Passing the WSBS torch



Leemor Joshua-Tor, Ph.D., the outgoing Dean of the Watson School of Biological Sciences (WSBS), completed her five-year term this year. As the third leader of a school known as one of the nation's most innovative Ph.D.-granting programs, Dr. Joshua-Tor has advanced the curriculum in significant ways, including the addition of timely courses in quantitative biology, physical biology, and imaging. She has also served during her term as a member of the Biomedical Workforce Task Force of the U.S. National Institutes of Health, which recently issued recommendations to support a future sustainable biomedical research infrastructure. Dr. Joshua-Tor, a structural biologist who began her career at CSHL in 1995, is an Investigator of the Howard Hughes Medical Institute. She has made seminal contributions to the understanding of how RNA interference works to silence gene expression and has advanced new therapeutic options for combatting papillomavirus, which causes cervical cancer. Dr. Joshua-Tor will continue her research at the Laboratory, studying the molecular basis of cell regulatory processes using the tools of structural biology and biochemistry.



CSHL Professor Alexander A.F. Gann, Ph.D., is the fourth Lita Annenberg Hazen Dean of the WSBS, effective January 2013. Dr. Gann has served as Editorial Director of the Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory Press, where since 1999 he has produced publications ranging from textbooks for undergraduate and graduate education to laboratory manuals and books on the history of science. He is a co-author of Molecular Biology of the Gene, now in its 6th edition, and of the recently released Annotated Double Helix, a new edition of James D. Watson's autobiographical classic. Dr. Gann received his Ph.D. from the University of Edinburgh in 1989, after which he continued his postdoctoral training at Harvard and University College, London, and lectured at Lancaster University. A longtime member of the WSBS faculty, Dr. Gann brings a unique combination of inside perspective and broad understanding of the impact of the digital and genomic revolutions upon higher education and the biological sciences.

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