

BenchMarks

THE COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER OF THE ROCKEFELLER UNIVERSITY

FRIDAY, APRIL 15, 2005

Announcements

Paul Nurse to address campus. Paul Nurse will hold a town hall meeting to discuss his strategic plan — and answer questions — on May 4 at 3 p.m. in Caspary Auditorium. All are invited to attend. A draft version of the strategic plan, which Nurse presented to the Board of Trustees at its meeting on March 9, will be available at www.rockefeller.edu/strategicplan beginning April 25.

Employee recognition April 21. Rockefeller University will recognize employees with 10 and 20 years of service at its annual Employee Recognition Program April 21 from 3 to 5 p.m. in the lobby of Weiss, where art from the employee art show will also be exhibited. Employees to be recognized for 20 years are: Jesse Ausubel, Carmen-Gloria Balmaceda, Nina Bhardwaj, Jan L. Breslow, George Cuevas, Veronica I. Delph, Maren E. Imhoff, Audley W. Lawrence, Gualbert B. Louisy, Svetlana Mojsov, Sanford M. Simon, Yuk-Wah Tsang, Mary O. Windels; employees to be recognized for 10 years are: Randolph K. Albert, Joseph J. Bonner, Karen Bulloch, Elias Coutavas, Antonio Cruz, Kristen E. Cullen, Mindya Fasman, Roselaine A. Gavidia, Juanita A. Gordon, Mohamed Guermah, James Gugluzza, Michael J. Held, Ali H. Brivanlou, Uster Jackson, Mila Jankovic, Keith Jonas, Aleksander Kats, Unkyu Kim, Elaine Y. Lam, Orna Levran, Albert J. Libchaber, Marguerite Mangin, Ivan O'Campo, Ricardo Palomo, Joseph B. Patterson, Mary C. Raffloer, Anura Rambukkana, Robert T. Schill, John E. Slattery, Alvin C. Tucker, Maria T. Vargas Hastings, Devon C. White. All are welcome to attend and support the honorees and the artists. Hors d'oeuvres and refreshments will be served.

Take your child to work day announced. April 28 will be Rockefeller's annual "Take your child to work day," hosted by Human Resources. Children must be between the ages of 8 and 12 and must be accompanied by an adult. To register, contact Alana Manthorn at x8300 or manthoa@rockefeller.edu by April 21.

Security moves to new system. Campus Security has transferred all ID card coding information to a new computer operating system, which allows Security to manage the campus card access system more efficiently. If you are having trouble with your ID card, please take it to the Security office in Nurses Residence, first floor or the Founder's Hall Security Desk. In a few cases there have been errors in transferring data to the new system.

APPOINTMENTS

Russell L. Carson elected chairman of the Board of Trustees

BY ZACH VEILLEUX

Russell L. Carson's first visit to Rockefeller, in 1991, wasn't to attend an elaborate dinner or to mingle with Nobel prizewinners. It was as mundane as a doctor's appointment.

Russ Carson's daughter Cecily, who suffers from the skin disease psoriasis, had been referred to Rockefeller's Martin Carter, one of the world's leading experts on psoriasis. A high school senior at the time, she eventually spent a month at the Rockefeller University Hospital undergoing tar treatment, a messy but noninvasive therapy that requires inpatient care.

When her father came to pick her up at the end of her stay, he asked a nurse where he should go to pay the bill. He wasn't satisfied with the answer: that his daughter's treatment had been paid for by research grants and private funding and no money was due. He went home and calculated what he considered to be fair compensation for the care his daughter received. A few days later, he took Martin Carter to lunch and handed him a check for \$50,000, payable to Rockefeller University.

"At the time, I knew almost nothing about Rockefeller. I knew only that I had had a very satisfying personal experience with Marty Carter, who treated Cecily's soul as much as her skin," Russ Carson says.

Over the next 14 years, he would come to know a great deal more about the university. While his daughter continued to have regular appointments with Martin Carter — and after his death in 1993, with



James Krueger — Russ Carson began attending Rockefeller events. He met with the university's senior leadership. The more he learned about Rockefeller's scientific endeavors, the more he was impressed.

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Teaching science to trustees

An orientation program exposes Board members to Rockefeller's workings

BY BETSY HANSON

The boardrooms of Wall Street aren't anything like the wet labs of RRB. So for the highly successful business people who join Rockefeller's Board of Trustees — and who have the ultimate responsibility for making sure the university keeps running — it can be useful to get a lay of the land.

