Home 

Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory 

September 2012 NetLetter

CSHL in the News

Biomesweek
DNA’s Junk! - Now Seen as Lever Controlling Gene Silencing
September 6, 2012

The New York Times
Bits of mystery DNA, Far From Junk, Play Crucial Role
September 5, 2012

The Washington Post
Junk DNA” Concept Debunked by New Analysis of Human Genomes
September 5, 2012

The Wall Street Journal
New DNA Encyclopedia Shows Complex Inner Workings
September 5, 2012

NBC News
New DNA Project Sheds U.S. Living Beyond Our Genes
September 5, 2012

Newsday
LI Scientists: New DNA Sequencing Revealed
September 5, 2012

North County Times
Ibis Pharma Heads Develop New Genetic Disease Model
August 14, 2012

"In Quotes"
Emily Hodges, quoted in Businessweek
Assistant Human K's DNA Code Illuminates Rise of Brains,
September 5, 2012

Upcoming Events

September 7 - October 31
Support Rich Syndrome Research at CSHL
September 9
Long Island Colon'z for a Cure for Prostate Cancer Research
September 11
11th Annual Women's Partnership for the Sciences Lecture at CSHL
September 22
2012 Diane Emilson Sachs 9th Annual Memorial Walk for Lung Cancer Research
September 23
Climbing Napa Foundation 2012 Walk-A-Thon and Blood Drive for Childhood Cancer Research
September 23
Cancer Walk-Walking Tour
October 1-3
Pancreas Breast-Pox Ribbon Bapget campaign to support LI breast cancer organizations

Definition of the 'gene' called into question, ENCODE scientists say

The ENCODE (Encyclopedia of DNA Elements) project has released results of a massive multiyear, multinational study that challenges how we think of genes. Professor Tom Gingeras, one of ENCODE's principal investigators, led a team whose research, just reported, indicates that three-quarters of our genome is capable of being transcribed into RNA, far more than the fraction that specifically encodes proteins. Intriguingly, many disease-causing mutations are found within the non-coding RNA transcripts, suggesting that these have implications relating to their contribution to complex genetic diseases.

A total of 32 institutions in 6 countries were involved in this 2nd phase of the ENCODE research, with data appearing in 30 papers across 3 journals (Nature, Genome Research, and Genome Biology). Graphic: 150 years of shifting conceptions of the gene, a history in which CSHL has made major contributions.

Can a 'storm' of awakened transposons cause Lou Gehrig's disease?

Associate Professor Josh Dubnaun and Assistant Professor Molly Hammerschmidt have arrived at a novel hypothesis about disease pathology in ALS (also known as Lou Gehrig’s disease) that may also shed light on several other devastating neurodegenerative conditions. They reported their findings in a paper in PLoS One that dominantly transposable elements - "jumping genes" - awaken in brain cells, setting off a "storm" that wreaks genetic havoc capable of causing cell death. The title, clue, as we explain, is a protein called TDP-43, which often associates with RNAs generated by transposons.

A new way to model illnesses caused by splicing errors

Microbiologists honor pioneering CSHL research

The American Society for Microbiology chose the end of the Bacteria, Archaea and Phage meeting to announce the selection of CSHL as one of three Milestones in Microbiology sites - an honor marked with a commemorative plaque. The timing was deliberate and significant as it appropriately recognized the role of the annual Phage Course, which was started in 1945 by Max Delbrueck, as well as research at the Laboratory itself in opening the frontiers of molecular biology and genetics.

The Society for Experimental Biology chose the end of the meeting to announce the selection of CSHL as one of three Milestones in Microbiology sites - an honor marked with a commemorative plaque. The timing was deliberate and significant as it appropriately recognized the role of the annual Phage Course, which was started in 1945 by Max Delbrueck, as well as research at the Laboratory itself in opening the frontiers of molecular biology and genetics.

New! Now you can experience the Harbor Transcript magazine in a whole new way — on your iPad

Stories about CSHL's latest scientific advances and profiles of the individual investigators behind the discoveries are now come alive on interactive pages! All this for free at the iTunes store, where you can also download other apps like the DNA Learning Center's 3rd Brain. Please share the experience with your friends!