

jan-feb 2013

## Early Career Reps to Advise GSA Board

Two early career scientists, **graduate student Kathleen Dumas** (University of Michigan, Ann Arbor) and **postdoctoral researcher Krista Dobi**, PhD (Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center, New York) were selected as advisory representatives to the GSA Board of Directors. These two individuals were selected from among more than 50 of GSA's graduate student and postdoctoral members who volunteered to serve in leadership positions on the GSA Board of Directors.

"Developing mechanisms for enhancing the direct involvement of students and postdocs in society affairs has been a major emphasis of the recent GSA Board of Directors, and we are happy to welcome Katie and Krista as advisory representatives," said GSA President Michael Lynch. "Their presence at the table will help ensure that the GSA's activities meet the needs and priorities of our next generation of geneticists." Students and postdoctoral scholars represent nearly half of GSA's 5,000 members.

### Graduate Student Representative

Ms. Dumas is "honored and excited to serve as the inaugural advisory graduate student representative to

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## Six New Members Elected to 2013 GSA Board of Directors

The GSA is pleased to welcome two new officers and four new directors elected by the membership to the 2013 Board of Directors. The new Board members include **Vicki L. Chandler** (Gordon and Betty Moore Foundation), who will serve as vice president in 2013 and as GSA president in 2014; **Anne M. Villeneuve** (Stanford University School of Medicine) as secretary; and **Lynn Cooley**, (Yale University), **Anna Di Rienzo**, (University of Chicago), **Sarah "Sally" C. R. Elgin**, (Washington University in St. Louis), and **Deborah A. Siegele**, (Texas A&M University) as directors.

These new officers and directors began their tenure on January 1, 2013 and will remain on the GSA Board until December 31, 2015.

"We welcome these new leaders and we thank the outgoing Board members for their years of dedicated service to GSA," said Executive Director Adam P. Fagen.

The outgoing Board officers and directors are: Past President (2011) Paul W. Sternberg, (California Institute of Technology), Secretary Mariana F. Wolfner (Cornell University) and Directors Utpal Banerjee (University of California, Los Angeles), Elizabeth A. De Stasio (Lawrence University), Sue Jinks-Robertson (Duke University Medical Center) and Thomas J. Silhavy (Princeton University) whose tenure on the GSA Board ended on December 31, 2012.

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## 2013 GSA Award Recipients Announced

In recognition of their outstanding achievements and contributions to the community of geneticists, five individuals will receive awards from GSA in 2013. The five recipients are **Thomas D. Petes** for the Thomas Hunt Morgan Medal; **Elaine A. Ostrander** for the Genetics Society of America Medal; **R. Scott Hawley** for the George W. Beadle Award; **A. Malcolm Campbell** for the Elizabeth W. Jones Award for Excellence in Education; and **Jonathan A. Pritchard** for the Edward Novitski Prize.

“This year's award winners constitute a remarkable group of individuals whose creativity and tenacity has enormously enhanced the field of genetics, both at the research and educational fronts. The GSA awards are a small but meaningful way by which the genetics community can provide thanks and celebrate their impressive achievements,” said Michael Lynch, President of GSA.

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## Genetics Society of America

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## Scientists: The Best Advocates for Science Policy

by Adam Fagen, Executive Director

One of the most important roles for a professional society like GSA is to represent the collective interests of our community. We provide a voice that extends across institutions, geographic regions, model organisms, and topics of study. And through our partnerships with other professional societies, we extend the reach of our members across disciplines.



Adam Fagen

GSA's new Public Policy Committee is just starting to identify the unique contribution that the Society can make to advocacy. What are the distinct needs and viewpoints that GSA can bring to the halls of power? How can we best explain the value of basic genetics research to those who do not understand what a "model organism" is and who think studying the physiological processes of *Drosophila* is a waste of time? How do we engage our community so that each member feels it is their personal responsibility to be an advocate for research and education?

This last point is essential: **we need YOU! The best advocates for science are scientists.** While GSA and our policy partners provide an important collective voice, decisionmakers also need to hear from you, their constituents. After all, you are the people who send them to Washington (or Ottawa, London, or Tokyo) — or to your state, provincial, or local legislative body.

It is easy to think that your voice doesn't matter. But elected officials take note of every phone call, letter, or e-mail message they receive. Even if the staff member who takes your call seems uninterested or you get only a form letter in response to your e-mail, they do know that you called. Wouldn't you rather that your representative had a tally of 200 — and not just two — scientists contacting their office on a particular issue? It is only through these individual and continuing actions that our elected officials learn how important science is to their constituents.

You can count on one hand the number of scientists among the 535 U.S. Senators and Representatives. Although some of the nonscientists in Congress understand the value of research, their appreciation of science as a discipline may have been formed decades ago by a biology or chemistry course they took in high school or college.

We need to help explain what we do and why it matters. **We need to talk about the way research contributes to a strong economy, spawns entire new industries, and creates good jobs.** We need to tell our representatives how previous investments in basic research have resulted in cures for disease, hardier crops, and better understanding of fundamental biological processes. And we need to explain why public investment is essential to support basic research, even if the private sector will later provide its funding to bring products to market.

Science is not a partisan issue or one that is specific to the United States. Whatever your politics, we hope you will agree that investment in scientific research and education is important, not only to our own work, but to society as a whole. And we hope that you will answer the call that GSA — and our policy partners — are making to be an advocate for science.

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Michael Lynch

## Challenges and Opportunities for the GSA

by Michael Lynch, GSA President

Although the quantum growth in technological innovation and data acquisition recently experienced by genetics and genomics were not imaginable two decades ago, major advances in methodology are just around the corner. Very soon the costs of sequencing a genome will be “free” relative to the costs of analysis.

Within the next decade, the vast level of genomic information now available for humans will likely be the norm for a large number of additional taxa, ideally distributed across the Tree of Life. Thus, very soon, the only thing limiting our ability to understand genetics and evolution will be the extension and development of intellectual infrastructure for interpreting the overwhelming amount of information before us.

On the one hand, we cannot abandon the exquisite, time-tested approaches of focused genetic analyses that have gotten us where we are today. There is still an enormous amount to be learned about genetic mechanisms themselves and their irregularities among species. Quantitative-genetic analysis is more relevant than ever, albeit with a much

greater focus on molecular and cellular levels.

