

Faculty & Friends



CSHL ♥ New York

The Center for Therapeutics Research (CTR) project is a new \$75 million initiative to apply CSHL's biomedical expertise toward advancing therapeutics for genetic diseases. New York State is contributing \$25 million for construction and equipment funds to modernize the existing Demerec Laboratory, which was built in 1953 and has housed the laboratories of four of the Lab's eight Nobel Prize winners. "Thank you to all of our friends and supporters on Long Island who made the New York State funding for this project a reality," said President Stillman. "We owe much to the leadership of Senate Majority Leader John J. Flanagan, and our New York State Senator Carl Marcellino. And we are proud to work with our peer research institutions to champion the critical role of the biomedical sector in the Long Island economy."

CSHL leads two international teams

Two CSHL investigators are among 25 international teams that have won 2016 Human Frontier Science Program (HFSP) Research Program Grants: Associate Professor Bo Li, a neuroscientist, and Assistant Professor Je Lee, a genomics expert and cancer researcher. The HFSP grant program supports innovative, cutting-edge research that is expected to open new fields of investigation. Dr. Li's project is "Single cell resolution imaging and optogenetics in the amygdala fear circuits in behaving animals." Joining Li in this collaborative research are teams from University Paris Descartes, CNRS, France; MIT; and The Hebrew University, Israel. Lee's project is: "Complete cell lineage trees inferred by *in situ* genotyping of induced somatic mutations." Joining in his research are teams from Institut de Génomique Fonctionnelle de Lyon, France; and University College, London.



Pershing Square Sohn Prize for next-gen cancer therapies

Associate Professor Chris Vakoc, M.D., Ph.D., was awarded the third annual Pershing Square Sohn Prize for Young Investigators in Cancer Research to help fund his explorative and high-risk/high-reward research. A finalist in last year's prize, Vakoc's research employs a novel CRISPR technique that can reveal individual protein domains that sustain cancer cells. His lab is now deploying this technol-

ogy in a diverse array of human cancers to reveal therapeutic opportunities and basic mechanisms of cancer gene control. "The Pershing Square Sohn Prize Winners are among the most talented and innovative scientists in cancer research," said Olivia Tournay Flatto, President of the Pershing Square Foundation. "Dr. Vakoc's research has great promise for guiding the development of next-generation cancer therapies."

Plant biology program sees the light

Welcome Ullas Pedmale, Assistant Professor, from a post-doctoral fellowship at the Salk Institute of Biological Sciences. With a Ph.D. from the University of Missouri-Columbia, he has been exploring changes in plant architecture in response to variations in light quality. Plants don't

have specific organs that see or hear, but they modify their development according to external signals. At CSHL, his lab studies how the environment of a plant modulates its development. "Understanding environmental control of growth will have far-reaching implications for agriculture, energy production, and other human activities," Pedmale explains.

