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The Rockefeller University

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news & notes

April 7, 1995 Volume 5, Number 24

The Rockefeller University

Library celebrates National Library Week



While the library offers patrons some traditional equipment, it will soon offer the most modern of browsing tools: a home page on the World Wide Web.

To celebrate National Library Week, which begins Sun., Apr. 9, the Rockefeller University Library will conduct a free raffle and cosponsor the Tri-Institutional Noon Recital with the tri-institutional libraries.

"This is the third year we're honoring National Library Week. Please celebrate with us," said Patricia Mackey, librarian.

Library users may enter the raffle by filling out tickets, which will be placed on a table at the library entrance Sun., Apr. 9. The drawing will be held Fri., Apr. 14 at 4:00 P.M. First prize is a free literature search by the reference librarian. The four second prizes are autographed copies of recent books by faculty: *On the Frontier: My Life in Science* by President Emeritus Frederick Seitz; *Vital Dust* by Professor Emeritus Christian de Duve; *Einstein Lived Here: Essays for the Layman* by Professor Emeritus Abraham Pais; and *The Hostage Brain* by Professor Bruce McEwen and Harold Schmeck, Jr. Third prize is lunch for two in the Abby Dining Room.

Pianist Tian Ying, fifth place winner of the Van Cliburn competition, will perform at the Tri-Institutional Noon Recital Fri., Apr. 14.

Molecular biologist to talk on insulin action and resistance at Friday lecture

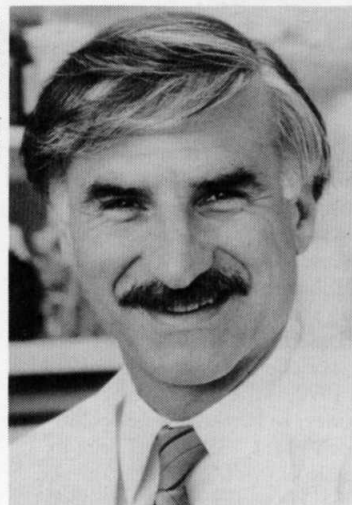
C. Ronald Kahn, director of the Elliott P. Joslin Research Laboratory, will discuss "Alternate Pathways of Insulin Action and Mechanisms of Insulin Resistance" at the Friday lecture today (Apr. 7).

Kahn studies the molecular mechanisms of diabetes and insulin action. He was involved in the initial studies characterizing the insulin receptor and insulin-degrading enzymes. He and his colleagues were the first to describe the syndromes caused by autoantibodies to the insulin receptor and genetic defects in the receptor. Kahn demonstrated that receptor aggregation was an early event in insulin action and identified the receptor as a protein tyrosine kinase. Using in vivo mutagenesis he defined the domains of the receptor responsible for kinase activity and interaction with substrates. Recent work in Kahn's laboratory has resulted in the cloning of a novel ras-related protein believed to cause insulin resistance in Type II diabetes.

"Ron has made fundamental contributions to our understanding of the mechanisms of insulin

See Kahn, page 2

Courtesy of C. Ronald Kahn



C. Ronald Kahn will lecture today (Fri., Apr. 7).

AAALAC visitors approve animal care and research at RU

Rockefeller recently received a recommendation for continued full accreditation by the American Association for the Accreditation of Laboratory Animal Care (AAALAC) by AAALAC representatives who visited the campus. The accreditation, which is voluntary, testifies that standards much higher than those required by law are being observed by university faculty and staff who work with and care for laboratory animals.

"AAALAC accreditation demonstrates to granting organizations and the general public that we are committed to maintaining the highest possible standard of humane and ethical animal care and use," said Michael Hayre, director of the Laboratory Animal Research Center (LARC). "Many of the leading scientific institutions in the United States participate in the program because it's a 'gold standard' for animal research facilities."

Formed in 1965, AAALAC now comprises delegates from 32 scientific, educational, and professional organizations who ensure that participants comply with federal regulations and the scientific communi-

See AAALAC, page 2

Research administration director appointed to succeed Cook

Lauren Hackett, who has worked for four years in the university's Office of Research Administration (O.R.A.), has been appointed director. She succeeds Penny Cook, who left the university in February to become administrative director of the Skirball Institute at New York University Medical Center.

