Curtin Medal for Excellence in Medical Research. Named after John Curtin, the Prime Minister of Australia from 1941 to 1945, this medal is awarded by the Curtin University of Medical Research at Australian National University where Dr. Stillman received his doctorate in 1979. This medal recognizes Stillman’s outstanding contribution to the medical sciences through his research studying the mechanism and regulation of DNA replication, which is relevant to understanding numerous diseases including cancer. The Curtin Medal joins his other honors, which include his election as a Fellow of the Royal Society and of the U.S. National Academy of Sciences.

Lloyd Trotman Named Rita Allen Foundation Scholar

Lloyd Trotman, a recent addition to the CSHL faculty, was named a 2007 Rita Allen Foundation Scholar. Each year, several scholars are nominated from prestigious universities across the country based on their promise of becoming leaders in research focused on developing treatments and cures for cancer, cerebral palsy, or multiple sclerosis. Trotman studies how the amount of PTEN, a tumor suppressor whose expression is commonly lost in human tumors, affects the development and treatment of breast and colon cancer. The Rita Allen Foundation Scholars program has supported more than eighty scientists over the last thirty years and previous CSHL awardees include researchers Scott Lowe, Greg Hannon, and Senthil Muthuswamy.

HHMI Increases Funding for CSHL Meetings and Courses

Howard Hughes Medical Institute (HHMI), which has supported courses at CSHL for over 15 years, doubled its funding for the Lab’s postgraduate education to three million dollars over the next four years. For over 50 years, these courses held in teaching laboratories on the main campus and lecture courses held at the Banbury Conference Center, have covered topics ranging from yeast genetics to molecular neuroscience, training thousands of scientists in emerging disciplines. The academic leadership for these courses has been provided by David Stewart, Executive Director of Meetings and Courses, and Terri Grodzicker, Assistant Director of Academic Affairs. Essential for the daily operations of the courses are numerous members of the CSHL community, including Wendy Crowley, the educational grants administrator, Barbara Zane, the course operations manager, and Gerald McCloskey, the information technology coordinator. Most recently, Sydney Gary, the Assistant Director of the Banbury Center, has played a leading role in developing workshops and courses focused on brain health.

Pathway to Independence Award

Dr. José Silva, a CSHL postdoctoral fellow in Greg Hannon’s laboratory, has been awarded a prestigious Pathway to Independence award. A new award given by the National Institutes of Health (NIH), it provides funding for 1–2 years of mentored postdoctoral research and for 3–5 years of independent research. It is one of the few opportunities for promising postdoctoral fellows to receive both mentored and independent research support. Silva will use this award to continue developing highly efficient RNA interference (RNAi) libraries, which are used to suppress the expression of every gene in the human and mouse genome and to study the function of thousands of genes at a time. Most recently he has used this technique to identify new tumor suppressors in epithelial cancers.

NSF Graduate Research Fellowship

Colin Malone, a first year graduate student in the Watson School of Biological Sciences, was awarded a National Science Foundation (NSF) Graduate Research Fellowship. NSF Graduate Research Fellowships provide three years of support to approximately one thousand exceptional graduate students studying life sciences, engineering, or mathematics. Colin received his bachelor’s degree from Washington University in St. Louis where he did undergraduate research in Doug Chalker’s laboratory studying RNAi in tetrahymena and in Sarah Elgin’s lab studying chromatin in the fruit fly. Colin recently joined Dr. Greg Hannon’s laboratory where he will start his dissertation research this summer.

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