

Timmermans named a CSHL Professor

Marja Timmermans, Ph.D., was promoted in October to full professor. Timmermans uses *Arabidopsis* and maize as model organisms to study the role of small regulatory RNA molecules as potential signals. She and her colleagues also seek to elucidate mechanisms that distinguish “indeterminate” stem cells in plants from cells that are undergoing differentiation.

Two fellowships for Adam Kepecs

CSHL Assistant Professor Adam Kepecs received two important fellowships in 2009. In February, he was named a Research Fellow of the Alfred P. Sloan Foundation; and in July he won a Klingenstein Fellowship in the Neurosciences. The Sloan Research Fellowship provides a two-year grant to stimulate fundamental research by early-career scientists of outstanding promise. The Klingenstein Fellowship, which provides funding over three years, supports young investigators engaged in basic and clinical neuroscience research. Kepecs’ research is concerned with the neurobiological principles by which the brain makes decisions.

Lin He named a MacArthur Fellow

Lin He, a former CSHL Fellow, has been named a MacArthur Fellow by the John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation. She was honored for advancing our understanding of the role of microRNAs in the development of cancer and laying the groundwork for future cancer treatments. The MacArthur Fellowship is a five-year grant to individuals who show exceptional creativity in their work. Dr. He was a postdoctoral fellow at the Laboratory from 2003–07, prior to becoming an assistant professor of molecular and cell biology at the University of California, Berkeley, in 2008.

Hassana Oyibo selected for first Abrams Award

Hassana Oyibo, a member of the Watson School of Biological Sciences entering class of 2007, has been named the first recipient of the Abrams Charitable Trust Award. Oyibo is conducting her Ph.D. research in the laboratory of Tony Zador on mapping brain circuitry involved in attention.

President’s Council tackles legal, ethical challenges of genome science

Those who conceived and planned the effort to sequence the human genome realized the epochal project would raise profound ethical and legal questions. In October, Bruce Stillman convened a meeting of the President’s Council devoted to exploring some of these issues as they have played out since publication of the reference version of the human genome in 2003. The Council, which meets twice yearly, is composed of individuals whose contributions support the Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory Fellows, a group of young scientists of exceptional promise. (Carol Greider, co-recipient of a 2009 Nobel Prize [see p. 16] was among the first of the CSHL Fellows.)

Peter Neufeld’s remarks before the Council served to throw into dramatic relief one way in which genome science has already affected society. An attorney, Neufeld is co-founder and -director of The Innocence Project, which began as an effort to exonerate the wrongfully convicted, making use of DNA evidence. The Project has blossomed into an effort to identify and address the systemic causes of wrongful convictions. Others who addressed the Council included David Botstein, a geneticist and CSHL Scientific Trustee; Esther Dyson, whose own genome was among the first sequenced in the Personal Genome Project; Elaine Mardis, Co-Director of The Genome Center, Washington University School of Medicine; Dr. Philip Marshall of WebMD Health Services; and CSHL Assistant Professor Gurinder “Mickey” Atwal.



Peter Neufeld