In an effort to give some of the university's key decision-makers closer exposure to the nuts and bolts that underlie the scientific institution they oversee, the first of two "trustee orientation" sessions was held last month.

"The idea to hold these orientation sessions came out of a working group on how to engage the trustees more closely and increase their awareness of science," says Jane Rendall, the university's corporate secretary and main liaison with the trustees, who organized the meeting. "Planning the sessions, I tried to imagine what a new trustee

would need to know. There are core functions that needed to be explained, and the flat management structure of Rockefeller is pretty unusual!"

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From Paul Nurse | The search for new faculty

Rockefeller scientists have gathered an impressive number of awards in recent years, and over the past few months three of our researchers have received significant new honors.

On April 5, Jeffrey Friedman was awarded the Gairdner International Award for his contributions to our understanding of obesity and the discovery of leptin. The Gairdner Prize is among the most prominent scientific prizes a scientist can receive, and it is awarded to just a handful of cutting-edge medical scientists each year. Jeff, who studies the molecular mechanisms that regulate food intake and body weight, joins a select group of just 274 scientists worldwide who have received a Gairdner since it was established in 1959.

Also this spring, Thomas Tuschl, a Rockefeller lab head who joined the faculty in 2003 and who studies how RNA regulates gene expression in cells, was selected as a Howard Hughes

Medical Institute Investigator. Tom is now one of twelve Rockefeller professors who have been awarded the highly prestigious HHMI appointment, which provides significant financial support for research activities.

Vanessa Ruta, meanwhile, who is a graduate student in Rod MacKinnon's laboratory, has become one of just 15 graduate students in the United States and Canada to receive the 2005 Harold M. Weintraub Graduate Student Award. Not only is this a significant accomplishment for Vanessa, but it's also the continuation of an impressive record — this is the fourth year in a row that a Rockefeller graduate student has won the Weintraub award.

Successes such as these underscore the high quality of researchers at all stages of their careers who work at the university.

In the last few weeks, we have launched a search process to

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Paul Nurse, President
Joseph Bonner, Director of Communications
Editor: Zach Veilleux
Staff writer/editor: Betsy Hanson
Art Director: John Haubrich

Carson continued

When Dick Furlaud and Torsten Wiesel invited him to join the Board in 1994, he accepted.

Since then, he has served on the Board committees responsible for development, investments, nominations, and finance and operations, as well as the Executive Committee. He has chaired the Development Committee and the Centennial Campaign and has been vice chair of the Board since 1999.

“He has been extremely generous towards Rockefeller, both in terms of his financial support and his time,” says Marnie Imhoff, Rockefeller’s vice president for development. “He has rarely missed a meeting and has become one of our most knowledgeable trustees about the inner workings of the university.”

At the March 9 Board meeting, the Board unanimously and enthusiastically elected Russ Carson its new Chairman.

Russ Carson is an entrepreneur and venture capitalist, and his company, Welsh, Carson, Anderson & Stowe, is the world’s largest private equity investor in the healthcare sector. Before co-founding WCAS in 1979 he was chairman and chief executive officer of Citicorp’s venture capital division. In the business world he’s accustomed to taking risks and to thinking big — words that are also often used to describe Rockefeller science.

“Rockefeller has the potential to make a dramatic impact on the human health condition, and the things that occur in Rockefeller labs are not small things,” he says. “I want to make sure the university’s scientists have the support they need to work quickly and productively to solve problems.”

Though he has become an active philanthropist over the past decade, donating money to a variety of educational and artistic causes — including Dartmouth College, the Metropolitan Museum of Art, the New York City Investment Fund and the Inner-City Scholarship Endowment Fund — he ranks Rockefeller at the top of the list. “Rockefeller has been and is going to remain my number one commitment,” he says firmly.

His two most recent gifts, a \$10 million contribution to the Centennial Campaign in 2001 and a \$15 million “depleting endowment” announced last fall, have been among the university’s most generous in its history. His wife, Judy, is also active at Rockefeller; she joined the executive committee of the The Rockefeller University Council in the 1990s and is also active today in the University’s Women & Science initiative.

“Russ is an extraordinary, generous individual with a tremendous amount of business experience and a real interest in biomedical science. We are fortunate to have as our chairman somebody who very much understands Rockefeller’s purpose and is committed to steering us to ever greater accomplishments,” says President Paul Nurse.