"Lauren Hackett will continue Penny Cook's emphasis on working

actively with faculty in identifying and securing support from both government and private agencies," said Frederick M. Bohen, executive vice president. "President Wiesel and I are pleased to have her on our administrative team. Maximizing sponsored research funding is one of the university's most important service and support functions, and we ask everyone to work closely with her."

For most of the past four years, Hackett served as assistant director of the O.R.A., working on every aspect of its daily operations. As director, Hackett will proceed with plans developed with Cook to unify all aspects of grants administration (preaward and postaward) in one office. The O.R.A. will move in April to Founder's Hall, 3rd floor, to be part of the Controller's staff. Hackett will work with the Controller's staff to provide a single office that will serve the faculty in all matters regarding grants.

Hackett plans to begin a new initial contact program for new inves-

tigators and to continue to improve the system of identifying available support. The annual funding guide and monthly addendum is now accessible on the World Wide Web, and Hackett will be working on access to other national data base applications.

Kay Loebner



Lauren Hackett has been promoted to director of the Office of Research Administration.

2 Viruses abroad and at home

3 Cell biologists reminisce

4 Jumpers join up

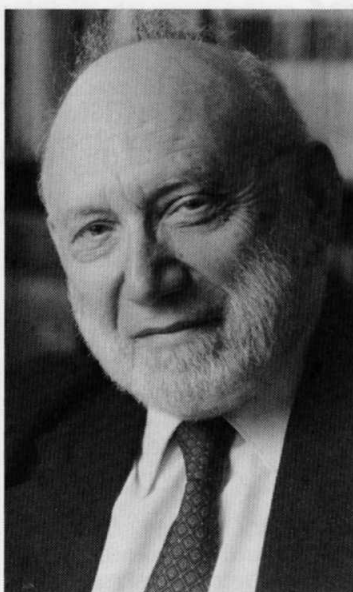
Lederberg to lecture at local synagogue on threat of emerging viruses

President Emeritus and University Professor Joshua Lederberg will inaugurate the Central Synagogue's Maimonides Shabbat Sat., Apr. 8 with a luncheon talk on "The Threats to Human Survival from Emerging Viruses."

The Central Synagogue, a reform Jewish congregation, recently established the Maimonides Shabbat to honor the medical profession. Named for Moses Maimonides, a 12th century physician, rabbi, and philosopher, it is synchronized with the reading from the Torah of a passage on the diagnosis of disease and treatment of plagues in Biblical times (Lev. 14). Lederberg's talk follows the service.

Lederberg, who served as Rockefeller's president from 1978 to 1990, is the son of a rabbi. A pioneer in bacterial genetics, he received the 1958 Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine at the age of 33. He was elected to membership in the National Academy of Sciences in 1957 and is a charter member of its Institute of Medicine. In 1989, he was awarded the U.S. National Medal of Science.

Sabbath services begin at 10:30 A.M. The luncheon will follow at



Joshua Lederberg, president emeritus of Rockefeller, will lecture at Central Synagogue Sat., Apr. 8.

about 12:30 P.M. Central Synagogue is located on Lexington Avenue at East 55th Street. For information and reservations (\$35 per seat), call Bernard Silverman, 688-4722. All are welcome.

AAALAC visitors

(continued from page 1)

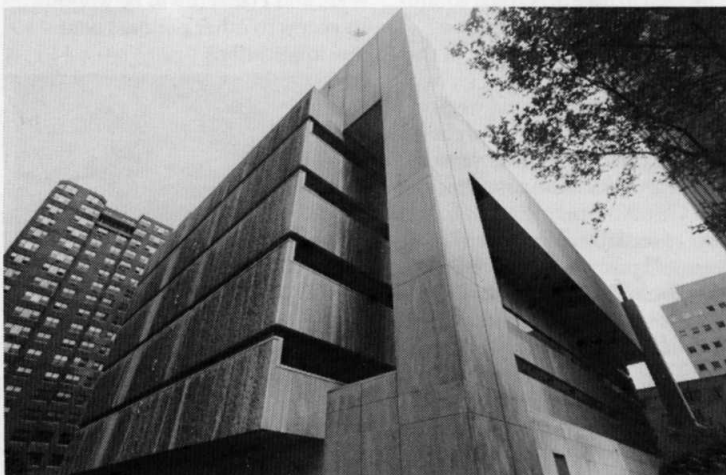
ty's currently accepted practices for the care and use of laboratory animals. Among AAALAC's member societies are the American Association for the Advancement of Science, the American Medical Association, the Federation of American Societies for Experimental Biology, and the Society for Neuroscience.

