A wonderful night in support of research

On November 12, donors, scientists, and friends of the Lab gathered at the Mandarin Oriental Hotel in New York City to celebrate the annual Double Helix Dinner. The evening included a record $4 million for research at the Laboratory.

The night honored legendary geneticiest Dr. Matthew Meselson, actress and scientist Jennifer Lawrence, and scientists Annette Benjamini, winners of the Nobel Prize in Chemistry. The proceeds will support the Laboratory's mission to improve human health and advance basic science.

Multitasking neurons in the brain

At any given moment, the brain is processing numerous inputs from each of our senses, while controlling a dizzying array of behavioral responses. How can all of this information be processed simultaneously? For decades, scientists have assumed that neurons fall into distinct classes based on how they behave—each class responsible for one or more tasks. But research published this month by Associate Professor Anne Churchland suggests that neurons in at least one area of the mouse brain are able to multitask, each in its own unique way. The work has important implications as scientists try to understand cognition more broadly.

New insights into how genes are controlled

This month, CSHL scientists published two papers that describe significant advancements in our understanding of how genes are turned on and regulated. A team led by Professor Adam Staw, Chair of CSHL’s Simons Center for Quantitative Biology, used new technology to develop a universal model for how DNA is read by specialized protein complexes in the nucleus of our cells.

Professor Thomas Gingeras, Head of Functional Genomics at CSHL, led a group of scientists to identify some 6,000 genes involved in the generation of the five-turn-over evolutionary tree to vary remarkably little across different tissues and cell types, even in diverse organisms like humans and mice. The research is part of a much larger project known as Mouse ENCODE that has obtained a comprehensive view of the mouse’s genetic makeup.

#GivingTuesday at CSHL

It’s December, and the holiday season is upon us! Between Black Friday and Cyber Monday, you may have taken advantage of holiday deals. But on December 2 join the global campaign to give back. It’s called #GivingTuesday. You can support groundbreaking cancer and neurological disease research at Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory.

Saying thanks

“Neighborhood makes all the difference.”

CSHL is incredibly fortunate to have excellent neighbors. Early in November, parishioners from St. John’s Church across Route 25A dedicated a beautiful Infatitable Maple tree to the Laboratory. St. John’s Church presented the tree as a thank you for its use of Grace Auditorium for sandals during church renovations.