On the other hand, the real power residing in genome-level analysis is not simply in organizing DNA sequences but in interpreting new kinds of data in novel and creative ways. Sixty or so years ago, it was at least plausible that a GSA member could read an entire issue of *GENETICS* and have a reasonable understanding of each paper, but the rapid growth and specialization of biological knowledge — and the shear limits of the human brain — has put such a condition nearly out of reach.

This need to balance a deep understanding of genetics and related fields with ways to bridge them cannot be met without substantial investment in new approaches to education and research support, encouraging individuals whose interests reside at the interfaces of different areas and accepting the value of team-based research, while continuing to embrace the individual creativity for which genetics is famous. Below I note some of the more exciting developments currently underway with the GSA to help strengthen our field.

### A Society-wide Meeting

It has been 20 years since GSA sponsored a general meeting of the membership, at which point the emphasis shifted toward a broadening range of model-organism specific meetings (e.g., *Drosophila*, *Caenorhabditis*, mouse, *Chlamydomonas*, yeast, and other fungi). Most recently, zebrafish and ciliates have been added to GSA's conference portfolio. By all criteria, these meetings have been a huge success.

Although focused on single species, each such meeting brings together scientists from the full swath of biological subdisciplines (including large numbers of those who would not identify themselves as geneticists).

Such interdisciplinary gatherings are unlike any others in the life sciences, and the GSA is proud to serve as their host.

However, as important as such specialized meetings are, they do not come close to meeting the needs of the broad GSA membership. Not every major model organism is featured in such meetings; not every geneticist works on a classical model organism; and some geneticists — theoreticians and biometricians — do not work on organisms at all. Add to this that the economy of genomics is now democratizing the organismal playing field, the global urgency of agricultural genetics/genomics, and the need to more fully embrace prokaryotic genetics, and it is clear that we can do better.

Spearheaded by GSA Board member Jeannie Lee (HHMI, Mass Gen Hosp), who serves as chair of the GSA Conferences Committee, the GSA Board of Directors is exploring ways to bring the entire GSA together, while maintaining the strong sense of identity within individual model organism communities.

We are targeting 2016, the 100th-anniversary year of the founding of the journal *GENETICS* and the 85th anniversary of GSA. While desiring to embrace the full breadth of genetics, we are striving for a structure that maintains the culture of the model-organism meetings, while promoting shared sessions that will facilitate interactions across the full breadth of the GSA membership, including important segments (such as population and evolutionary genetics) that have been left without a specific GSA meeting venue for the past two decades. In short, the idea is to build upon and promote the strengths of the individual meetings, but to add something that is even greater than the sum of its very strong parts.

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## Building a Partnership with the National Postdoctoral Association

*At its meeting in October, the GSA Board of Directors voted to establish a partnership with the National Postdoctoral Association (NPA), encouraging postdocs to be members of both organizations. As details of a joint individual postdoc membership option are finalized, here is an introduction to NPA and how it can serve GSA's postdoctoral members.*

The NPA emerged from discussions at a meeting of Science's NextWave Postdoc Network in April 2002 (NextWave was a predecessor of the current ScienceCareers). The NPA was established with the goal of fostering improvements to the postdoctoral experience. From its inception, the NPA has worked collaboratively and constructively with research institutions, including institutional postdoctoral affairs offices (PDOs) and postdoctoral associations (PDAs), professional organizations, and scientific funding agencies. The NPA sought especially to encourage the creation of additional PDOs to support postdocs on individual campuses, and the number of such offices has more than doubled since NPA was founded.

The NPA advocates for policies that promote positive change in the postdoctoral experience and is regularly consulted by federal agencies — including the National Institutes of Health and National Science Foundation — and other influential organizations such as The National Academies. The NPA has played an important role in discussions to formally define the postdoctoral population, increase postdoc stipends, expand data collection about postdocs, and establish grant programs that support postdocs. The NPA develops and provides resources both to individual postdocs and to those who serve postdoctoral populations, including research institutions and professional societies. And the NPA provides a forum for the postdoctoral community to come together, including at its annual meetings and at the association's website.

The NPA membership includes some 2,500 individual members and nearly 190 institutional members, whose research supports approximately 60,000 postdocs. Of the 108 research universities classified as “very high activity” research institutions by the Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching, nearly two-thirds are members of the NPA. Of the 61 members of the Association of American Universities, 52 are NPA members.

For more information about the NPA, see [www.nationalpostdoc.org](http://www.nationalpostdoc.org).

*The mission of the NPA is to advance the U.S. research enterprise by maximizing the effectiveness of the research community and enhancing the quality of the postdoctoral experience for all participants.*

REGISTRATION IS NOW OPEN!

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Hosted by the Medical University of South Carolina

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# The 2013 Congress: Changes Coming To Key Committees

By Jennifer L. Zeitzer ([jzeitzer@faseb.org](mailto:jzeitzer@faseb.org)), Director of Legislative Relations in FASEB's Office of Public Affairs.

**A**lthough the 2012 elections brought no big changes to Washington, D.C., nearly 80 new faces arrived on Capitol Hill when the 113th Congress began this month. The Senate welcomes twelve freshman, eight Democrats, three Republicans, and one Independent (Angus King-ME). On the other side of the Capitol, 67 incoming representatives (29 Republicans and 38 Democrats) will join the remaining returning members of the House. Several individuals with backgrounds in science and medicine are part of the group of new lawmakers including Bill Foster (D-IL) who has a PhD in experimental physics, veterinarian Ted Yoho (R-FL), and three physicians — Ami Bera (D-CA), Brad Wenstrup (R-OH), and Raul Ruiz (D-CA).

Despite gaining two seats on Election Day and increasing their majority to 55 – 45, Democrats still do not have a 60 seat supermajority in the Senate, and will need support from at least a few Republicans to accomplish anything legislatively. Republicans retained their majority in the House and will control the chamber 234–201. Even though Democrats came short of their ultimate goal of taking back the House, the party picked up eight seats.

As the newly elected senators and representatives attended freshman orientation the week of November 12, House Republicans held their leadership elections, retaining a familiar group in the top roles. Rep. John Boehner (OH) was re-elected House speaker and Rep. Eric Cantor (VA) will continue as the majority leader. Democrats gave Rep. Nancy Pelosi (CA) another two years as House minority leader, alongside Minority Whip Steny Hoyer (MD). Senate Republicans also held leadership elections returning Mitch McConnell (KY) to the Senate minority leader post, and choosing John Cornyn (TX) as minority whip, replacing Jon Kyl (AZ) who retired at the end of the 112th Congress. Senate Democrats made no changes to their leadership line-up. Harry Reid (NV) will continue as the Senate Majority Leader, and Dick Durbin (IL) will be assistant majority leader.

