

# Faculty & Friends

## Regeneron President elected CSHL Trustee

Dr. George D. Yancopoulos, Chief Scientific Officer of Regeneron Pharmaceuticals, Inc. and President of Regeneron Laboratories, has joined the CSHL Board of Trustees. “CSHL is applying basic research-driven discoveries in the clinic for the benefit of patients and Dr. Yancopoulos offers the unique perspective of a scientist, clinician and industry leader,” said CSHL Chairman Jamie C. Nicholls. He joined Regeneron in 1989 as its Scientific Founder and is a



principal inventor and developer of the company's four FDA-approved drugs. Dr. Yancopoulos received an M.D. and Ph.D. in Biochemistry and Molecular Biophysics from Columbia University and has been a familiar face on the CSHL campus, having taught the Cloning course for many summers in the 1980s. Welcome (back) George!



## CSHL neuroscience faculty on IARPA brain map

The Intelligence Advanced Research Projects Activity (IARPA)—part of the Office of the Director of National Intelligence—awarded a \$21 million contract to discover the brain's learning rules and synaptic circuit design. Anthony Zador's lab is contributing a technique called BOINC (Barcoding of Individual Neuron Connections) to allow for a complete map of the precise location, shape and connections of all neurons to be generated. Zador's CSHL colleagues Alexei Koulakov and Je Lee are also part of this effort, spanning six institutions: The Wyss Institute at Harvard, MIT, Columbia University, Carnegie Mellon University and The Johns Hopkins University.

For his research, Zador was named one of 2015's “Top Global Thinkers” by the journal *Foreign Policy*. Previous honorees have spanned the gamut of achievement, from Pope Francis to Elon Musk. Zador and other honorees “have demonstrated extraordinary innovation, passion, creativity, and thirst, and have translated their ideas into action, impacting millions worldwide,” wrote editors of the journal.

## Fellow Jason Sheltzer wins Early Independence Award

Freshly-minted MIT Ph.D. Jason Sheltzer was recruited last summer as a CSHL Fellow to pursue cancer research, and he is off to a great start with a prestigious award from the National Institutes of Health. In 2015, the NIH awarded only 16



Early Independence Awards to outstanding early-career scientists, encouraging them to take risks and explore potentially ground-breaking concepts. At CSHL, Jason is studying genes that may make a difference between tumors that are benign and those that are cancerous and likely to spread to other parts of the body. Analyzing data from cancer patient survival studies, he is using the latest genome-editing technology—CRISPR (see page 2)—to establish the molecular links between these genes and cancer prognosis. Jason was also named to the 2015 *Forbes* magazine “30 under 30 in Science” list.