Awards

Former Cold Spring Harbor Fellow Carol Greider (see “Investing in Young Scientists,” President's Message, inside front cover) has received the 2006 Albert Lasker Award for Basic Medical Research along with Elizabeth Blackburn and Jack Szostak. The award recognizes their discovery and characterization of telomerase, an RNA-containing enzyme that synthesizes the ends of chromosomes thus protecting them and maintaining genome integrity. In addition to providing insight into how chromosome ends (called “telomeres”) are maintained, the work of Greider, Blackburn, and Szostak laid the foundation for studies that have linked telomerase and telomeres to human cancer and aging. Interestingly, the notions that telomeres possess a unique structure and require a distinct replication mechanism were suggested by CSHL Lasker Award winners (and Nobel laureates) Barbara McClintock and Jim Watson through their work on chromosome behavior (McClintock, 1930s) and the structure of DNA (Watson, 1950s). The Lasker Award is one of the nation’s most prestigious honors for biomedical research, and it is not uncommon for Lasker Award recipients go on to win the Nobel Prize. Greider worked at Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory from 1988 to 1997 and is presently the Daniel Nathans Professor at the Johns Hopkins Institute for Basic Biomedical Sciences.

Lasker Foundation

The National Institutes of Health has awarded CSHL, Caltech, Emory University, Georgia Institute of Technology, The German Cancer Research Center, the Medical College of Georgia, MIT, and New York University Medical Center a five-year, $10 million grant to establish a Nanomedicine Center for Nucleoprotein Machines. The center will initially focus on understanding the molecular machines that enable cells to detect and repair damaged DNA. Defects in the repair of damaged DNA cause or contribute to many human diseases, including cancer. Professor David Spector will lead CSHL’s contributions to the center’s research, which will involve multidisciplinary scientific teams comprising biologists, physicians, mathematicians, biomolecular engineers, and computer scientists. The Nanomedicine Center for Nucleoprotein Machines is a key part of the NIH’s goal to explore the potential uses of nanotechnology in medicine.

DOE/USDA

The U.S. Department of Energy and the U.S. Department of Agriculture have jointly awarded $5.7 million in grants for research to accelerate the development of alternative energy sources from plants. The projects funded will focus largely on sorghum, alfalfa, wheat, and other grasses and will use genomics, bioinformatics, and other approaches to explore the development of biofuels from these sources. CSHL Research Investigator Doreen Ware is a co-principal investigator on the grant, which also involves researchers from Cornell University and the Texas Agricultural Experiment Station.
The Starr Foundation

The Starr Foundation has made a $100 million grant to create an innovative consortium—known as the Starr Cancer Consortium—to coordinate the efforts of five internationally renowned research institutions in the fight against cancer. The grant was made to CSHL, the Broad Institute of MIT and Harvard, Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center, The Rockefeller University, and Weill Cornell Medical College. These institutions will collaborate on research aimed at understanding cancer at its most fundamental levels, and on developing new approaches to the prevention, diagnosis, and treatment of the many forms of the disease. Established in 1955, the Starr Foundation has donated in excess of $2 billion, making it one of the largest private foundations in the United States. The Foundation supports education, cultural institutions, medicine and healthcare, human needs, public policy, and the environment. Pictured here (left to right) are Antonio M. Gotto, Jr. (Provost for Medical Affairs and Dean, Weill Cornell Medical College), Eric Lander (Founding Director, the Broad Institute of MIT and Harvard), Maurice Greenberg (Chairman, Starr Foundation), Harold Varmus (President, Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center), Bruce Stillman (President, CSHL), and Florence Davis (President, Starr Foundation). Not shown: Paul Nurse (President, The Rockefeller University).

Masthead Cove Yacht Club

Members of the Masthead Cove Yacht Club raised $6,000 from their annual Charity Regatta on August 27. The proceeds were donated to support ovarian cancer research at Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory. The event was held this year in memory of the club’s former Commodore, Carol Marcincuk, an avid sailor and a beloved employee of the Laboratory who died of ovarian cancer in 2004. Despite torrential rain, club members raised more from this year’s regatta than in any previous year. Pictured here are Assistant Professor Robert Lucito (center) and members of his research group receiving the yacht club’s donation from Commodore Tom Mazzotta. To Mazzotta’s left is Carol’s daughter, Lynn Greenholz.

Adobe Systems Incorporated

Inside Cancer—a comprehensive, user-friendly web guide to cancer biology created by the BioMedia Group of CSHL’s Dolan DNA Learning Center—has been selected as an official “Site of the Day” by Adobe Systems Incorporated. The four sections of Inside Cancer (Hallmarks of Cancer, Causes and Prevention, Diagnosis and Treatment, and Pathways to Cancer; visit insidecancer.org) use 3-D animations, video interviews with experts, narrated slides, and a variety of other tools to explain many aspects of the disease. Adobe Systems Incorporated is a worldwide leader in business and creative software development. Adobe “Site of the Day” winners in other categories include Nike, Cartier, and Bentley Motors. Peter W. Sherwood

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