete week.

"It is hoped that this decision, made and announced early, will allow many in our community to plan for this extended break in ways that will be especially meaningful for them and their families," said Wiesel. "The university may also realize some modest savings in expenses that would otherwise occur if we proceeded with the traditional schedule."

As with all holidays, the workload in some laboratories and departments may require the attendance of selected employees. Laboratory and department heads are encouraged to arrange compensatory time for those employees who need to work during this end-of-year holiday. Any questions about these arrangements may be directed to Personnel, x8300.

New ramp increases access to auditorium



Carpenters Andrew Gallina (front) and Samuel Rivera build a wheelchair access ramp to Caspary Auditorium. Those who wish to use the new ramp should contact Security, x8506, and Custodial Services, x8117.

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High school students tour lab



Associate Professor Arleen Auerbach (second right) gives a group of high school students from Dwight School a tour of the Laboratory for Investigative Dermatology last month. The students will come back to the lab several times this semester to learn more about molecular biology.

Teen daughters to get close-up view of careers at RU

Teenage daughters of Rockefeller University employees who may be interested in a future career in science or related fields will have the opportunity to visit campus as part of "Take Our Daughters to Work Day," Thurs., Apr. 28.

Following an introduction in Cohn Library at 9:00 A.M., the girls will go on a tour of the Rockefeller Research Building. Rosalia Ennis, planner in Planning and Construction, and Carolyn McGinnis, manager of the Office of Administrative Services at the Howard Hughes Medical Institute, will point out features of some of the university's most advanced research laboratories. Following the tour, the girls will stay with their parents at work until a luncheon at 12:15 P.M., when Professor Mary

Jeanne Kreek will describe how she became interested in science and what motivated her to study the biology of addictive diseases.

"Young women today need to believe that they can achieve anything they set their mind on," said Kreek, who has a 16-year old daughter. "They must not be afraid to participate early on in activities that interest them—to take advantage of internships and science fairs, for example. My first national science fair at age 15 later led to a job at the National Institutes of Health. It's important to be optimistic and to believe in oneself."

After lunch, the girls will be given a tour of the Transgenic Service Laboratory by Annemarie Walsh-Mullen, director of the facility.

Take Our Daughters to Work is a national public education campaign organized by the Ms. Foundation for Women to draw public and media attention to girls' ideas, concerns and dreams. The initiative aims to help girls feel comfortable in the workplace and to prepare them to talk with future employers.

The Rockefeller program is open to girls over the age of 11. Because of safety concerns, the organizers of the event request that all participants in the program register in advance and obtain approval from their lab head. Children should be closely supervised at all times. Call Teri Smiling, x8058, to obtain more information on the day's events and to register.

Media Center speeds along information superhighway

The Media Resource Service Center is now offering a faster and more convenient way to send electronic files to be processed for photos, slides and high-resolution image-setting. Instead of hand delivering a floppy disk to Bronk 114, members of the Rockefeller community can use MediaServe, a new server machine, to send files electronically from their computer. Individuals can also pick up files—such as those created from scanned slides, flat art or autoradiographs—from Media Resources using the new electronic service.

"MediaServe presents an easier way to get files in and out of the

Media Center," said Ray Aldrete, director of Media Resources.

"Not only is it convenient—you can use it 24 hours a day, 365 days a year from a home or office computer—it is also free for users. For people who have files too big to fit on a floppy disk, it will also eliminate the need to purchase expensive transfer disks and drives."

Bringing the new system on-line was a collaborative effort by the staffs of Computing Services and Media Resources.

MediaServe, which uses ethernet, is a public directory on the university's network. As files placed

in this directory are not protected as they would be in a private directory, individuals with concerns about the security of their files should contact Aldrete, x7208, to discuss alternatives.

There are a number of different file transfer methods using MediaServe. Contact Media Resources, x8990, or the computer consultant, x8940, to obtain specific instructions. Those who wish to use MediaServe but do not yet have a computer account, access to a network connection or both should obtain an application form from Computing Services, Smith Hall B4 or x8925.

Smile! Photo contest brings flash to Sweat Shirt Shop

Do you have a favorite photograph of your child in a Rockefeller University t-shirt? Could you take a terrific picture of your mom sporting a Rockefeller University umbrella? Now is the time to enter the Children's School's amateur photo contest. Entries must feature an item purchased from the Sweat Shirt Shop.

