

COMMUNITY CONNECTION

New 'River Campus' project will advance science, and beautify the public East River Esplanade



Image from Rafael Viñoly Architects

Construction of a two-acre addition to the Rockefeller University campus, including a two-story laboratory building, begins this fall.

An expansion of The Rockefeller University's campus, to house new research space for its world-renowned bioscience faculty, is set to rise over the FDR Drive between 64th and 68th Streets. To be known as The David Rockefeller–Stavros Niarchos Foundation River Campus, it will house a two-story, 135,600 square-foot laboratory building in which scientists will conduct studies in genomics, neuroscience, and immunology, among other fields, addressing some of the world's most pressing medical needs.

The new campus and its signature building, The Marie-Josée and Henry R. Kravis Research Building, were designed by Rafael Viñoly Architects. With its long floor plates—each capable of housing as many as 10 or 12 labs—the low-profile building is ideally suited to the needs of modern collaborative science. Its location near the East River means that much of the construction can be conducted from barges, with minimal disruption to the neighborhood.

As part of the project, Rockefeller will also improve and beautify the adjacent portion of the public esplanade. The design will include hardy, attractive greenery; native or adapted trees appropriate to the esplanade's harsh microclimate; new pavement; a variety of seating

such as benches, high- and low-back lounge seats, and seat walls located to maximize views; and pedestrian lighting to provide a safe and renewed waterfront experience. A noise barrier will be installed to reduce the impact of FDR traffic on bikers, joggers, and other park users.

The design was developed with the participation of Community Board 8 representatives, city council member Ben Kallos, and other members of the local community. To ensure the ongoing upkeep of this portion of the esplanade, Rockefeller is also establishing a \$1 million endowment to fund the maintenance of its landscaping in perpetuity, and has contributed \$150,000 and appointed a board member to Friends of the East River Esplanade, a conservancy devoted to the esplanade restoration.

"This construction project is critical for the university's continued success and for the vibrancy of the Upper East Side," says Marc Tessier-Lavigne, Rockefeller's president. "In addition to providing future Rockefeller scientists with superb modern lab space, the project will also deliver new amenities for the community, most notably a repaired and improved esplanade along the East River waterfront."

The esplanade will remain open throughout the construction period, though it will be temporarily narrowed to facilitate the work. The public renovations will be complete and the new esplanade unveiled in the spring of 2018. The River Campus and Kravis Research Building will open in 2019.

For more information about the project, visit rivercampus.rockefeller.edu or send an email to campus.extension@rockefeller.edu.

Science Briefs

A Better Flu Fighter

Rockefeller researchers think it might be possible to develop a universal flu vaccine by taking advantage of a newly discovered mechanism by which antibodies in the immune system interact with the virus. Such a vaccine would require less frequent shots while protecting against many viral strains. Get more information about the research, conducted in the lab of Jeffrey Ravetch, at go.rockefeller.edu/flu-fighter.

One Gene, Two Diseases

Scientists at Rockefeller were surprised to discover that defects in a single gene

can make children susceptible to two very different diseases: aggravating but treatable fungal infections, and an invasive and potentially fatal bacterial disease. These findings, from the lab of Jean-Laurent Casanova, suggest that the gene, called RORC, plays a dual role in the immune system's response to infection. Learn more at go.rockefeller.edu/one-gene.

To Court or Not to Court?

Rockefeller's Vanessa Ruta and colleagues have studied how male fruit flies assess a potential mating partner to decide whether or not to court her. In tracking a neural circuit that integrates taste and smell signals in the brain of a male fly (image, right), the team made discoveries that may provide clues

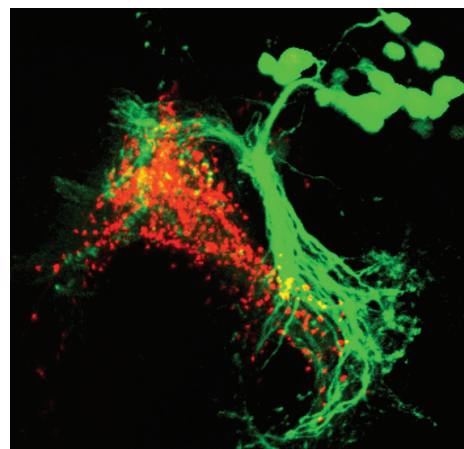


Image courtesy of the Vanessa Ruta lab, The Rockefeller University

about how our own brains make decisions. Read the full story at go.rockefeller.edu/to-court-or-not.



SCIENCE FOR THE BENEFIT OF HUMANITY

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The Rockefeller University is a research institute and graduate school devoted to making transformative discoveries in bioscience and improving medicine for the benefit of humanity.

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Clinical Trials

The Rockefeller University Hospital, a unique facility devoted exclusively to clinical research, is recruiting volunteers to participate in several innovative trials.

Riluzole in Alzheimer's Disease

Do you or your loved one have Alzheimer's? The Rockefeller University Hospital is conducting a study testing a new drug that may improve memory.

Learn more at go.rockefeller.edu/riluzole.

Flares in Rheumatoid Arthritis

Do you suffer from rheumatoid arthritis? Researchers at Rockefeller University are looking to understand arthritis flares, and will monitor volunteers over the course of a year.

Learn more at go.rockefeller.edu/flares.

More than 100 other clinical studies are currently underway at Rockefeller. Explore at www.rucare.org or call 1-800-RUCARES.

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Upcoming Events

OCTOBER 17 10 A.M. TO 4 P.M.

Open House New York: Tours of The Rockefeller University campus

See the campus and visit several buildings including the historic library. No tickets or reservations required.

OCTOBER 21 7:30 P.M.

Peggy Rockefeller Concerts: Joyce Yang, pianist

Enjoy one of the leading soloists of her generation. Tickets \$30, available individually or by subscription at peggy.rockefeller.edu.