

Faculty & Friends

Hannon wins regional graduate school mentor award

Howard Hughes Medical Institute Investigator Greg Hannon was honored on April 15 with the Northeastern Association of Graduate School Geoffrey Marshall Mentoring Award.

The Mentoring Award recognizes outstanding support of graduate students, from course completion through research and placement. Since the Watson School of Biological Sciences opened its doors in 1999, Dr. Hannon has mentored a total of 12 postdoctoral fellows and 17 graduate students. The achievements of his trainees have been consistently outstanding.

Four of his students completed their degrees in less than four years and two were recipients of the prestigious Harold M. Weintraub Graduate Student Award. Many others have received awards under his direction, including the L’Oreal UNESCO For Women in Science Award, the National Science Foundation Graduate Fellowship and The Howard Hughes Medical Institute Graduate Fellowship.

Every mentee in his lab has published in a high-impact journal, with more than 60% of his own 200+ publications having mentee authors. Three of these publications received recognition in the journal *Science* as the “Breakthrough of the Year.”

The mentorship Dr. Hannon provides has resulted in the placement of 10 of his graduate students in prestigious postdoctoral positions, with four already holding independent faculty positions, at Mt. Sinai School of Medicine, the University of Toronto, Fred Hutchinson Cancer Research Center, and the Whitehead Institute.

Northeastern
Association of
Graduate
Schools



NIH New Investigator Regional Conference



If a solid research plan is the crucial requirement for launching a career in academic research, then securing funding for that plan is the crucial requirement for sustaining that career, especially in the climate of squeezed federal budgets. With that in mind, CSHL and the National Institutes of Health (NIH) co-hosted the “NIH New Investigator Regional Conference” on March 14.

Supported by the Alfred P. Sloan Foundation, the event, held at Grace Auditorium, brought key NIH scientific program leaders together with more than 250 new faculty from 56

universities and research centers to discuss national biomedical research priorities and issues facing new investigators.

“In spite of NIH programs designed to facilitate the transition of new scientists to independently funded principal investigators, the average age at which an investigator first obtains an initial independent research grant remains unacceptably high,” says Dr. Walter Goldschmidts, Executive Director of Sponsored Programs at CSHL.

“The exchange of ideas between the participants, NIH and institution presidents made it clear that there is a need for this interaction,” said Goldschmidts, who hopes to enhance and expand the meeting nationally.



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