

CSHL in the News

SFARI.org
Large sequencing study ties autism genes to Fragile X
April 26, 2012

Times Beacon Record
CSH researcher Anne Churchland studies rats in a maze
April 26, 2012

Genomeweb
Mouse model startup Mirimus sets sights on industry customers
April 25, 2012

GEN News Highlights
Live imaging demonstrates how tumor microenvironment affects chemotherapy response
April 17, 2012

Long Island Business News
Saving the environment big biz on LI
April 11, 2012

Times Beacon Record
Alea Mills studies genes to understand autism
April 3, 2012

Upcoming Events

DNA Learning Center Summer Camps
Registration Open!

05/18/12
Concert: Michael Brown

05/31 - 06/01
Urban Barcode Project Symposium
At the American Museum of Natural History

06/03/12
Dorcas Cummings Memorial Lecture: "Send in the Clones" by Dr. Rob Martienssen

06/12/12
CSHL's 19th Annual Golf Tournament

06/26/12
Public Lecture: Follow Your Genes - Decision Making and Your Personal Genome

Sequencing study links autism genes to Fragile X

A research team led by Prof. Michael Wigler has discovered an intriguing link between autism and Fragile X syndrome, the most common inherited form of intellectual disability. The team's results, published in Neuron last week, show that a surprising proportion—up to 20 percent—of genes that are disrupted spontaneously in children with autism are regulated by FMRP, the protein whose dysfunction causes Fragile X. The study also identifies about 60 previously unknown candidate autism genes.

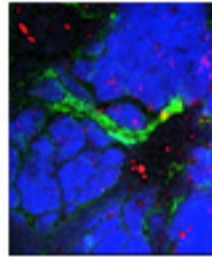


The team made these discoveries by sequencing the exome, the region of the genome that carries genes that encode protein, of 343 autistic children and their family members who are enrolled in the Simons Simplex Collection, a repository of families in which one child is autistic but siblings and parents are not. As FMRP helps neurons to form properly functioning synapses—the neuronal junctions across which electrical signals flow—the hope is that the clues uncovered

by the autism/fragile X genetic overlap will provide a framework to understand how synaptic defects can lead to autism symptoms.

Spying on a tumor's neighborhood to understand drug resistance

Assistant Professor Mikala Egeblad and her team have used a cutting-edge "live" microscopy technique to directly observe how the response of cancer cells in a mouse model of breast cancer to the commonly used chemotherapeutic drug doxorubicin is influenced by the cancer's microenvironment. Their work, which has identified two factors that can be modified to improve the drug's effectiveness, appears in Cancer Cell.



Watson School 2012 Commencement celebrations

On April 29, CSHL's Watson School of Biological Sciences celebrated five newly-minted Ph.D.s who now join 49 other alumni in pursuing successful and rewarding careers in science. The event also conferred and honorary degree upon Sir Kenneth Murray from the University of Edinburgh and, for the second consecutive year, the student-nominated Winship Herr Award for Excellence in Creativity in teaching to Assistant Professor Michael Schatz.



New member elected to Board of Trustees

The CSHL Board of Trustees announced the election of a new member, Charles "Casey" Cogut, a lawyer and a senior corporate partner at Simpson Thacher & Bartlett LLP, which is known for its M&A, private equity and governance practices. Mr. Cogut's list of clients include the Microsoft Corporation in connection with its acquisition of Skype Global and the pharmaceutical company Wyeth, in connection with its sale to Pfizer Inc.



CSHL researchers spread science in the community

A trio of CSHL scientists working on the hottest topics in biomedical research engaged with the Long Island North Shore community in two public events that beautifully merged science and culture this spring. As part of the nationwide Science on Screen program, neuroscientist Anne Churchland and epigenetics expert Rob Martienssen introduced the scientific basis of addiction to fans of the cult hit "Trainspotting." And cancer researcher David Spector led book club enthusiasts in a lively discussion about The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks at the Cold Spring Harbor Library and Environment Center. More about both events here.

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