Russ Carson and the previous chairman, Dick Fisher, worked closely together over the past several years and spoke highly of one another. “Russ will be a fine successor to Dick,” Marnie Imhoff says. “He is going to be looking for ways to streamline processes and he’s going to want to be proactive and to seize opportunities.”

Russ Carson agrees. “We have to take an aggressive stance and make the right investments in the right places,” he says. “Our challenge is to find the appropriate balance between scientific excellence and financial responsibility.”

He has expressed particular interest in Paul Nurse’s efforts to recruit new talent and to make Rockefeller more prominent in the community. He would also like to attract new donors to the university and to develop the next generation of leadership for the Board.

“I have a huge amount of respect for Paul and for his ideas — he is a smart and very balanced human being,” Russ Carson says. “It’s not my job to run the university. It’s my job to oversee, to ask questions, and ultimately to make sure Paul is successful in his job.”

From Paul Nurse continued

recruit new heads of laboratory to Rockefeller. Over the next three years, we hope to bring in six new tenured or tenure-track faculty members to head laboratories at Rockefeller — a level of recruitment that will maintain the university at its present size of approximately 75 labs. We are looking especially for junior-level faculty members who are still at an early stage in their career and are doing highly innovative research.

Hermann Steller, head of the Strang Laboratory of Apoptosis and Cancer Biology, will initially serve as the chair of the standing search committee that will evaluate candidates and lead the recruitment efforts. We have placed ads soliciting applications in several major journals including *Science*, *Nature* and *Cell*, and you may also have noticed the announcement on the university’s home page that was put up in late February. We have written many letters to colleagues at other institutions to ask directly for recommendations. All faculty at the university have been asked to look out for outstanding scientists whom we might attract to Rockefeller.

With support from Human Resources and using an electronic system developed by Information Technology, Hermann and the eleven other heads of lab on the committee, including Mike Young and myself, will review the applications on a rolling basis as they are received. Candidates who are identified as being a good fit for Rockefeller will be invited to visit the university to give a seminar and to talk to the faculty.

Ultimately, just a handful will be invited to work at Rockefeller. The process is highly selective and only those scientists who are truly the brightest and the boldest in their fields will become part of our community.

There are a couple of things that are noteworthy about the way we are conducting this open search process. First, we are not soliciting applications from any particular field or subject area, but are searching for exceptional scientists from any background. This tactic will result in our being more likely to encounter the rare individuals who are doing truly outstanding research. We will also pay attention to whether candidates will flourish in our unique interdisciplinary environment.

Secondly, we have not established any specific timetable for when we expect hires to occur. We are not aiming to fill specific positions, but are establishing a mechanism to maintain surveillance of available talent. When we see somebody we like, we will move quickly to recruit him or her. If we are not sufficiently impressed with the choices in front of us, we will simply wait until we have better ones. While our long-term goal is to replace retiring or departing faculty members with new recruits at about the same rate, we are not under pressure to move at any particular pace.

Finally, we are trying to be as open as we can about the way this process is being conducted. We are encouraging the entire faculty to contribute. As you know, I am very interested in fostering interactions between scientists, and I want the next generation of Rockefeller faculty members to be people who have a broad appeal across several areas of study. All scientific personnel — including students, postdocs and technical staff — should keep a vigilant eye out for the best and most imaginative talent, both experienced and young, as they travel to attend symposia and conferences.

I will keep you updated as the search progresses.

Teaching science to trustees continued

The program, which was attended by eight of the university’s 54 trustees, addressed the financial support of the university and elements of its infrastructure, with presentations from Executive Vice President Fred Bohlen, Vice President for Finance James Lapple, Vice President for Development Marnie Imhoff, Associate Vice President for Plant Operations Alex Kogan, and Associate Vice President for Planning and Construction George Candler. In addition, Fred Quimby, associate vice president and senior director of the Laboratory Animal Research Center, discussed why animal models are important in research.

The half-day meeting culminated in a conversation between President Paul Nurse and Ali Brivanlou, head of the Laboratory of Molecular Vertebrate Embryology, about the potential of human stem cell research and the importance of this work as part of the university’s scientific portfolio.

“This session included both new members of the Board and members who have served for many years,” says Rendall. “The group particularly appreciated the science discussion, and have commented favorably on the scope of the presentations.”

At a second meeting, scheduled for April 27, trustees will hear presentations on academic affairs, core resource cen-

ters, medical affairs, the graduate program, and technology transfer, as well as a research discussion on new breakthroughs in immunology with Michel Nussenzweig and Jeffrey Ravetch.