Election Day may have produced no changes in which party controls the House and Senate but several of the committees that are responsible for moving bills through the legislative process will go through a significant reshuffling due to failed bids for other offices, retirements, and internal rules that prohibit Republicans from serving more than six years as the chair or ranking (e.g., most senior) member of any panel. The following key committees who have jurisdiction over funding and policies related to the federal science agencies will see new leaders:

- **Senate Budget Committee** – Patty Murray (D-WA) will chair this panel that sets overall funding levels and fiscal policy. Murray is a strong champion for the National Institutes of Health (NIH) and biomedical research funding. Jeff Sessions (R-AL), a fiscal conservative who was the ranking member last year will continue in that capacity.
- **Senate Appropriations Committee** – Daniel Inouye (D-HI) returns as the committee chair. Richard Shelby (AL) moved up as the top Republican, replacing Thad Cochran (MS) who hit the six year limit. The Labor, Health and Human Services (LHHS) Appropriations Subcommittee that oversees funding for NIH will be led by previous chairman Tom Harkin (IA). At press time the new ranking member had not yet been named.
- **Senate Health, Education, Labor and Pensions (HELP) Committee** – Tom Harkin (D-IA) will continue to chair this committee that has jurisdiction over regulatory and policy issues involving NIH. The top Republican had not yet been named at press time.
- **House Appropriations Committee** – Hal Rogers (R-KY) will continue as the panel chairman but will be joined by new ranking member Nita Lowey (D-NY) who takes over the position following the retirement of Washington Congressman Norm Dicks. Rep. Jack Kingston (R-GA) will likely lead the House LHHS Appropriations Subcommittee, replacing former Rep. Denny Rehberg (MT) who lost his Senate bid. Rosa DeLauro (D-CT) will serve another term as the ranking member on the LHHS Subcommittee.
- **House Science Committee** – This is one of the panels that will see some of the biggest changes as a result of Election Day defeats. Reps. Roscoe Bartlett (R-MD), Todd Akin (R-MO), and Judy Biggert (R-IL) all lost their bids for office. A total of 10 current members (approximately one-third) are not returning to the committee in January. In addition, Rep. Lamar Smith (R-TX) will replace the term-limited former Chairman Ralph Hall (TX). Rep. Eddie Bernice Johnson (D-TX) continues as the ranking member.

These Senate and House members will be in the leadership positions mentioned above for the next two years. As Congress discusses budget and policy issues affecting the NIH, the National Science Foundation and other biomedical and basic research agencies, these are members to contact — in addition to your congressional representatives and senators — to promote basic research and biomedical funding.



# 10 Early Career Researchers Receive DeLill Nasser Travel Grants

GSA is pleased to announce the selection of 10 early career researchers — five graduate students and five postdoctoral researchers — as recipients of a 2013 DeLill Nasser Award for Professional Development in Genetics. The award is a \$1,000 travel grant for each researcher to attend any national or international meeting, conference or laboratory course that will enhance his or her career.

"Each round, the review committee has a tough job selecting the most deserving applicants from among the many strong applications," said Adam Fagen, PhD, Executive Director. "These 10 recipients represent just a small sample of the excellence found among grad students and postdocs in our community, ensuring a strong future for the field of genetics."

The DeLill Nasser Award was established by GSA in 2001 to honor its namesake, DeLill Nasser (1929-2000), a long-time GSA member, who provided critical support to early career researchers during her 22 years as program director in eukaryotic genetics at the National Science Foundation. Since the formation of this award, nearly 100 graduate students and postdocs have received funding for travel to further their career goals and enhance their education. The program is supported by GSA and with charitable donations from members of the genetics community.

The 10 recipients of the 2013 DeLill Nasser Awards, their institutions and the conference or lab course each intends to attend are listed below.

## Graduate Students



**Daniel K. Bricker**,  
University of Utah  
School of Medicine,  
Salt Lake City  
54th Annual  
*Drosophila* Research  
Conference, April 3-7,  
2013, Washington, D.C.



**Russ Corbett-Detig**,  
Harvard University,  
Cambridge, MA  
54th Annual  
*Drosophila* Research  
Conference, April 3-7,  
2013, Washington, D.C.



**Maria N. Hindt**,  
Dartmouth College,  
Hanover, NH  
International  
Conference on  
Arabidopsis, June  
24-28, 2013, Sydney,  
Australia

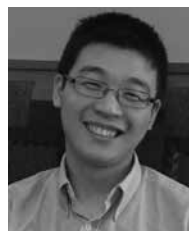


**Kathy Ngo**, University  
of California, Los  
Angeles  
2013 Gordon  
Research Conference  
on Developmental  
Biology, June 30-July 5,  
2013, Lucca, Italy



**Mengshu Xu**,  
University of Toronto,  
Canada  
EMBO Conference  
Series: Chromatin and  
Epigenetics, May 8-12,  
2013, Heidelberg,  
Germany

## Postdoctoral Researchers



**Wen Huang**, North  
Carolina State  
University, Raleigh  
54th Annual  
*Drosophila* Research  
Conference, April 3-7,  
2013, Washington, D.C.



**Alysia Mortimer**,  
PhD, Emory University,  
Atlanta, GA  
54th Annual  
*Drosophila* Research  
Conference, April 3-7,  
2013, Washington, D.C.



**Olga S. Novikova**,  
PhD, University at  
Albany, NY  
27th Fungal Genetics  
Conference, March  
12-17, 2013, Pacific  
Grove, CA



**Jason Slot**, PhD,  
Vanderbilt University,  
Nashville, TN  
27th Fungal Genetics  
Conference, March  
12-17, 2013, Pacific  
Grove, CA



**Robert Unckless**,  
PhD, Cornell  
University, Ithaca, NY  
54th Annual  
*Drosophila* Research  
Conference, April 3-7,  
2013, Washington, D.C.

Members of the DeLill Nasser Award Selection Committee reviewed the applications for this cycle. They included: Chair Sue Wessler (UC-Riverside), and members Tim Christensen (East Carolina University, Greenville, NC); Marnie Halpern (Carnegie Inst); R. Scott Hawley (Stowers Inst); Kristin Latham (Western Oregon Univ); Terry Orr-Weaver (Whitehead Inst, MIT); Helen K. Salz (Case Western Reserve Univ); and Jeffrey Williams Thomas, nephew of DeLill Nasser.