Rockefeller has been continuously accredited by AAALAC since 1981. Renewed every three years, accreditation requires several site visits by AAALAC representatives; facilities are notified two or three weeks in advance. "It's not enough time to fix anything if you are not already conforming to their standards. We're in compliance all the time," said Hayre. "But there are always new people to train and new research protocols that have to be set up correctly."

After notification, a team of accreditation representatives visits the campus. Inspections, of both LARC and labs, focus on humane treatment of animals, protection of personnel from hazards associated with their use, and control of variables that could adversely affect research. Site visitors assess lab

safety and occupational health policies, review personnel training, and even survey an institution's organizational structure.

"It's a very comprehensive review. We're pleased to have been recommended," said Hayre. "Not only do government granting agencies regard the accreditation as evidence of excellence, but many pri-



Representatives from the American Association for the Accreditation of Laboratory Animal Care (AAALAC) who recently visited RU's Laboratory Animal Research Center (above) and labs on campus recommended that Rockefeller's accreditation be continued.

Kahn

(continued from page 1)

action and resistance," said Associate Professor Jeffrey Friedman, who will introduce Kahn today. "He is one of the world's leaders in the study of Type II diabetes."

Kahn received an M.D. from the University of Louisville School of Medicine in 1968. After completing an internship and residency at Barnes Hospital in St. Louis, he went to the National Institutes of Arthritis, Metabolism and Digestive Diseases (N.I.A.M.D.) in 1970. He became senior investigator of the N.I.A.M.D.'s Diabetes Branch in 1973, and chief of the Section of Cellular and Molecular Physiology in 1979. Kahn began his affiliation with Harvard Medical School in 1981 as an associate professor of medicine. That year he also became research director of the Joslin Diabetes Center in Boston. In 1986 he was named

Harvard's Mary K. Iacocca Professor of Medicine. Kahn also serves on the medical staffs of New England Deaconess Hospital and Brigham and Women's Hospital in Boston.

Kahn has received numerous awards, including the David Rumbough Memorial Award for Scientific Achievement, the Eli Lilly Award for Research, and the Elliott P. Joslin Medal. He is a fellow of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences and the American Association for the Advancement of Science and a member of the American Diabetes Association and the Association of American Physicians.

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

Mild computer virus infects some campus PCs

A computer virus that is more a pest than a major danger may be infecting Rockefeller's PCs, according to Computing Services, which has an antivirus program that will detect and can sometimes fix PCs afflicted by Buptboot, as the virus is called.

Symptoms of a hard disk infected with Buptboot include inability to boot up, memory errors, and problems copying files; floppies may be unable to have files copied to or from them or experience

problems running applications. The virus may also remain silent for a time after infection.

Version 2.16 of the antivirus program F-PROT detects Buptboot. If it cannot altogether disinfect, it will write over the damaged parts of a disk. F-PROT can be copied from the Freebies directory on PCs in the Computing Services User Area, TSH A21 (bring a floppy). For information and assistance, call the consultant, x8940.

credibility with the public in dealing with their concerns about animal-based research."

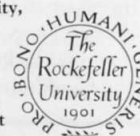
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Roundtable participants describe early epoch of modern cell biology

Pioneers of modern cell biology at Rockefeller participated in a roundtable discussion held recently as part of the university's celebratory "Journey Into the Cell." Two of the three authors of the historic paper presenting the first electron micrograph of an intact cell, Keith Porter and Ernest Fullam, were too ill to attend, but their colleagues and students reminisced. Albert Claude, the paper's third author, died in 1983; Philippa Claude, his daughter, represented him. Other participants were Rollin Hotchkiss, professor emeritus, who joined Rockefeller in 1938; George Palade, an investigator at Rockefeller from 1946 to 1973; Sanford Palay, a fellow at Rockefeller in 1948 and an assistant professor in 1953; George Pappas, a visiting investigator at Rockefeller from 1952 to 1954; Philip Siekevitz, professor emeritus, who came to Rockefeller in 1954; Lee Peachey, Porter's first student, who graduated in 1959; and Christian de Duve, the Andrew W. Mellon Professor Emeritus who joined Rockefeller in 1962. The roundtable was moderated by David Sabatini, who received a Ph.D. from Rockefeller in 1966. What follows are a few of their recollections.