In the past, trustees have been introduced to the university on an individual basis, in ways focused on their particular interests. For the most part, they have had few opportunities to meet people at Rockefeller beyond the president and senior administrative staff. After last week’s session, however, they mingled with students and postdocs from the Brivanlou laboratory at an informal lunch in the President’s House. In the future there will be more opportunities at receptions and dinners for trustees to meet Rockefeller scientists and staff from all areas.

In addition to the half-day sessions, trustee orientation will include lunches with Paul Nurse in groups of seven or eight to discuss specific topics. “Trustees were telling us that they don’t hear enough about science,” says Rendall. “At these lunches and other events we’ll discuss topics such as what it’s like to run a lab — all the way from how you decide what research to do, to how you house your students and postdocs. We hope to give the trustees a more complete impression of how the university operates.”

Rockefeller in the News



From February 10 to 16, Rockefeller University played host to the New York screenings for the 12th Van Cliburn International Piano Competition. News reports of the event mentioned the university. (Above, Rockefeller’s **Seth Darst** plays during a joint Rockefeller/Van Cliburn event held in conjunction with the screenings.)

A March 3 *Wall Street Journal* article covering the search for an AIDS vaccine quoted a recent scientific paper published by **David Ho** in *Public Library of Science Medicine*. Describing the effects of HIV infection, Ho reported, “In the natural course of HIV infection, the virus wins 99 percent of the time, showing that specific immunity in an infected person is unable to completely clear the virus.”

ABC Online and other media outlets picked up a recent *Science* paper from **Jurg Ott**’s laboratory and colleagues at Yale and the National Eye Institute, reporting the discovery of a gene linked to macular degeneration. Age-related macular degeneration is a leading cause of blindness among the elderly and has no treatment.

Three anonymous officemates from Rockefeller made the “Talk of the Town” pages in *The New Yorker* magazine on March 21. The trio of knitters was riding the “yarn bus,” which takes Manhattanites to a knitting-supply store in Westchester County.

Virginia Huffman promoted to vice president

Virginia Huffman, who came to Rockefeller in 1985, has been promoted from associate vice president to vice president for Human Resources and has been made an officer of the university.

"My capable team and I are committed to supporting the scientific mission at Rockefeller," says Huffman. "We're a unique and complicated institution, and my priority is to continue to create and maintain the best possible environment so the university remains competitive, attracting and retaining the best talent at all staff levels."

Huffman's primary responsibilities include academic appointments, immigration, benefits, compensation, recruitment, employee relations, and training. She also provides leadership and advice to the directors of the university's Child and Family Center, Occupational Health Services, Food Services and the Faculty and Students' Club.

Huffman has served Rockefeller for the last 20 years. She rose to the top HR posi-

tion as director in 1990 and was made associate vice president in 2001.

"People are Rockefeller's most important resource," says President Paul Nurse. "By appointing Virginia to the level of vice president I want to acknowledge her extraordinary expertise within this organization, and also to elevate the role of Human Resources at the university."

"Over the last 15 years, Ginny Huffman has built a modern, responsive human resources office that is widely respected throughout the campus for the quality of the programs and services it offers," says Fred Bohlen, the university's executive vice president. "Ginny herself has long served as a trusted advisor on personnel matters to both members of the faculty and leaders of the administration, including a succession of presidents. This well-earned promotion properly recognizes the many important contributions Ginny makes all the time to the well-being of the Rockefeller 'family' and community."

Gerald Latter becomes assoc. VP

Gerald Latter, who came to Rockefeller in October 2001 to head the university's Information Technology department, has been promoted to associate vice president for Information Technology. Latter also retains the title of chief information officer, in charge of the library and telecommunications, in addition to information technology. These three areas are administratively under the Office of Information Systems and Services.

Latter was director of Information Technology, and founder of the IT department, at Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory before joining Rockefeller. In more than 10 years at Cold Spring Harbor, he also was a senior computer scientist and managed computing for QUEST Protein Database Resource Center. Latter is the author or coauthor of 25 scientific papers.

Over the past three years Latter has managed a major project to modernize and integrate the university's administrative systems, including finance, human resources and purchasing. The project, called Integrative Administrative Systems, unites in a single database personnel and financial information such as demographics, salaries and benefits,

and direct and indirect costs. By streamlining administrative systems so that, for example, an employee's data is all in a single database accessed by Finance and HR, the chances for errors are significantly reduced. In addition, IT recently completed three years' work to upgrade network cables and other equipment and provide faster, more reliable, network connections. Latter also oversees the project to provide wireless network access campuswide.