In the 12 years the DeLill Nasser Awards for Professional Development in Genetics has been distributing grants to early career genetics researchers, nearly 100 grants have been awarded. For more information about the program, see <http://www.genetics-gsa.org/pages/delill.shtm>.

## continued page 1 2013 GSA Award Recipients Announced

These five geneticists have a broad range of research and professional interests as described below.

### The Thomas Hunt Morgan Medal

*First presented in 1981, the Thomas Hunt Morgan Medal recognizes genetics researchers whose body of work has substantively added to knowledge in the field and has had great impact on its direction. The medal is named in honor of the classical geneticist and a founder of modern genetics, Thomas Hunt Morgan (1866–1945). Morgan received the 1933 Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine for his studies of “the role played by the chromosome in heredity,” which he studied in *Drosophila*.*

#### Thomas D. Petes, Duke University



Tom has made seminal research contributions that have advanced the understanding of the mechanisms of DNA damage and repair using the yeast

*Saccharomyces cerevisiae* as a model system. His insights into comprehending genome stability and instability extend far beyond this model system, laying the foundation for much of our knowledge about how human cells replicate, protect, repair and combine their chromosomes. This has provided crucial understanding in identifying the gene defects of the most common form of hereditary colon cancer and in other human diseases.

### The GSA Medal

*The Genetics Society of America Medal, first awarded in 1981, was established by GSA to recognize elegant and highly meaningful contributions to genetics by researchers within the previous 15 years of their careers.*

#### Elaine A. Ostrander, National Human Genome Research Institute, National Institutes of Health

Elaine is known throughout the scientific community as the world's foremost authority on canine genomics.



She led the effort to sequence the dog genome and has played a principal role in the development of a host of other important canine genomics research

tools, which have been used to better understand both human and canine disease susceptibility genes and the genetic architecture underlying mammalian morphological traits. She is also known for her work on human prostate and breast cancers.

### The George W. Beadle Award

*The George W. Beadle Award established by GSA in 1999, honors individuals who have made outstanding contributions to the community of genetics researchers and exemplify the qualities of its namesake, who served as GSA's president in 1946. Beadle (1903–1989) received the 1958 Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine for his work in discovering that genes act by regulating definite chemical events. He was not only an outstanding researcher but also a leader in the educational and scientific communities serving as president of the University of Chicago (1961–1968) and as a member of numerous influential national and international committees.*

#### R. Scott Hawley, Stowers Institute for Medical Research



Scott has made seminal research contributions to the field of genetics that reveal the function of many of the genes regulating and carrying out meiosis using

the model organism *Drosophila melanogaster*. In addition, he has developed tools, techniques and approaches for studying the chromosomal dynamics of this process. Beyond his research, Scott is an acclaimed teacher, mentor, textbook

author, manuscript reviewer, and speaker, who is extraordinarily giving of his time and talent to the community of genetics researchers and to the public.

### The Elizabeth W. Jones Award for Excellence in Education

*The Elizabeth W. Jones Award for Excellence in Education honors either an individual or a group that has promoted greater exposure to and deeper understanding of genetics at a significant, sustained level. The award was named posthumously in 2008 for Elizabeth W. Jones (1939–2008), a renowned geneticist and educator who was GSA president (1987), editor-in-chief of GSA's journal *GENETICS* (1996 – 2008) and the recipient of the first GSA Excellence in Education Award in 2007.*

#### A. Malcolm Campbell, Davidson College, North Carolina



Malcolm describes himself as “primarily a teacher but also a biologist.” A professor of biology and director of the James

G. Martin Genomics Program at Davidson College, Malcolm is also a writer and curriculum developer, having co-authored the first true genomics textbook for undergraduates, *Genomics, Proteomics and Bioinformatics*, and having developed the Genome Consortium for Active Teaching (GCAT). The GCAT program combines mathematical, computer science and biology skills and knowledge to bring genomics into the undergraduate curriculum. Since its development in 2000, more than 360 undergraduate faculty have been trained to use the GCAT program, teaching more than 24,000 undergraduate students.

### The Edward Novitski Prize

*The Edward Novitski Prize was established in 2007 by the Novitski family to honor the*



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Katie Dumas

the GSA Board of Directors." She is a graduate student in the Cell and Molecular Biology Department at UM, working on insulin signaling genetics

in *C. elegans* and has completed a graduate certificate program in Science, Technology, and Public Policy.

Ms. Dumas has a history of volunteer service to her professional community. This includes serving as co-president of the Graduate Student Council at UM; revitalizing a moribund chapter of the Association for Women in Science; and serving as a lead organizer for a forum for graduate students and postdoctoral fellows to share research, gain interdisciplinary perspectives and network with experts in the science and policy fields.

"Katie Dumas is a sophisticated student researcher who has exceptional leadership skills and a dedication to bridging the interface between research and public policy," said Jessica Schwartz, PhD, Director of the PhD Program in Cell & Molecular Biology at UM. "She is an excellent

communicator and will represent an informed student perspective effectively."

Ms. Dumas has attended several International *C. elegans* meetings organized by GSA and received a 2012 GSA DeLill Nasser Travel Award for Professional Development in Genetics.

### Postdoctoral Researcher Representative



Krista Dobi

Dr. Dobi, a postdoctoral researcher in developmental biology at Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center (MSKCC) in New York City, is studying

the development of muscles in the fruit fly *Drosophila melanogaster*.

As a graduate student she studied gene regulation in the yeast *Saccharomyces cerevisiae*. "As a yeast and *Drosophila* geneticist, I am truly honored to be the first postdoctoral representative to the GSA Board of Directors," said Dr. Dobi. "I look forward to sharing the perspectives and concerns of early career scientists with the Board, and to working with them to advance the field

of genetics."

Not only does she have varied and rich research experiences, according to her MSKCC postdoctoral mentor Mary Baylies, PhD, Dr. Dobi is "an effective and clear communicator, an excellent mentor, and she has excellent organizational and leadership abilities."

Dr. Dobi has mentored high school, undergraduate and graduate students, served on advisory committees and organized conferences. While an undergraduate at Princeton, she also served as executive director of the Princeton Model Congress, planning a conference in Washington, D.C. for 1,000 high school students and their teachers.

Dr. Dobi has attended GSA-sponsored *Drosophila* research conferences and received a 2012 GSA DeLill Nasser Travel Award for Professional Development in Genetics.

