

CSHL in the News

- The Scientist**
[Collecting cancer data](#)
 March 29, 2012
- Nature**
[Epigenetics: Marked for success](#)
 March 29, 2012
- The Chronicle of Higher Education**
[NIH courts younger researchers, even as it debates how far to go](#)
 March 25, 2012
- Nature**
[Neuroscience: Making connections](#)
 March 21, 2012
- Agence France Press/The Raw Story**
[Rats as good as humans in decision-making: study](#)
 March 13, 2012
- TV news: Channel 55**
[New SMA drug in trials](#)
 February 29, 2012

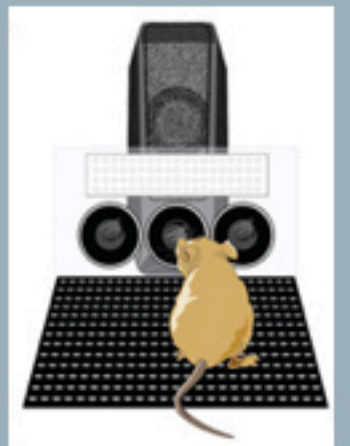
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Upcoming Events

- Register now!**
[DNALC summer camps](#)
- 04/11/12**
 Science on Screen: ["Trainspotting" with CSHL's Anne Churchland and Rob Martienssen](#)
- 04/13/12**
 Concert: [Mischa Bouvier](#)
- 04/16/12**
 Public lecture: [Keeping children and adolescents with Down Syndrome healthy](#)
- 04/19/12**
 The Laboratory @ Your Library: [Discussion of "The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks"](#)
- 04/21/12**
[Labapalooza!](#)
- 04/21 - 04/22**
[DNA Day Scavenger Hunt in Cold Spring Harbor Village](#)
- 04/27/12**
 Concert: [Louis Schwizgebel](#)
- 04/29/12**
 Watson School of Biological Sciences [2012 Commencement Convocation](#)
- 06/12/12**
 Save the date!
[19th Annual Golf Outing and Tennis Round Robin](#)
 Sign-up [information](#)

Decision-making in rats vs. humans: it's a tie!

As much as we'd like to think otherwise, our ability to combine different types of information to assess a situation and make decisions is statistically no better than that of rats. This *startling piece of news*, which may be of some comfort to anyone who has ever tried and failed to catch a rat, emerges from research published by CSHL Assistant Professor Anne Churchland in the *Journal of Neuroscience* on March 14.



Churchland's study, which compared the ability of humans and rodents to make perceptual decisions based on combining different modes of sensory stimuli—such as visual and auditory cues—found that just like humans, rodents combine multisensory information and exploit it in a "statistically optimal" way, i.e., the most efficient and unbiased way possible. The discovery provides scientists with a model to study how the brain handles multisensory information, a process that goes awry in autism spectrum disorders.

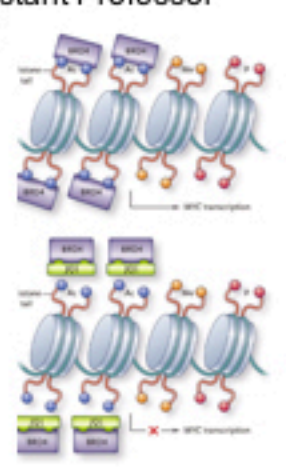
New faculty learn do's and don'ts of grant applications

It can be a brutal world out there for early career scientists aiming to get federal grants in a climate of slashed budgets and competition that is fiercer than ever. A [conference for new neuroscience faculty](#) co-hosted by CSHL and [two institutes](#) of the National Institutes of Health on March 14 addressed these issues and offered insights into the grant review process and strategies to successfully secure grants. The daylong event, which featured panel discussions with key scientific program leaders, offered attendees—some 200 young faculty from 90 institutions—many valuable take-home lessons.



AML discovery in the spotlight

Last year, CSHL Assistant Professor [Chris Vakoc](#) and his collaborators, CSHL Adjunct Professor Scott Lowe and his former postdoc Johannes Zuber, developed an [unconventional screening strategy](#) that identified a new drug target for acute myeloid leukemia (AML). By inhibiting the target, an epigenetic regulator protein called Brd4, the scientists could suppress an aggressive form of AML in experimental animals; the Brd4-inhibitor is now in pharmaceutical development. Two commentaries, one in the [New England Journal of Medicine](#) and one in [Nature](#), discuss this discovery and the emergence of epigenetics in cancer drug development.



Prof. Alea Mills @ the Secret Science Club



On March 14, more than 450 enthusiastic New Yorkers gathered at the [Secret Science Club](#) in Brooklyn to hear Prof. [Alea Mills](#) explain her exploits in hunting for cancer and autism genes. If you weren't there, [here's your chance](#) to catch up on her work.

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