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New investigator appointed to RU faculty

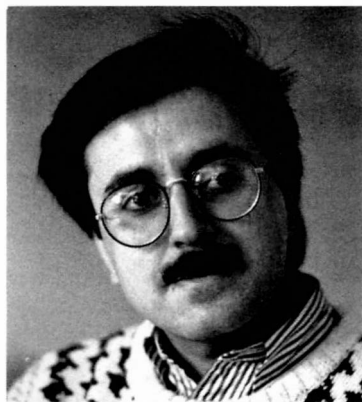
A researcher who is currently the principal investigator of the Neural Computation Group at the Institute for Advanced Study in Princeton, New Jersey, will join the Rockefeller faculty next summer as an assistant professor and head of laboratory.

He is Joseph J. Atick, the first faculty member appointed from outside the university since the recruiting program was launched last summer.

"Joseph Atick's appointment is great news," said Rockefeller President David Baltimore. "It's a beginning for Rockefeller University in a new and exciting area of science."

Atick's research area is computational neuroscience, a burgeoning field concerned with finding testable mathematical theories that predict how the nervous system is organized, and how it computes its perceptual problems. His research focuses on the sensory pathways in general and the visual system in particular. The ultimate goal of such research, Atick says, is to understand the nervous system as a whole.

Atick, 27, dropped out of high school because he found the course work boring and studied physics and mathematics on his own. One of the results of these studies was a college-level physics textbook Atick completed at age 16. The book attracted the attention of Stanford physicist Stanley Hanna, who invited Atick to explore the possibility of studying there. After a round of tests, Atick was admitted to Stanford as a graduate student in physics. He received his Master's degree in 1985 and his Ph.D. two



Joseph Atick

years later. He joined the Institute for Advanced Study as a postdoctoral fellow in 1987 and was made a long-term member in 1988.

Atick was inspired to move into the neurosciences from high-energy physics by his enduring fascination with the nervous system. "My work has always been driven both by experimentation and by first principles," he said, adding that Rockefeller—where investigation is shaped by the same two considerations—will provide a congenial atmosphere for his research.

"Rockefeller is a unique place, which has always had researchers at the frontiers of experimentation," he said. "To be close to where the action is in the neurosciences will stimulate my work, and drive me toward my goals. I'm very enthusiastic about the possibilities for collaboration."

Student mugged at 65th and York

Scott Dougan, a fourth-year graduate student in the DiNardo lab, was mugged at gunpoint recently on the corner of 65th St. and York Avenue.

Dougan was walking on the west side of the street at 11:30 p.m., Fri., Nov. 8, when two men pretending to use the phone accosted him. One pulled a gun. After searching him and taking his wallet and keys, they told him to walk in the direction he came from. Dougan was not injured.

Sister libraries update pact

Agreement allows borrowing during trial period

A new agreement among the Tri-Institutional Libraries enables members of the Rockefeller community to borrow books from Cornell University Medical College and Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center during a six-month trial period. Similarly, members of the other institutions will be able to borrow books from Rockefeller during that time.

"The librarians—Memorial Sloan-Kettering's Jeanne Becker, Cornell's Robert Braude, and I—decided that the time had come to work more closely together," said Patricia Mackey, Rockefeller librarian. "Pooling our resources will enable each of us to keep costs down and to provide better service to our users. I think we all hope that reciprocal borrowing can become a permanent arrangement."

Cornell's collection, which comprises 96,000 books and 463,000 journals, will be open to anyone from Rockefeller or Memorial Sloan-Kettering who registers with Cornell's book circulation desk. Because of their smaller staffs and more focused collections, RU and Memorial Sloan-Kettering will limit inter-institutional borrowing to permanent faculty, postdocs, research associates, and graduate fellows who demonstrate a need for the material.

In addition, the new agreement will make it easier for Rockefeller researchers to use the other libraries' facilities:

- Cornell's and Memorial Sloan-Kettering's on-line computer catalogs are now available on some Rockefeller terminals. Researchers interested in using this service should call Doug Many, library systems analyst, x8906.
- Rockefeller researchers now have the option of opening an account at Cornell for photocopying. Application forms are available at Rockefeller's library or Cornell's Photoduplication Services (one level below the library); forms should be returned to Cornell's Photoduplication Services.
- Photocopy cards for use in the Memorial Sloan-Kettering library can be purchased there at the library desk.

Similarly, Rockefeller's catalog is on-line at Cornell and Memorial Sloan-Kettering. RU photocopy cards are now sold at the two libraries.

The new agreement builds on a tradition of cooperation among the libraries which dates back to the 1930s. In the 1970s, the relationship was formalized in a pact that allowed members of the institutions on-site access to each other's collections.

2 Security gives tips on safety

3 RU scientist advises those on the move

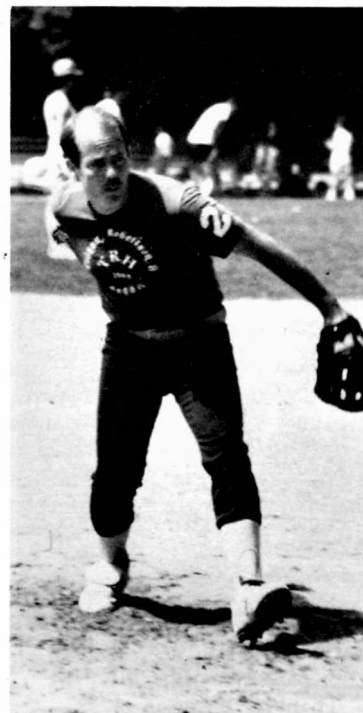
4 Library invites reviews of journals

Group gets tips on staying well abroad

Sixty-five friends and benefactors of RU attended the Trusts and Estate Committee Dinner last Tuesday. Frederick A. Terry, Jr., partner at Sullivan and Cromwell and chair of the committee, hosted the event.

After the reception, President David Baltimore introduced the

evening's program in Caspary Auditorium. Rockefeller investigator Thomas Sakmar spoke on "Health Tips for International Travel: How to Travel and Stay Well" (see story, page 3). The lecture was followed by dinner in Abby Aldrich Rockefeller Hall dining room.



Why is David Foster frowning? To find out, see Letter to the Editor, page 2.

See Student, Page 2