"IT is of growing importance at Rockefeller and at every research institution," says Paul Nurse, Rockefeller's president. "Jerry deserves recognition for this and for the many achievements of his department over the past three years."

"Jerry Latter has one of the most complex and challenging administrative leadership jobs at Rockefeller in the fast-changing arena of information technology," says Executive Vice President Fred Bohlen. "He brings to every assignment a command of the subject matter, a deep ethic of service and a down-to-earth approach to solving problems, and advancing the university's IT capabilities. We are lucky to have him here at Rockefeller in such a key role."

ADMINISTRATION

New Media + Design resource center closes

Graphics and printing services outsourced and moved to other departments

BY BETSY HANSON

As part of an ongoing review of the university's operations and finances, Rockefeller administration decided in late February to close the New Media and Design Resource Center. The decision came a year and a half after the department, formerly called the Media Resource Center, was restructured and renamed in an effort to increase campus use of the center and cover the costs of its operation.

Fred Bohlen, executive vice president, announced the closure in a February 23 memo to heads of laboratories and administrative offices.

The university had subsidized photocopying and some other services provided by New Media and Design. But with the university projecting deficits for the next several years and use of the center's services dwindling, Bohlen and Amy Wilkerson, associate vice president of research support, concluded it was no longer practical for the university to maintain these services in-house.

"The subsidies reached a level that we just can't support any more," says Wilkerson. "Looking at the university's needs and financial considerations, it was decided that for some services there is the possibility of getting comparable quality work from outsourced vendors."

The university has had in-house illustration, photography and audiovisual services since at least 1906, although staffing and organization have changed as technologies and the needs of researchers have evolved. The campus store grew over the past decade from a place to buy batteries, zip disks and other items not carried by the stock room, to a more comprehensive business selling books, electronics and merchandise with the university insignia.

The most recent restructuring reflects changes in how scientists communicate their research results, according to Wilkerson. "Now that design programs are so user-friendly, there is less demand for the services New Media provided," says Wilkerson. "It used to be that you needed some-

body to draw things for you. Also, people are increasingly using nonpaper methods for business."

Ten positions were cut from New Media and Design's staff of 16. The remaining six employees now work in Information Technology. "It was a really painful decision to have to cut back staff on this scale," says Fred Bohlen, executive vice president. "I know this is a great disappointment and a loss for these staff members, who have for many years done a superb job in serving the university."

Some services that were offered by New Media and Design, including audiovisual services, are now available through IT. For photocopying and for traditional design and print services Rockefeller employees must now turn to outside vendors. The campus store has closed; however, university insignia items are still available through the Child and Family Center's sweatshirt shop.

For details about how to obtain specific services, call x8990.

A trove of Nobel history

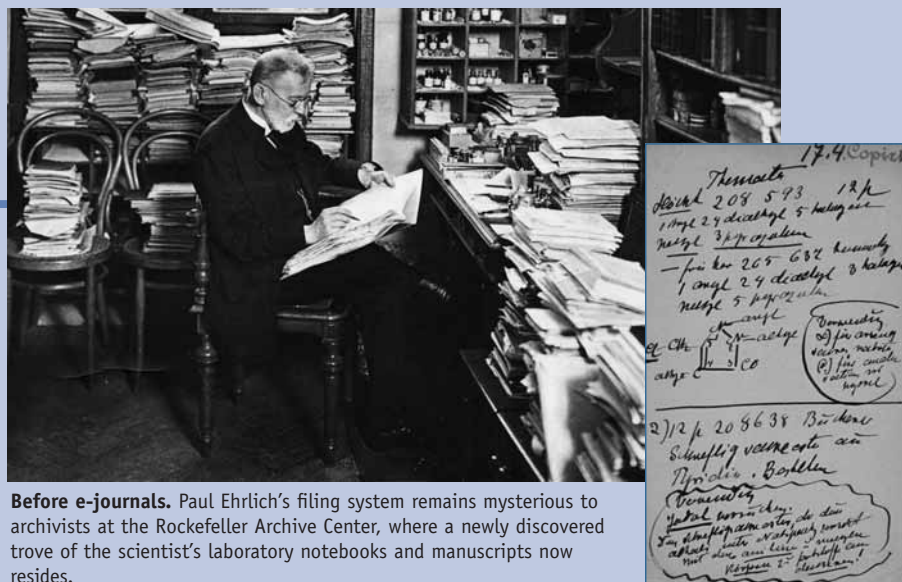
Rockefeller Archive Center acquires Paul Ehrlich's lab notebooks

Paul Ehrlich, who won a 1908 Nobel Prize for his immunology research, was the leading medical scientist of the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. Now, 90 years after Ehrlich's death, the Rockefeller Archive Center has obtained a newly discovered trove of his manuscripts.