Early career researchers, including undergraduate and graduate students, and postdoctoral researchers, can contact Ms. Dumas and Dr. Dobi at [society@genetics-gsa.org](mailto:society@genetics-gsa.org). Please include "Advisory Representative" in the subject line.

## continued page 8 **2013 GSA Award Recipients Announced**

memory of Edward Novitski (1918-2006), a *Drosophila* geneticist and lifelong GSA member, who specialized in chromosome mechanics and in elucidating meiosis through the construction of modified chromosomes. The Prize recognizes an extraordinary level of creativity and intellectual ingenuity in the solution of significant problems in genetics research, a scientific achievement that stands out from the body of innovative work and solves a difficult problem in genetics.

**Jonathan K. Pritchard**, Howard Hughes Medical Institute and University of Chicago



Through collaborative activities, Jonathan has made contributions to our understanding of the causes and consequences of human molecular variation and adaptation. He and his team analyze genetic data using computational approaches to examine human genetic variation. With his colleagues he developed a model-based clustering approach, now available in a free software package named *structure*. This computational approach infers population structure and assigns individuals to different genetic populations. This method is now widely used in a range of fields such as human genetics, forensics, and perhaps most widely in molecular ecology and conservation genetics.

For more information about each award and for a list of past recipients, please visit the GSA Awards page at <http://www.genetics-gsa.org/awards>.

# On the Road: GSA Focuses on Students at National Conferences



Education Director Beth Ruedi (R), talks with a participant at ABRCMS.

**B**eth Ruedi, GSA's education director was on the road last fall, expanding GSA's outreach to underrepresented minority scientists, specifically students at the national meeting of the Society for Advancement of Chicanos and Native Americans in Science (SACNAS) in Seattle in October, followed by the Annual Biomedical Research Conference for Minority Students (ABRCMS) in San Jose in November.

In the past, GSA has provided funds for student awards at these conferences but only in the last few years has the Society exhibited at these conferences. A GSA staff member in an exhibit booth can talk one-on-one with individual attendees interested in genetics, thereby increasing awareness about the Society, our journals, and our career development resources. October's conference was the first national SACNAS meeting with GSA representation while this was the third year GSA has exhibited at ABRCMS.

"Each conference is unique in its own right," Beth said. "SACNAS encompasses a diverse range of STEM fields, not just biology but also physics and chemistry, and it doesn't focus on a particular type of trainee. ABRCMS primarily highlights undergraduate research in the biomedical field." While their scope is different, their

goal is the same: increase the number of underrepresented minorities conducting STEM research, and encourage them to continue on in their scientific field.

## A Lot of Talking

Beth spent a lot of time talking about GSA at both of these conferences. "The booth gets a fair amount of foot traffic, and the number of students who want more information about GSA, *G3: Genes | Genomes | Genetics* and *GENETICS* increases each year we exhibit. In-other-words, GSA is starting to make its mark with these trainees," Beth noted.

Over the course of the two and a half days at SACNAS, Beth spoke "with around 50 visitors" and provided more detailed follow-up with nearly two-thirds. SACNAS had more than 3,500 attendees and 300 exhibitors. Beth indicated that "the trainees and educators who visited the GSA booth were clearly passionate about genetics."

At ABRCMS, with about 3,300 attendees, GSA joined the societies of "FASEB Row," a row of exhibit booths representing many of the Federation of American Societies for Experimental Biology (FASEB) member societies. Beth spoke with approximately 40 students, primarily undergraduates, about the Society, the journals and the resources for students. Many came to GSA seeking advice about careers outside of academia after visiting the "CV Doctor" provided by FASEB.

Crossing the Bay from San Francisco, where he was attending the American Society of Human Genetics (ASHG) Annual Meeting (see article page 9), GSA Executive Director Adam Fagen joined Beth at ABRCMS during the

last day to meet and talk with students about GSA.

## Awards

As in the past, GSA funded awards at both SACNAS and ABRCMS. At SACNAS, two graduate students from the University of Washington, Katrina Claw and Keolu Fox, won oral presentation awards in genetics. Undergraduate student poster presentation award winners in genetics were:

Kayarch Karimian (Transylvania Univ); Brian Leon (Univ of Puerto Rico, Rio Piedras); Wiley Barton (Univ of New Mexico); Kristine Andersen (San Jose State Univ); and Ugochi Mba (Baylor College of Medicine).

At ABRCMS awards in genetics were supported jointly by GSA and the Society for Developmental Biology (SDB). Oral presentation awards were given to three senior undergraduates: Andrea Quinones-Rivera (Univ California, Santa Cruz); Jennifer Palilio (Univ of Miami); and Benjamin Koppenhaver (Virginia Commonwealth Univ). Poster awards were given to one post-baccalaureate, 10 senior undergraduates, seven juniors, and four sophomores.

## Future Outreach

GSA intends to continue to attend the SACNAS and ABRCMS conferences and hopes GSA members will become more involved at these meetings. While GSA members who attended these conferences stopped by the booth to say, "hi" to Beth or Adam, their presence at the booth to talk about

the trainees and educators who visited the GSA booth were clearly passionate about genetics

how GSA has made a difference in their professional lives, or in helping to judge student awards, is also important. "These conferences provide a forum for meeting prospective members, but they also provide an opportunity for current members to engage with

the Society. Current GSA members who assist at the booth can help early career researchers understand the value in being a member of a professional society," said Adam.

"The undercurrent of excitement about science at these conferences

is palpable and the research is impressive," Beth said. "These students are quite literally the future of our field, and reaching out to them so early in their careers is important for both them and the GSA," Adam added.

## On the Road: GSA at ASHG Annual Meeting in San Francisco



The human genetics community was host to members of the model organism community at the 2012 American Society of Human Genetics (ASHG) Annual Meeting, November 6-10, 2012 in San Francisco. GSA Past President Phil Hieter (Univ of British Columbia) and Hal Dietz (Johns Hopkins Univ Sch of Med) were moderators of an invited session, and the Journals Executive Editor Tracey DePellegrin Connelly, with help from Executive Director Adam Fagan staffed an exhibit hall booth promoting *G3: Genes | Genomes | Genetics*.

Phil's session, "Model Organism Genetics, Human Biology and Human Disease," was attended by several hundred participants, and focused on "the current relevance of model organism studies for the understanding, diagnosis, and treatment of human disease," and the anticipated "future role of model organisms in human disease research."

