

# Women's Partnership honors Elizabeth L. Watson

The 12th annual luncheon event honored Liz, who with husband Jim has lived and raised a family on the CSHL campus for 45 years. With master's degrees from the Columbia School of Architecture and Planning and the Palmer School of Long Island University, Mrs. Watson has authored two books about the Laboratory's history, landscapes and buildings. The featured speaker on breast cancer prevention strategies was Camila Dos Santos, a postdoctoral fellow in the lab of Professor and Howard Hughes Medical Institute Investigator Gregory Hannon. A mother of two herself, Dr. Santos provided a personal perspective on her life as a scientist working to understand the impact of pregnancy on a woman's risk of developing breast cancer.

# **Teri Willey leads commercialization efforts**

As Vice President, Business Development and Technology Transfer, Ms. Teri Willey now directs the Laboratory's commercialization and technology transfer activities, including patenting, licensing, company start-ups, and corporate partnerships and collaborations. She joins CSHL from Mount Sinai Medical Center, where she led technology transfer and business development efforts. Ms. Willey was founding Chief Executive and Executive Director, Cambridge Enterprise Ltd, University of Cambridge, UK, and was a cofounder and Managing Partner of ARCH Development Partners, a seed venture fund and spin-out from the University of Chicago and Argonne National Laboratory technologies.



John Maroney, who for the past 20 years has helped many CSHL investigators launch successful tech start-ups and negotiate licensing agreements to bring biomedical discoveries into the marketplace, will continue in his role as the Laboratory's general counsel. Mr. Maroney played a critical role in establishing the Broad Hollow Bioscience Park, a collaborative biotech incubator on the campus of SUNY Farmingdale that was the original home of LI cancer drug manufacturer OSI. "John has helped lay the foundation for Long Island to leverage the academic and clinical assets of its leading institutions, including CSHL, Stony Brook University, Brookhaven National Laboratory, Hofstra University and the North Shore-LIJ Health System," said President Bruce Stillman.

# **CSHL** boasts four NARSAD winners

This year four CSHL postdoctoral researchers are among 200 awardees chosen from among 1199 applicants worldwide for the two-year, \$60,000 NARSAD grant award to help young scientists transition to work in laboratories they themselves direct. "On behalf of the entire faculty, let me say that we are proud of you, individually, and pleased that through your projects, the goal of CSHL's basic research program in neuroscience of understanding the biology underlying devastating disorders including schizophrenia and autism has been given an important boost," said President Stillman.



Three of the CSHL postdocs are studying autism and autism spectrum disorder (ASD); one is conducting research on schizophrenia. They are:

Sandra Ahrens, (Associate Professor Bo Li) who will use a mouse model to study a brain circuit called the thalamic reticular nucleus circuit and its dysfunction in schizophrenia. This circuit may have a critical role in cognitive functions such as attention.

Guy Horev, (Professor Alea Mills) who will assess brain development in mouse embryos with a genetic deletion that occurs in patients with autism, to pinpoint the genes that lead to autism-like impairment to see if rescuing the developmental impairment will correct the behavioral impairments.

Yongsoo Kim, (Associate Professor Pavel Osten) who will explore how intranasal oxytocin works in the brain to improve social behavior in autism. He will use a mouse model of autism to describe which brain regions respond, and how this drug alters brain activity that leads to the observed improvement in social behavior.

Keerthi Krishnan, (Professor Josh Huang) who seeks to understand the genetic architecture of Rett syndrome, an autism spectrum disorder. She will use advanced genomic methods in a mouse model to trace molecular changes in a brain region-specific, cell type-specific manner during early development.

## **Professor Hannon selected for MERIT award**

Professor Gregory Hannon has received the MERIT award of the National Institutes of Health National Institute of General Medical Sciences (NIGMS), recognizing highly productive scientists with extended funding for an existing research project grant. Hannon was selected for "his remarkable record of discoveries on how small RNA molecules regulate gene expression and help ensure that the genome is passed faithfully from parents to their offspring," said Michael Bender of NIGMS. "His work is likely to yield many additional insights into the biology of small RNAs, and also has the potential to lead to new, RNA-based treatments for cancer and other diseases."