"Last summer I received an email from a professor in Switzerland asking if we would be interested in materials from an anonymous donor," says Darwin Stapleton, the archive center's executive director. Considering that Ehrlich's library and papers were scattered under the Nazi regime, "it's like a Rubens surfacing somewhere."

Among the materials are about 20 laboratory notebooks, some dating from Ehrlich's studies using aniline dyes to identify previously unknown types of blood cells, and others likely from his systematic screening of hundreds of chemical compounds to discover a "magic bullet" drug to treat syphilis. In addition, there are more than 1,000 so-called bloeke — essentially index cards with Ehrlich's notes on them.

"The bloeke add to our understanding of how this great scientist operated," says Arthur Silverstein, professor emeritus at the Johns Hopkins School of Medicine, and author of the definitive history of Ehrlich's immunology research. "They are notes-to-self, lists of things to do and things to buy, suggestions to his colleagues about how to do experiments."



Before e-journals. Paul Ehrlich's filing system remains mysterious to archivists at the Rockefeller Archive Center, where a newly discovered trove of the scientist's laboratory notebooks and manuscripts now resides.

The newly acquired papers add to the Archive Center's existing collection of Ehrlich's scientific papers, already the most comprehensive in the world. These were deposited by Ehrlich's grandson, Gunter Schwerin, in the 1970s.

Researchers can study the bloeke and other materials at the Archive Center by appointment. But be forewarned. Says Silverstein, "Ehrlich's handwriting was absolutely atrocious."

milestones

PROMOTIONS, AWARDS AND PERSONNEL NEWS

Promoted:

Paul G. Feinstein, from research associate to research assistant professor, Mombaerts Lab.
Marc Flajolet, from research associate to senior research associate, Greengard Lab.
Shiaoqing Gong, from research assistant professor to research associate professor, Heintz Lab.
Jyoti Kumar Jaiswal, from postdoctoral associate to research assistant professor, Simon Lab.
Daniel C. Nelson, from research associate to research assistant professor, Fischetti Lab.
Raymond Schuch, from research associate to research assistant professor, Fischetti Lab.

Hired:

Catherine Adamidi, laboratory manager, Tuschl Laboratory.
Vasiliki Anest, postdoctoral fellow, Allis Laboratory.
Jose Avalos, postdoctoral associate, MacKinnon Laboratory.
Julia Bellamy, assistant to the office of the general counsel, General Counsel.
Jeremy Biane, research assistant, Nottebohm Laboratory.
Erin Brachman, postdoctoral associate, O'Donnell Laboratory.
David Brosgol, director, Investments.
Rafael Catala-Rodríguez, postdoctoral fellow, Chua Laboratory.
Gilles Charvin, postdoctoral associate, Siggia Laboratory.
Camille Clowery, copy editor, Rockefeller University Press.
Sanford Coker III, systems administrator, Information Technology.
Jason Crockett, copy editor, JCB, Rockefeller University Press.
Ana Paula Garate, postdoctoral associate, LARC.
Michelle Ryu Gleason, postdoctoral associate, Hudspeth Laboratory.
Eve-Ellen Govek, postdoctoral associate, Hatten Laboratory.
Terry Graziano, assistant to the office of technology transfer, Technology Transfer.
Cagan Gurer, postdoctoral associate, Münz Laboratory.
Erica Yvonne Jacobs, postdoctoral associate, Chait Laboratory.
Fronia Johnson, building services coordinator, Housing, Faculty House.
Seth Katz, associate, Investments.
Martina Kopp, postdoctoral associate, Rice Laboratory.
Kai Lam, animal attendant, LARC.
Lok Man John Law, postdoctoral associate, Rice Laboratory.
Heather Lee, research assistant, Friedman Laboratory.
Anthony Liporace, director of finance information systems, Finance Office.
Yun Lu, research assistant, Shaham Laboratory.
Todd Mariani, interactive communications specialist, Communications and Public Affairs.
Maria Nieves Martin Alguacil, visiting professor, Pfaff Laboratory.
Danissa Martinez, animal attendant, LARC.
Nathifa Mawiyah, administrative receptionist, Telecommunications Services.
Rhonda McCurchin, nursing assistant, Hospital Nursing Inpatient.
Joelle Miller, archival assistant, Archive Center.
Anna Sophia McKenney, research assistant, Rout Laboratory.
Gaitree McNab, biosafety officer, Laboratory Safety and Environmental Health.
Shane Murrell, human resources assistant, Human Resources.
Celeste C. Nelson, clinical research nurse practitioner, Breslow Laboratory.
Irina Nudelman, research assistant, Heintz Laboratory.
Santa Pecoraro, office administrator, Hepatitis Center.