The Sweat Shirt Shop, whose proceeds benefit the Children's School, sells a range of t-shirts and sweat shirts with The Rockefeller University logo. It also offers Rockefeller teddy bears, backpacks, gym bags, portfolios, bibs, lapel pins, umbrellas and key rings. The shop, located in Rockefeller Research 133 (in the tunnel), is open on Tuesdays, from 11:30 A.M. to 1:30 P.M.

"I hope the photo contest will promote the Sweat Shirt Shop, and at the same time foster a sense of community spirit at the university," said Research Associate Liz de Oliveira e Silva, chair of the Board of Directors of the school. "Most people who work here are proud to be affiliated with Rockefeller and enjoy wearing the university's logo."

The contest will be judged in several categories including one for photos by children. Prizes include a portrait session and 16 x 20 inch print courtesy of the Media Resource Service Center (value \$400), lunch or dinner for two, and a gift certificate for the purchase of film. Winning photos will be on display in the atrium of the Rockefeller Research Building for two weeks in June.

The deadline for submissions is Fri., Jun. 3. Drop off photos, which may be any size or format, at the Media Resource Service Center, Bronk 114 (attention Elle Starkman) or at the Children's School, first floor of Graduate Students Residence (attention Kathy Burke). Entry forms should be filled out at the time of submission. A \$5 per photo entry fee will benefit the Children's School.

For more information, contact De Oliveira e Silva, x7676, Elle Starkman, x8991, or Leslie Aitchison, x7425. The Media Resource Service Center is offering a 20 percent discount on Kodak film processing and printing for photos for the contest. Employees of the Media Resource Service Center are not eligible to enter.



Photos such as this one, of Christopher de Oliveira e Silva, can be entered in The Rockefeller University Children's School amateur photo contest.

Potpourri

Tri-Institutional Noon Recital

Clarinetist Sharon Kam and pianist Angela Cheng will perform at the Tri-Institutional Noon Recital today (Apr. 15). Winner of the Munich International Competition and of the Prix Davidoff of the Schleswig Holstein Musik Festival, Kam has performed with Isaac Stern as well as the Guarneri Quartet. Cheng, winner of the Medal of Excellence at the Mozarteum of Salzburg and the Gold Medal at the Arthur Rubinstein International Piano Master Competition, is a soloist with the symphony orchestras of Boston, St. Louis and Israel. The program will feature works by Robert Schumann, Francis Poulenc and Johannes Brahms. The concert, to be held in Caspary Auditorium at noon, is free and open to the public.

Steven Spellers



Clarinetist Sharon Kam (above) will perform with pianist Angela Cheng at the Tri-Institutional Noon Recital Today (Apr. 15).

Clinical Research Seminar

Suzie Chen, assistant professor in the Laboratory of Cancer Research, College of Pharmacy, Rutgers University, will speak on "Molecular Mechanisms of Adipocyte Differentiation" at the Clinical Research Seminar, Wed., Apr. 20, in Nurses Residence 110B.

Library reception

The Rockefeller University Library will host a reception in celebration of National Library Week Fri., Apr. 22 in the Audubon Lounge (periodical reading room) on the first floor of Welch Hall. The reception, to be held from noon to 3:00 P.M., will feature food and beverages as well as a display of the latest computer-access to Medline-OVID. A representative of CDPLUS, the company responsible for producing OVID, will be on hand to answer questions about the system, its development and future trends. All are welcome to attend.

Visa lottery

The U.S. Department of State will issue 55,000 immigrant visas beginning in October 1994 to the winners of an upcoming visa lottery, which is open to natives of most countries around the world. Entries for the lottery must be submitted between Wed., Jun. 1 and Sat., Jun. 30. For information about eligibility and the application process, visit the Personnel Office, Founder's Hall 103.

Raffle

Food Services is holding a raffle for a free lunch for two on Secretary's Day, Wed., Apr. 27, in Abby Aldrich Rockefeller Hall dining room. Starting next week, breakfast patrons of the Tower cafeteria can

enter the contest by submitting their breakfast receipt, with their name and extension written on it, in the raffle bowl in the cafeteria.

Pool tournament

Partners for the pool tournament have been posted in the Faculty and Students Club. Participants should contact their partners, arrange a time to play and inform Pat Griffin, x8078, of the schedule.