Among the speakers at this session were GSA member Cynthia Kenyon (UCSF) who spoke on regulating aging in nematode worms and man. Other



Above: Speakers at the ASHG session on Model Organism Genetics (L to R): Hal Dietz, Randy Schekman, Phil Hieter, Mark Krasnow and Didier Stainier. (Cynthia Kenyon not pictured.)

Left: The G3 exhibit booth at the 2012 ASHG Annual Meeting.

speakers and the model organism topics they discussed were: Randy Schekman (UC-Berkeley) on the "Lessons from yeast applied to the study of human genetic diseases of protein traffic"; Didier Stainier (Max Planck Inst. for Heart and Lung Res) on "Zebrafish heart development and function"; and, Simon W. John (HHMI/The Jackson Lab) on "Mouse models of glaucoma and ganglion cell loss."

At the *G3* booth in the ASHG exhibit hall, Halloween candy was evidently a good lure. "Interest was high and booth traffic was steady," said Tracey. During the course of the meeting, editors of *GENETICS* and *G3* stopped by as did some of the published authors who were attending the ASHG Annual Meeting.



# Thank You to the GSA Donors

The Genetics Society of America gives our thanks to the nearly 150 members who have contributed nearly \$20,000 from September through November 2012 to the Society and/or the special funds. These funds enable GSA to support educational programs, student awards at GSA conferences, public policy activities, media and public outreach, and especially, the next generation of geneticists.

GSA is deeply grateful to the family and friends of Dr. Gerold Schubiger (Univ of Washington), who contributed nearly \$8,500 to the DeLill Nasser Fund in his memory. Dr. Schubiger (1936-2012), a renowned developmental geneticist, was a longtime friend of DeLill Nasser and had requested upon his passing that those wishing to honor him with a remembrance do so by helping to support the DeLill Nasser Fund. (See box p.13, "In Memoriam, Gerold Schubiger 1936-2012")

From September to November 2012, GSA distributed \$17,500 in travel awards to undergraduate and graduate students and postdoctoral researchers. Of this, \$7,500 went to undergraduate students through the Victoria Finnerty Memorial Undergraduate Travel Awards to enable them to attend the 54th Annual *Drosophila* Research Conference in April 2013. Another \$10,000 was distributed to graduate students and postdoctoral fellows, through the DeLill Nasser Awards for Professional Development in Genetics. These awards permit young researchers to attend any meeting, conference or laboratory course. None of these GSA travel funds are self-sustaining; they rely on your annual support.

## Strengthening the Genetics Community

Our members — from the undergraduate student who gave \$10

to the long-time regular member who gave \$1,000 — understand that giving to GSA strengthens the community of geneticists as a whole. In particular, your donation supports the next generation of genetics researchers. We invite every member to make an annual contribution to GSA to ensure the future of our discipline. If you have not yet paid your dues for 2013, donate online when you renew your membership at [www.genetics-gsa.org/membership/joinrenew.shtml](http://www.genetics-gsa.org/membership/joinrenew.shtml)

To donate by credit card, please go to [www.genetics-gsa.org/donate/](http://www.genetics-gsa.org/donate/). Or send a check, payable to the Genetics Society of America. In the "note" of the check indicate whether this is for the general fund (which supports general activities of the Society including education, advocacy and undergraduate travel to GSA meetings, other than the *Drosophila* meeting), DeLill Nasser, DeLill Nasser – Gerold Schubiger Memorial, Victoria Finnerty (*Drosophila* undergraduate awards) or Chi-Bin Chien Award (Zebrafish, PhD student). Mail your check to GSA, 9650 Rockville Pike, Bethesda, MD 20814-3991, Attn: Adam Fagen, Executive Director.

Contributions are tax deductible to the extent the law allows. GSA is a nonprofit charitable organization under 501(c)3 of the Internal Revenue Service Code.

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## In Memoriam, Gerold Schubiger, 1936-2012

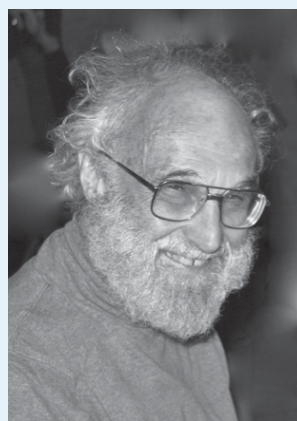


Photo: Barbara T. Wakimoto

The GSA sadly reports that longtime member, Gerold Schubiger, Professor of Biology at the University of Washington in Seattle, passed away on November 10, 2012. Gerold studied developmental processes in *Drosophila*, establishing the fate map for the *Drosophila* prothoracic leg as a graduate student, and remained an active researcher, including two papers last year reporting the fate maps for the meso- and metathoracic leg discs.

Gerold was a longtime friend of DeLill Nasser. He respected her for her honesty, dedication to excellence in science, and commitment to training

young scientists; these are the same traits that Gerold's students and friends admired in him. On his passing, Gerold's family announced that he requested that those wishing to honor him with a remembrance do so by helping to support the DeLill Nasser Fund, which supports GSA's DeLill Nasser Award for Professional Development in Genetics. These are travel awards for graduate students and postdoctoral researchers, which can be used towards attending any meeting, conference or laboratory course to further their professional career.

GSA is honored by this request from his family and offers its condolences to all his family and friends.

## DeLill Nasser, in Memory of Gerold Schubiger

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## Spring Meeting Previews

# Washington Sets Aside Partisanship for the Upcoming *Drosophila* Conference

By David L. Stern, Janelia Farm Research Campus, and Co-organizer of the 54th Annual *Drosophila* Research Conference

After the inauguration is over, Washingtonians are eagerly anticipating the next significant city event — the opportunity to learn about important discoveries being made using the fruit fly, *Drosophila*, which will be discussed at this year's 54th Annual *Drosophila* Research Conference, April 3-7, 2013 at the Marriott Wardman Park, Washington, D.C.

The conference will include presentations on research drawn from the entire breadth of biology: from the study of fundamental biological processes critical to health, to the study of behavior, evolution, and functional genomics. The first night features a keynote speech by the 2011 Nobel Laureate Jules Hoffman (CNRS), in which he will discuss how his *Drosophila* research contributed to a general understanding of innate immunity in all animals.

### Other Opening Night Presentations

In addition to the keynote speech, the first night will feature the Larry Sandler Memorial Award Lecture, given by a recent PhD student who has written an outstanding thesis, and presentation of GSA's 2013 George W. Beadle Award to R. Scott Hawley (Stowers Inst). Scott is well known to the community of *Drosophila* researchers for his seminal contributions to understanding meiosis and his multiple contributions to the GSA, including his service as president in 2010.