Alexander Ploss, postdoctoral associate, Rice Laboratory.
Ryan Raam, postdoctoral fellow, Gotschlich Laboratory.
Heike Rebholz, postdoctoral associate, Greengard Laboratory.
Cristian Rosario, dean's office assistant, Dean's Office.
Luis Santory, painter, Housing, Faculty House.
Jan Skotheim, visiting fellow, Siggia Laboratory.
Tanya Stevens, postdoctoral associate, Heintz Laboratory.
Laxmi Manohar Tirunagari, research assistant, Sakmar Laboratory.
Jernej Ule, postdoctoral associate, Darnell, R. Laboratory.
Anthony Valencia, lead porter, Housing, Faculty House.
Glorimar Vendrell, animal attendant, LARC.
Huidong Wang, postdoctoral associate, Darnell, R. Laboratory.
Stefan Wennmalm, postdoctoral fellow, Simon Laboratory.
Emily Wiley, visiting professor, Allis Laboratory.
Katherine Wojciechowski, research assistant, Gadsby Laboratory.
Wei Xu, visiting scientist, Ott Laboratory.
Bevan Yeates, telecommunications technician, Telecommunications Services.
Xianglin Yuan, research support specialist, Proteomics Resource Center.
Mingming Zhou, research associate, Greengard Laboratory.

Awarded:

The 2005 Gairdner International Award, to **Jeffrey M. Friedman**, "for contributions to our understanding of obesity and particularly for the discovery of the adipose tissue hormone, leptin." Friedman is one of six recipients of the award, which will be conferred at a symposium in Toronto in the fall. Thirteen members of the Rockefeller University faculty have been honored with the prestigious award since it was established in 1959. Look for more coverage of Friedman's Gairdner Award in the next issue of *The Rockefeller University Scientist*. Friedman is head of the Laboratory of Molecular Genetics.

Jeffrey M. Friedman, the Passano Award, which recognizes exceptional contributions to the advancement of medical science. The award, which is given by the Passano Foundation, will be presented in Baltimore, Maryland on April 19. Friedman is head of the Laboratory of Molecular Genetics.

Vanessa Ruta, the 2005 Harold M. Weintraub Graduate Student Award, which honors graduate students at or near the completion of their studies who have done high-quality, original and significant work in biological sciences. Ruta will receive a certificate, travel expenses to attend a scientific symposium at Fred Hutchinson Cancer Research Center in Seattle, and an honorarium. It is the fourth year in a row that a Rockefeller Graduate student has one a Weintraub award. Ruta is graduate student in Rod MacKinnon's Laboratory of Molecular Neurobiology and Biophysics.

Cindy Maria Quezada, a postdoc in Erec Stebbins' Laboratory of Structural Microbiology, a 2005 L'Oreal Women in Science fellowship. Quezada studies how bacteria manipulate normal cellular processes in order to proliferate and survive within our cells. The award was presented at an April 12 ceremony at the American Museum of Natural History.

Annick Gauthier, the 2005 Science and Engineering Research Canada (NSERC) Howard Alper Postdoctoral Prize. Gauthier, a postdoc in Charlie Rice's Laboratory of Virology and Infectious Disease, studies how hepatitis C hijacks the liver's cellular machinery while staying hidden from the body's immune defenses. The prize, which includes a cash award, recognizes outstanding Canadian researchers who have reached a high level of excellence at an early stage of their careers. Gauthier is originally from Pincourt, Quebec.