Vans

The sign-up book for the two university vans—which can be used without charge by students, post-docs and faculty—has been moved from the Deans' Office to the security desk on the first floor of Founder's Hall. Those interested in borrowing a van can sign up at the new location from 9:00 A.M. to noon and 2:00 to 5:00 P.M. on business days. Questions should be directed to Firdaus Dhabhar, x8625, or Vern Carruthers, x7577.

New Mac Virus Protection

Disinfectant 3.5 is now available from Computing Services. It protects against two new viruses. The first is INIT-29-B, a new strain of the INIT-29 virus, which was discovered Apr. 2. This virus infects systems, applications and document files and causes printing problems and unexpected crashes. The second virus is called INIT-9403, recently discovered in Italy. It causes damage to the Finder file and may erase information on other disks connected to the infected

Mac. So far the virus has affected only computers running the Italian version of the Mac Operating System software.

Disinfectant 3.5 can be copied from the Freebies folder which is on all Macs in the Users Area, Smith Hall A21, or downloaded from the /mac+pc/mac software archives on rj, in the directory PublicFiles/VirusProtect. For further information, contact the consultant, x8940.

Mac genome encyclopedia

The Mouse Genome Encyclopedia from the Jackson Laboratory is now available for the Macintosh. The self-extracting macintosh file can be picked up from the RUCS Mac Freebies Volume. Networked Macintoshes can access the Mac Freebies Folder by selecting AppleShare in the Chooser, choosing Zone=CENTRAL, Server=RUCS Pathworks Server, login=GUEST, Volume=Mac Freebies. Once the volume appears on your desktop, open the Freebies Folder then the Science Folder. The self-extracting archive is called encyclo-mac-1.0a7.sea. Drag this file to your Macintosh hard disk. Double-click encyclo-mac-1.0a7.sea to extract the encyclopedia. To view a mouse chromosome after starting the application, select Open in the File menu and open the Committee Report Folder. Select the chromosome of interest. Note that the following is required to run the mouse encyclopedia.

- Hardware: any Macintosh with a 68020 or better (68030, 68040) processor; a color display with at least 256 colors is recommended;
- Software: System 7.0 or newer;
- Memory: at least 4 mb. of RAM;

- Disk: at least 5 mb. free disk space.

Questions should be addressed to Anthony Popowicz, Computing Services, x8925.

Election

Professor Vincent A. Fischetti and Associate Professor John Zabriskie were elected fellows of the American Society for Microbiology last month.

Honor

University Professor Joshua Lederberg was recently inducted as fellow of the Association for Computing Machinery for having made critical contributions toward and exhibiting extraordinary leadership in the development of the information age.

Election

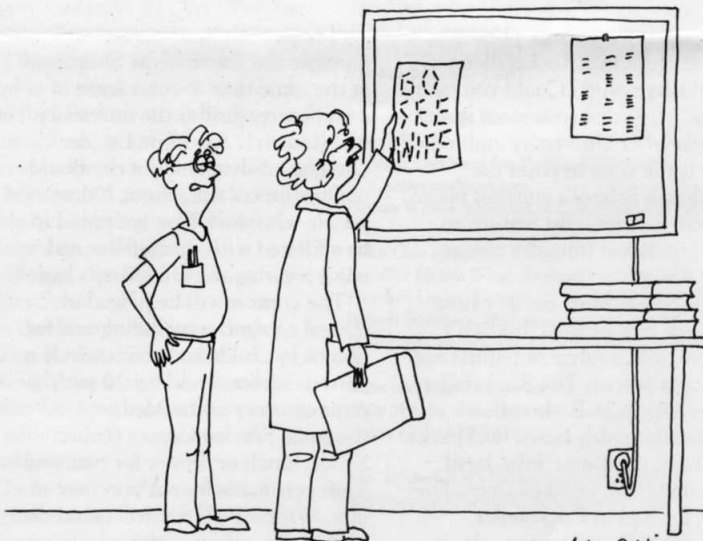
Professor Bruce McEwen was elected fellow of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences last month. New fellows are elected "in recognition of their distinguished contributions to science, scholarship, public affairs, and the arts."

Lecture

Associate Professor Jeff Friedman spoke on "Tackling a Weighty Problem: Mouse Genetics in Obesity" at the Second International Nature Genetics Conference on Mouse Genetics, Transgenics and Polygenics earlier this month.

Talks

Professor James Manning was invited to speak about his research at several universities in Japan by the Japanese Society for Promotion of Science earlier this month.



"THAT'S YOUR GEL? MAN, SHE'S GOOD."

Julie Ackerson