Philippa Claude recalled her father's principles for lab work. He was meticulous, so things could take a long time. I worked with him for a while in Brussels [at the Institut Jules Bordet]. He prepared a very long time for each experiment. Then, sometime in the late afternoon, we'd go up to the animal quarters to a beautiful lab that he had set up to breed mice. We did transplants up there, very meticulous, very slow, very sterile. We'd often get home at two or three or four in the morning. He didn't have much bureaucracy to deal with at two in the morning and people weren't pestering him for anything, so that was ideal.

Lee Peachey described some of Keith Porter's thoughts about the first electron micrograph of an intact cell. When I asked Keith a few days ago what he remembered most about that time, one thing he mentioned was the business of mounting the cells so that they could be put in the electron microscope. With respect to the micrograph itself, in a taped interview conducted a few years ago he was asked whether the picture had been difficult to interpret. He replied, "Sure, because we were seeing things for the first time, and we recognized that. There was no name for [what we saw], and there was no immediate recognition of what it might be. All we could say was that we were looking at a reticular structure, and eventually



At Rockefeller's celebration of electron microscopy and cell biology, held at the university Mar. 16-18, pioneers in the early days of modern cell biology recalled their experiences. Participants were (left to right): Philippa Claude, Christian de Duve, Rollin Hotchkiss, George Palade, Sanford Palay, George Pappas, Lee Peachey, Philip Siekevitz, and David Sabatini.

out of that grew the name [the endoplasmic reticulum]."

Rollin Hotchkiss recalled how he began to work on cell fractionation. [While] I was working in the lab of René Dubos on the metabolism of bacteria, Claude and I often had conversations. One time, I think in 1942, he came in and said, "I want to talk to you seriously some time. How do you determine enzymes?" Claude understood that the particles [which he obtained through low speed centrifugation and which later were identified as the mitochondria] must have special enzymes. He said, "I think they are the factories of the cell, and I would like to know what is in them." [In the course of the analytic work that followed, Hotchkiss, Claude, and others showed that cytochrome oxidase and succinoxidase are associated with the mitochondria, and quantified the amounts of these enzymes in the organelles.]

Sanford Palay recounted his expectations when he came to work with Claude. I first came to Rockefeller in January of 1948. My intention was to learn differential centrifugation and cell fractionation from Claude. But he had a rhythmic program, which was that one year he would do biochemistry and the next year, no matter what, he would do electron microscopy. January 1, 1948 was the initiation of the electron microscopy year, so I wasn't able to do what I came to do. However, it was a very interesting period. They still had no really good method for preparing tissue for electron microscopy, so I was put to the task of figuring out how to make tissue sections thin enough to put into the electron microscope. Claude had invented the microtome, but the tissue could not be sectioned thinly enough with the microtomes available at the time.

George Pappas recollected working with Keith Porter. I started work with Keith Porter in 1952 and Keith, as you all know, aside from his mind and his thought, was a superb technician with his hands, and he wanted to show me everything. I wanted to find out about free living amoebas, pinocytosis, and phagocytosis, and Keith said "That's a good idea, we'll get to that, but in the meantime, let's try to see about collagen and fibroblasts." He taught me how to culture chick dermis and grow fibroblasts and form coated cover slips and slip the stainless steel mesh underneath. These were primary cultures and we had to use chicken plasma to embed the tissue for the fibroblast to grow on, and Keith had a rooster brought in and showed me the wing vein and how to draw blood.

Philip Siekevitz recalled his decision to come to Rockefeller. I came to the Institute in 1954. I had finished a two-year postdoc at the Harvard laboratories, working on in vitro protein synthesis using subcellular fractions, and then had gone to work with Van Potter at the University of Wisconsin. There I had learned a lot about the coupling of oxidation to phosphorylation, and we did quite a few experiments on these events in isolated mitochondria. After three years there, I didn't have a job, but one day Van said, "Phil, I've got something for you," and he showed me a letter from George Palade. I was not sure whether Palade wanted someone to continue the interrupted work on the biology of cell fractions, started by Claude and continued by George Hogeboom and W.C. Schneider, or whether he wanted someone also knowledgeable about protein synthesis. When I came, I found out it was the latter. I was invited to come to Rockefeller and talk about it, but even without coming, I knew about Rockefeller, and this was to me a wonderful

opportunity. So the coming here to talk to George and later to Keith Porter was a formality on my part, because I had already accepted.