### Noted Workshops

As usual, the *Drosophila* meeting will include multiple workshops focused on cutting-edge topics and recent developments such as the future of *Drosophila* genomics, apoptosis, wound healing and regeneration, and the use of *Drosophila* for drug discovery. Two workshops will focus on involving undergraduates in *Drosophila* research and one will review National Science Foundation funding opportunities.

### Plenary Speakers

Two plenary sessions, on Thursday and Sunday morning, include 12 speakers who will highlight some of the most exciting recent work on *Drosophila* and other insects. These speakers and their studies are listed below.

**Naama Barkai** (Weizmann Inst of Science, Israel) studies the logic of biological circuits. Her lab employs a multi-disciplinary approach — including experiments, dynamic-

system theory, and computational analysis — to study how variability is buffered by, and can contribute to, biological circuits.

**Scott Barolo** (Univ of Michigan) studies the function and evolution of *cis*-regulatory transcriptional enhancer elements. His lab has focused on disentangling the complex "grammar" of transcriptional enhancers.

**Nancy Bonini** (Univ of Pennsylvania) uses *Drosophila* as a model for human neurodegenerative disease. The lab is focused on identifying pathways and molecules involved in *Drosophila* models of Huntington's and Parkinson's diseases to enable development of novel therapeutics for these diseases.

**Andrea Brand** (Cambridge Univ, UK) studies development of neurons from neural stem cells. Her lab has focused on the determinants of asymmetric cell division and the regulation of stem cell self-renewal versus differentiation.

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**Tom Clandinin** (Stanford Univ) studies how neuronal circuits assemble during development and how this process goes wrong in neurodegenerative diseases. The lab also studies how these circuits underlie computation required for behavior.

**Marc Freeman** (Univ of Massachusetts Med Sch) studies the development and function of glia. Major foci for the lab include unraveling the genetic programs underlying glial development and function and studying neuron-glia signaling that contributes to neural circuit architecture.

**Greg Hannon** (Cold Spring Harbor Lab) studies small RNA biology. The lab is currently focused on the roles of microRNAs, endogenous siRNAs, and piRNAs in gene regulation, cancer biology, stem cell biology and transposon regulation.

**Martin Hetzer** (Salk Inst) studies extremely long-lived proteins and proteins that contribute to the structure and function of the nucleus. His lab is interested in how these proteins contribute to normal function, aging, and cancer.

**Chris Jiggins** (Univ of Cambridge) studies the genetic basis for adaptation and speciation in butterflies and moths. The lab has a major focus on the genetic underpinnings of mimicry complexes in *Heliconius* butterflies.

**Leanna Jones** (Salk Inst) studies the regulation of stem cells. Her lab is focused on understanding how the stem cell niche regulates stem cell behavior and the role of nutrition and aging in stem cell activity.

**Jürg Müller** (Max Planck Inst of Biochemistry, Germany) studies how chromatin-modifying and chromatin-binding

proteins influence gene transcription. His lab focuses on how the *Polycomb group* and *trithorax group* genes maintain repressive and activating states, respectively.

**Ilaria Rebay** (Univ of Chicago) studies how signal transduction modulates cell fate specification. Her lab has focused on how the receptor tyrosine kinase pathway regulates embryonic and eye development.

### Registration and Hotel Accommodations

Fees for registration ([www.dros-conf.org/2013/pages/registration.shtml](http://www.dros-conf.org/2013/pages/registration.shtml)) increase as of January 22 and remain at the higher rate through March 20. Fees increase again after March 20, when only onsite meeting registration will be accepted. GSA member discounts are available for registration. To view fees and deadlines, please see the registration link above.

Hotel reservations may be made online at [www.dros-conf.org/2013/pages/hotel.shtml](http://www.dros-conf.org/2013/pages/hotel.shtml) or by phone at 877-212-5752. The deadline for reservations is March 13, 2013. Additional travel information, including ground transportation and information for international attendees is available at the website above.

### Conference Organizers

This year's conference is organized by Richard Mann (Columbia Univ Med School), Hannele Ruohola-Baker (Univ of Washington), Kristin Scott (Univ of California, Berkeley), and David Stern (HHMI Janelia Farm Research Campus). They look forward to welcoming you to Washington, D.C.

## Spring Meeting Previews

# Packed House Expected for 27th Fungal Genetics Conference

A sell-out crowd is expected at the 27th Fungal Genetics Conference, March 12-17, 2013 at the Asilomar Conference Grounds in Pacific Grove, California. Nearly two months before the meeting, approximately 1,000 people have registered to attend and there's a growing waiting list for those in the fungal community who just don't want to miss this biennial event.

The program, organized by co-chairs, Katherine Borkovich (Univ of California-Riverside) and Francis Martin (INRA, Nancy, France), features four plenary and four concurrent sessions, and three poster sessions. The four plenary sessions are on metabolic pathways; organismic molecular

interactions; sensing, cell biology and development; and, functional ecology of fungal communities.

The concurrent sessions offer a broad range of topics from "Cool tools for Fungal Biology," to "Fungi and Evolutionary Theory." Regine Kahmann (Max Plank Inst for Terrestrial Microbiology) will present the Perkins/Metzenberg Lecture on Saturday, March 16. Dr. Kahmann is a molecular phytopathologist, who studies smut disease in maize.

### Educational Focus

As always, education is an important part of the Fungal Meeting. The Concurrent Session on Wednesday, March 13, includes the topic, "Education, Outreach and Professional

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Genetics Society of America

# Upcoming Conferences

2



**Fungal  
Genetics**

27th Fungal Genetics Conference  
March 12 – 17, 2013 • Pacific Grove, CA

0



**Drosophila  
Genetics**

54th Annual Drosophila Research Conference  
April 3 – 7, 2013 • Washington, DC

1



***C. elegans*  
Genetics**

19th International *C. elegans* Meeting  
June 26 – 30, 2013 • Los Angeles, CA

3

for additional information visit

[genetics-gsa.org/conferences](http://genetics-gsa.org/conferences)

# continued page 1 Six New Members Elected to 2013 GSA BoD

New Members of the GSA Board of Directors

## **Vice President (and President-Elect):**

**Vicki L. Chandler, PhD, Chief**



*Program Officer-Science, Gordon and Betty Moore Foundation, Palo Alto, CA.*

Dr. Chandler is a plant geneticist and a long-time GSA member, who has served as an editor of the GSA journal *GENETICS* and as a member of the GSA Board in the 1990s. "GSA has an obligation to communicate through public outreach and education, advances in genetics that offer significant potential improvements in health, energy, food and the environment, but also raise personal and social issues," Dr. Chandler said. Her research is on paramutation, an epigenetic process that has implications not only for maize, which she used in her research, but also for animal and human genetics and genetic diseases.