# Blavatnik Award goes to investigator Hodges

Dr. Emily Hodges is one of five finalists in the annual Regional Blavatnik Award for Young Scientists, celebrating the excellence of the most noteworthy postdoctoral scientists age 42 or under who work in New York, New Jersey, and Connecticut. Dr. Hodges will receive \$10,000 in unrestricted funds from the foundation. She received her Ph.D. from the Karolinska Institute in 2006 and after



# Blavatnik Awards Young Scientists

completing postdoctoral work on next-generation sequencing for targeted genomics under the mentorship of CSHL Professor Gregory Hannon, Hodges was promoted to CSHL Research Investigator. Her most recent work involves the use of epigenomic profiling to understand the role of DNA methylation in gene regulation and cell fate specification during development. Download the *Harbor Transcript* app to see a video about Dr. Hodges.



# **Notre Dame establishes DNA Learning Center**

Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory has partnered with the University of Notre Dame in a licensing agreement that shares the original mission of our DNA Learning Center (DNALC). "We encourage the spread of hands-on science centers devoted to modern biology education and preparing students and families to thrive in the gene age," said David Micklos, the Executive Director of the CSHL center dedicated to public education. The center in Southbend, Indiana, will fulfill the vision of Notre Dame benefactors John and Heidi Passarelli, who saw firsthand how the DNALC was providing a superb participatory genetics education to children across the New York metro area. Through involvement in the DNALC Corporate Advisory Board, the Passarellis initiated the link to the University of Notre Dame. Celebrating its 25-year anniversary, CSHL's DNA Learning Center has successfully collaborated with public school districts, private schools, departments of education, and universities, including the Republic of Singapore and Clemson University.

# **President's Council on infectious disease**

CSHL alumni headlined this year's intellectual retreat for supporters who donate \$25,000 a year or more to help support CSHL Fellows, exceptionally talented young scientists who show the capacity for high-level, independent research. CalTech President Emeritus and Nobel laureate David Baltimore discussed new approaches for dealing with the AIDS pandemic. Dr. Baltimore is an alumnus of the CSHL Undergraduate Research Program who, as a Swarthmore College student, spent the summer of 1959 in the 10-week educational program on this campus. Dr. Niraj Tolia, who was part of the first graduating class of the Watson School of Biological Sciences in 2004, provided insights on developing a protective malaria vaccine. Dr. Tolia is now an assistant professor at Washington University School of Medicine. Other President's Council speakers included Eckard Wimmer, Ph.D., Stony Brook University; Dr. Larry Barrett, Director of Plum Island Animal Disease Center; Jonathan Epstein, DVM, MPH, of EcoHealth Alliance; and Dr. Trevor Mundel, President, Global Health at the Gates Foundation.

# Postdoc Christine lok In Chio named a Damon Runyon Fellow

Christine Iok In Chio, Ph.D., a postdoctoral researcher, has been named a Damon Runyon Fellow. Dr. Chio works in the laboratory of Dr. David Tuveson, Deputy Director of Research at CSHL's Cancer Center, Director of the Lustgarten Foundation Pancreatic Research Laboratory at CSHL and Director of Research for the Lustgarten Foundation. Dr. Chio's research



focuses on pancreatic cancer, which is a particularly devastating and difficult-to-treat disease because of its ability to grow in conditions of high oxidative stress—conditions in which normal cells would not survive. She is evaluating the biological role of oxidative stress in pancreatic cancer development and progression, using mouse models of pancreatic cancer as well as human tumor samples. All 17 recipients of the prestigious, three-year Damon Runyon Fellowship award are outstanding postdoctoral scientists conducting basic and translational cancer research in the laboratories of leading senior investigators across the country.



With the installation of a commemorative engraved glass wall, we recognize the generous contributions of the donors who made possible the largest expansion in the history of the Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory. The six Hillside Laboratory buildings opened in 2009 allow CSHL to further its research and education mission well into the 21st century.

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#### **CSHL** Association

**CSHL** Association comprises some 1000 neighbors and friends of the Laboratory who contribute to the Annual Fund, an essential source of unrestricted support for outstanding young scientists. Association members get to know CSHL scientists at lectures, concerts, dinners and other social events that support the Laboratory. Membership levels start at \$100 per vear. For more information please contact Karen Orzel, Director, Annual Giving and Donor Relations. at 516.367.6886 or orzel@cshl.edu.

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# Don't think science is for the masses?





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Come for a drink, but stay for the science and mingle with 400 science enthusiasts at a monthly event in Brooklyn called the Secret Science Club. CSHL scientists are regular headliners. This summer, Assistant Professor Anne Churchland wowed the crowds discussing how the brain makes complex decisions. Associate Professor Zach Lippman took to the stage earlier in the year, linking his latest tomato genetics research to big problems like world hunger. See their appearances for yourself on YouTube and watch for upcoming CSHL Secret Science Club appearances at the Bell House in 2014.