Monika Lachner (Allis lab), **Akimitsu Konishi** (de Lange lab), **Benjamin Short** (Fuchs lab), **Takashi Soyano** (Chua lab) and **Marcus Stensmyr** (Mombaerts lab), postdoctoral fellowships from the Human Frontier Science Program, which provides support for scientists doing basic research on the mechanisms of living organisms, who are working in countries other than their own. In addition, Rockefeller graduate students Vincent Archambault and Jost Enninga received HFSP fellowships for postdoctoral study at other institutions.

Bruce McEwen, a honorary doctor of science degree from the University of Michigan in Ann Arbor at their Spring Commencement ceremony on April 30. McEwen, who is the son of a University of Michigan English professor and attended high school in Ann Arbor, is head of Rockefeller's Laboratory of Neuroendocrinology.

Xin Yu, a two-year research grant from the Lymphoma Research Foundation, which awards grants to support research into new leads for lymphoma treatment. Yu, who is a postdoc in Bob Roeder's Laboratory of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology, recently discovered a new form of a B-cell-specific gene activation protein (OCA-B/p35) critical for effective immune response.

José L. Avalos, a 2005 Damon Runyon postdoctoral fellowship. Awarded each year to approximately 50 young scientists conducting research relevant to the study of cancer, Damon Runyon fellowships provide financing to postdocs for three years. Avalos is a postdoc in Rod MacKinnon's Laboratory of Molecular Neurobiology and Biophysics.

The Rockefeller University Scientist, a gold circle of excellence award from the Council for Advancement and Support of Education. The *Scientist*, which is Rockefeller's external newsletter about Rockefeller people and discoveries, is produced by the Office of Communications and Public Affairs.



Named:

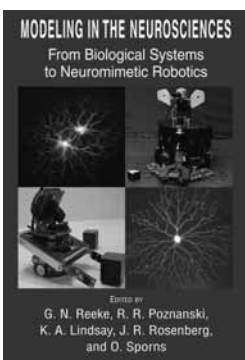
Paul Greengard, to the National Advisory Council on Aging, the group that advises the National Institute on Aging on the conduct and support of biomedical, social and behavioral research and training on the diseases and conditions associated with aging. Greengard is head of the Laboratory of Molecular and Cellular Neuroscience.

Thomas Tuschl, a Howard Hughes Medical Institute Investigator. Tuschl, who is head of the Laboratory of RNA Molecular Biology, is one of 12 current Rockefeller faculty members to have been awarded this appointment, which includes substantial funding for research.



Published:

Modeling in the Neurosciences, Second Edition: From Biological Systems to Neuromimetic Robotics, edited by George Reeke. The book has 24 chapters covering selected aspects of how to model



neural systems, ranging from calcium diffusion and dendritic cable equations to network analysis by graph theory and the use of robots to model neural systems. Reeke is head of the Laboratory of Biological Modeling.

Obituary



Martin A. Rizack, emeritus associate professor, died on March 7, 2005 at his home in Mamaroneck, New York. He was 78.

Rizack was a biochemist and clinical pharmacologist who joined Rockefeller as a fellow and assistant physician in 1957. His research focused on peptide hormones, in particular hormones involved in the release of fatty acids from fat-cell stores, and the control of steroid synthesis in adrenal cells. He described and characterized the enzyme hormone-sensitive lipase and the role of cyclic AMP in its activation. His research also explored the possibility of implanting or transferring cellular receptors, particularly those for lipoproteins, to determine whether this could correct problems of receptor function.

Rizack also was a pioneer in understanding drug interactions in patients taking more than one medication at a time. His book on this subject, *The Medical Letter Handbook of Adverse Drug Interactions*, was the first such book to be widely read by physicians, and was translated into several languages. Rizack began a long affiliation with *The Medical Letter*, as a member of its editorial board, in 1966.

Beyond his research, Rizack made many contributions to the university. He established and directed central facilities at the Rockefeller Hospital for clinical chemistry, hematology and bacteriology. He also was a member of the Hospital's Institutional Review Board. In addition, he served as associate dean of graduate studies from 1966 to 1974, and during the Vietnam conflict was a liaison with draft boards, working to allow students to complete their thesis research.

Rizack received the A.B. degree from Columbia University in 1946 and the M.D. from Columbia's College of Physicians and Surgeons in 1950. In 1960, he received the Ph.D. from The Rockefeller University, for research in Vincent Dolez's laboratory, and was also appointed assistant professor that year. In 1967, he became head of the Laboratory of Cellular Biochemistry and Pharmacology. Rizack was a fellow of the American College of Physicians. He is survived by his wife, Angeline Mastri, and five children from a previous marriage.