Tony Zador receives prestigious grant for 'transformative' research

CSHL Professor and Program Chair for Neuroscience Tony Zador has been awarded a 5-year, $2.17 million grant by the National Institutes of Health (NIH) to fund his ‘Transformative Research Program’ (7 Pro). This program, which the NIH launched last year, is designed to spur researchers to pursue daring ideas that can create or overturn scientific paradigms and transform some aspects of biomedicine.

Zador will use his grant to develop an innovative, high-throughput method to analyze the brain’s ‘connectome’ or wiring at the level of individual neurons in mice. His goal is to use this approach to understand how disruptions in brain connectivity contribute to neurological diseases such as autism.

New twists in double helix discovery uncovered in CSHL Archives

A never-before-read stack of letters to and from Francis Crick and other historical materials dating from the years 1950–76 has been studied by the first time by Alex Gann and Jan Wikoff, both Watson School of Biological Sciences professors. They report on the contents in the journal Nature on September 10th.

The letters both confirm and extend current knowledge of the circumstances surrounding the epoch-making discovery of DNA’s elegant double-helical structure, for which Crick, James D. Watson and Maurice Wilkins were awarded the Nobel Prize in 1962. Unlike the structure itself, which amazed even in its discoveries in its simplicity, the story of the discovery has revealed a complex tangle of people, ambitions and institutional politics behind the process of scientific investigation.

'Going Mental' on bigthink.com

Ever wonder how your brain navigates you through a cocktail party or how you muster the confidence to make a tough choice? See and hear from CSHL’s Program Chair for Neuroscience Tony Zador and Associate Professor Action Research what their research is telling us about how your brains works. Dr. Zador and Kepes appear on bigthink.com as part of this online magazine’s series Going Mental.

Upcoming events and announcements:

Walk in support of small-cell lung cancer research at CSHL! Join the Diane Emdin Sachs 7th Annual Memorial Walk at James Beach Field 6 on Saturday, October 9, 2010. Registration is at 11:00am and the walk starts at 11:00am.

Diane Emdin will present "Genetic Insights Into Breast Cancer" at the Deutsches Center for Research and Education at St. Francis Hospital October 6, 2010. Call 516-600-2100 to reserve your space at the 5th Annual Women's Health Seminar from 7:00am-9:00am.

Adults and kids 10 and up can participate in the DNA Learning Center’s Saturday DNA programs – 2 hour hands-on laboratory experiences that make science fun and easy to understand. To register, visit www.dnalc.org/programs/saturdaydna.html. Upcoming programs:

- Crush Me! -- October 16
- DNA Barcoding -- November 13
- What Does Your Gene Know? -- December 11

The 2010 CSHL Cultural Series concerts conclude on October 29, 2010 with the Argon Goldberg Trio: "One of jazz’s most defeatable... a supereffusive group" - The Boston Globe. Tickets for the 6:00pm performance can be purchased at the door.

The Don Monti Memorial Research Foundation, Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory, North Shore University Hospital and Long Island University will host the 30th Anniversary Ball of the Year on November 6, 2010 at the Crest Hollow Country Club in Woodbury, New York. For more information call 516-977-5906.

The Double Helix Medal Dinner will be held on November 9, 2010 to honor Ewen H. Lader, John F. Nash, Jr. and Mary-Claire King. To purchase tickets for the event at the Mandarin Oriental Hotel, New York City, please contact Diane Fagula at 516-977-8731.