Christian de Duve responded to the question: Were you ever tempted to become a microscopist? I was never really tempted for the very simple reason that whenever I look in a microscope, I don't see anything, so the only way for me to see something is for me to test it chemically, and find that it exists. When Alex Novikoff came to Louvain in 1956 to help us try and look at our fractions in the electron microscope, the first thing he said was, "Where's the microscope?" We didn't have an electron microscope, of course—nobody had one in 1956 except Claude. I said, "There is no microscope" and he just couldn't understand that we would be fractionating cells without looking at the fraction in the microscope.

George Palade described the wider context of cell biology research. We shouldn't give the wrong impression that cell biology developed in this country and in the world only because Rockefeller served as its "American Cradle." There was already activity in cell biology in this country. It had started initially at the RCA laboratories and continued in quite a number of others, of which the most successful was Daniel Pease's lab. There was also a very powerful group at M.I.T. in which the people considered themselves biophysicists or physicists before everything else, and that's the reason they didn't have too much understanding of our very biological preoccupations. In addition to this, there was activity abroad [particularly in France and Sweden]. The important point is that we were part of a general effort. We were important as creators of cell biology in the United States, but we didn't create cell biology without any help whatever.

University's basketball players jump to join three-on-three tournament

Winter grudgingly gives way to spring, and hoop dreams turn to reality: Rockefeller is gearing up for its first three-on-three basketball tournament.

Abby Alvarez, a mechanic in Plant Operations who organized the tournament, hand-delivered flyers to every lab and office on campus a few weeks ago. Since then, 16 teams have committed to play.

Responses to Alvarez's call have come from all corners of the university, from technicians to faculty. In the Controller's Office, accountant John Vega reported a great deal of discussion about forming a team. In the end, however, "it ended up being me and another accountant, Andrew Demers,"

Vega said. After scouting around other departments on campus, Demers and Vega recruited Stanley Bryan, a typist-clerk in the library.

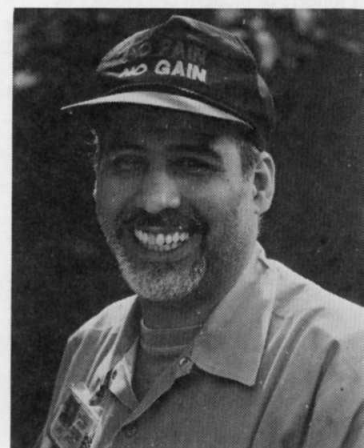
Associate Professor Elaine Tuomanen, an alumna of the McGill University women's basketball team, is playing with a group from the Laboratory Animal Research Center. Tuomanen said, "In keeping with the spirit of the tournament, I don't know the other members of my team very well."

Since there is no basketball court at Rockefeller, the task of finding a suitable place to play has fallen on the shoulders of Robert Francis, director of Plant Operations. "What was originally intended as a pick-up game has now expanded to 16 teams," said

Francis. "This really reflects a lot of morale at the university. There's an obligation to do this whole thing right." Sites where a collapsible hoop may be set up are being considered. The location will be announced in time for the scheduled May 1 tip-off. Games will end at 16 points; eight points will mark the halftime, when players may rest for two minutes.

Alvarez is seeking sponsors for the event, and he would like four more teams to sign up by Fri., Apr. 14 to complete the tournament roster. He can be reached at x8001.

But Alvarez has even grander hoop dreams: "I'd like to buy another hoop and have a full court game next year."



Abby Alvarez, a mechanic in Plant Operations, is organizing a basketball tournament for the Rockefeller community.

Potpourri

In memoriam

The university community mourns the passing of John D. Wilson, interlibrary loan assistant, who died of a heart attack Sat., Apr. 1. Wilson, who joined RU in December 1985, is survived by his mother, Mattie Wilson, and a sister, Susan Wilson, both of Ft. Pierce, Florida.

Tri-Institutional Recitals

Rita Lilly, soprano, and Richard Kolb, lute and archlute, will perform at the Tri-Institutional Noon Recital today (Apr. 7). Pianist Tian Yang, fifth prize winner at the Van Cliburn International Piano Competition, will perform Fri., Apr. 14. Both concerts take place in Caspary Auditorium at noon. Admission is free. All are welcome.

Friday film

A Night at the Opera (U.S.A., 1935), directed by Sam Wood, will be shown today (Apr. 7) at 8:00

P.M. in Caspary Auditorium. The film, considered by the Marx Brothers to be their best, pokes fun at grand opera. Admission is free.

Spraying

Weather permitting, the trees and shrubs on campus will be sprayed Sat., Apr. 8 from 6:00 A.M. to noon. The Grounds Department recommends that those on campus that day stay out of direct contact of the spray, close windows, turn off air conditioners, and keep pets inside. The rain date is Sat., Apr. 29. For more information, call James Sullivan, x8001.

Workshops

Computing Services is offering the following workshops:

Intro to Macintosh: Tues., Apr. 11, 2:00 to 4:00 P.M.

Intro to DOS: Wed., Apr. 12, 10:00 A.M. to noon;

Word for the Mac, I & II: Tues., April 18 and Tues., Apr. 25, 10:00 A.M. to noon;

Intro to Windows: Wed., Apr. 18, 10:00 A.M. to noon.

All workshops are free, but registration is required. Contact Joan Falciano, x8925, or leave voice mail at x7768 to register.

Clinical Research Seminars

Kendall A. Smith, professor of medicine at New York Hospital-Cornell Medical Center, will speak on "Interleukin 2 Immunotherapy of HIV Infection" at the Clinical Research Seminar Wed., Apr. 12. Jeffrey Scott Flier, chief of the Division of Endocrinology and Metabolism at Beth Israel Hospital and professor of medicine at Harvard Medical School, will discuss

"Transgenic Models for the Study of Obesity, Diabetes, and Their Complications" Wed., Apr. 19. Seminars are held at noon in Nurses Residence 110B.

Easter raffle

The Abby Aldrich Rockefeller Dining Room is sponsoring an Easter raffle. Diners may fill out tickets from Mon., Apr. 10 to Thurs., Apr. 13. First prize is four free lunches in the Abby Dining Room; 2nd prize is an Easter cake (rainchecks may be given); 3rd place is a one-pound chocolate Easter egg from Bloomingdale's. The drawing will take place Fri., Apr. 14 at 3:00 P.M. and winners will be notified immediately.

Health and Wellness lecture

Mitchell A. Kline, clinical instructor in the Department of Dermatology at New York Hospital, will discuss "Skin Care under the Sun" at the Health and Wellness Lecture Tues., Apr. 18 at noon in Caspary Auditorium. All are welcome.

Chromatography

Peter D. Moore of Pharmacia Biotech, Inc. will discuss "Purification Strategies and Chromatographic Media Selection Criteria" Wed., Apr. 19 at 1:00 P.M. in Tower 305. Demonstrations of new chromatographic techniques will be held in the Core Technology Center in Rockefeller Research Building Wed., Apr. 19 through Fri., Apr. 21. For further information or to schedule sample running, contact Bill Farley, 1-800-526-3593, x5609.

Cohn Forum rescheduled

The Cohn Forum scheduled for Tues., Apr. 25 will take place on

Mon., May 1. Margaret Catley Carlson, president, The Population Council, will lecture at 5:30 P.M. in Abby Dining Room. Sherry will be served at 5:00 P.M.

Local holdings on OVID

Users of OVID/Medline are now able to determine from the bibliographic citations display if a journal title is available at the RU, Memorial Sloan-Kettering, or Cornell libraries. If none of these libraries carries the title, a message will appear indicating that an interlibrary loan (I.L.L.) may be requested. An I.L.L. can be requested by e-mail to librequest, by fax to x7840, or in person at the Information Services Office on the first floor of Welch Hall. For further information contact David Man, educational services librarian, x8907.

Awards

Professor Robert Roeder has been honored with two awards given in recognition of his contributions to the understanding of how the expression of genetic information is controlled in higher organisms. The Lewis Rosenstiel Award for Distinguished Work in Basic Medical Research will be presented to Roeder Wed., Apr. 12 at Brandeis University in Waltham, Massachusetts. Roeder will receive the 1995 Passano Award from the Passano Foundation Tues., Apr. 18 at the Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine. Roeder shares the awards with Robert Tjian of the University of California at Berkeley.

News&Notes schedule

News&Notes will not be published Fri., Apr. 14 due to the Easter and Passover holidays.



Rita Lilly will sing at the noon recital today (Fri. Apr. 7).