## **Secretary:**

**Anne M. Villeneuve, PhD, Professor**



*of Developmental Biology and Genetics, Department of Developmental Biology, Stanford University School of Medicine, Stanford, CA.*

A developmental geneticist, Dr. Villeneuve studies the mechanisms of chromosome inheritance in eukaryotes during meiosis using the nematode worm *C. elegans* for much of her work. She has been a member of GSA for many years, has participated in many GSA-sponsored conferences and has served as an associate editor of *GENETICS*. She has "an abiding, vested interest in promoting and

sustaining the crucial mission of GSA," which includes being an advocate "for support of basic science research" and "continued government support for crucial resources such as the genetics stock centers and databases that are essential to sustain ongoing research."

## **Directors:**

**Lynn Cooley, PhD, C. N. H. Long**



*Professor of Genetics; Professor of Cell Biology and Molecular, Cellular & Developmental Biology, Yale University, New Haven, CT.*

Dr. Cooley studies oogenesis, using *Drosophila melanogaster* as a model system. Her lab focuses on the cellular mechanisms controlling egg growth, which, "are directly relevant to female fertility in other animals, including humans." She is an associate editor of the GSA journal *GENETICS*, and has been a member of GSA for many years. She is also an active member of the *Drosophila* genetics community and served as an organizer of the Annual *Drosophila* Research Conference in 2009. Dr. Cooley is looking "forward to supporting GSA's incredibly important advocacy effort to maintain government support for basic research in these times of tight federal budgets."

**Anna Di Rienzo, PhD, Professor,**



*Department of Human Genetics, University of Chicago, IL.*

Dr. Di Rienzo is a human geneticist, whose research group studies the amount and patterns of genetic variation in human populations including the forces that shape and maintain this variation. Dr. Di Rienzo is an associate editor of the journal *GENETICS*. As she assumes her role as a member of the GSA Board of

Directors, Dr. Di Rienzo says, her "research and teaching experience at the interface between evolutionary and disease genetics" offers the opportunity "to promote interactions between different communities of geneticists," including the "human genetics community and the model organism and ecological genetics communities."

**Sarah (Sally) C. R. Elgin, PhD,**



*Viktor Hamburger Professor of Arts and Sciences; Professor of Biology, of Genetics, and of Education, Washington University in St. Louis, MO.*

Dr. Elgin, known within the genetics research community for her work in epigenetics, gene regulation and chromatin structure using *Drosophila*, is equally lauded as a creative and dedicated genetics educator. In 2009 she received GSA's Elizabeth W. Jones Award for Excellence in Education for bringing genomics into the undergraduate biology classroom through the Genomics Education Partnership, which allows students to do real-time genome sequencing research that furthers the field of genetics. A long-time member of GSA, Dr. Elgin says she is "looking forward to working with GSA to promote better genetics education at every level."

**Deborah A. Siegele, PhD, Associate**



*Professor, Department of Biology, Texas A&M University, College Station, TX.*

Dr. Siegele is a prokaryotic biologist, who has worked with the bacterium *Escherichia coli* and phages, studying how they adapt to environmental changes through

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## continued page 17 Six New Members Elected to 2013 GSA BoD

changes in gene expression. Dr. Siegele has been a member of GSA for many years, and sees GSA as the organization that “connects scientists working on diverse biology problems, providing a forum for discussion of issues related to research, education and science policy.” She looks forward to furthering GSA’s efforts in the teaching of genetics. She sees “the need for developing teaching methods/tools that will give students opportunities to participate in real-life research activities that are scalable to large student populations.”

Continuing on the GSA Board (until the years noted in parentheses) are President (2014) Michael Lynch (Indiana University); Past President (2013) Philip Hieter (University of British Columbia); Treasurer (2013) Carol S. Newlon, (UMDNJ-New Jersey Medical School); Editors-in-Chief:

*GENETICS* (2013) Mark Johnston (University of Colorado Health Science Center, Denver) and *G3: Genes | Genomes | Genetics* (2014) Brenda J. Andrews (University of Toronto); and Directors (2013) Bonnie Bartel (Rice University); (2013) Judith G. Berman (University of Minnesota

and Tel Aviv University); (2014) Marnie E. Halpern (Carnegie Institution for Science); (2013) Jeannie T. Lee (Massachusetts General Hospital/Harvard Medical School); (2014) Mohamed A. F. Noor (Duke University); and, (2014) John C. Schimenti (Cornell University).



GSA thanks those members who concluded their service on the Board at the end of 2012. From L to R, they are: Directors Utpal Banerjee (UCLA); Elizabeth De Stasio (Lawrence Univ); Past President Paul Sternberg (Caltech); Director Sue Jinks-Robertson (Duke); and Secretary Mariana Wolfner (Cornell). (Not pictured, Tom Silhavy, Princeton.)

## continued page 2 Scientists: The Best Advocates for Science Policy

### GSA's Policy Partners

GSA is a member of several policy coalitions that represent important segments of the broader community. Joining with these collections of like-minded groups allows GSA to have a voice in advocacy activities that represent up to hundreds of thousands of researchers.

- **Federation of American Societies for Experimental Biology (FASEB).** FASEB is the nation's largest coalition of biomedical researchers with 26 independent scientific societies as members who collectively represent more than 100,000 scientists. [www.faseb.org](http://www.faseb.org)
- **Coalition for the Life Sciences (CLS).** CLS is an alliance of six nonprofit organizations<sup>1</sup> working together to foster public policies that advance basic biological research and its application in medicine and other fields. [www.coalitionforlifesciences.org](http://www.coalitionforlifesciences.org)
- **American Institute of Biological Science (AIBS).** AIBS represents both individual biologists and nearly 160 membership organizations, including many representing the organismal and ecological side of biology. [www.aibs.org](http://www.aibs.org)
- **Research!America.** Research!America is a broad coalition of professional societies, academic institutions, companies, patient advocates, and others working to make research to improve health a higher national priority. [www.researchamerica.org](http://www.researchamerica.org)
- **Coalition for National Science Funding (CNSF).** CNSF is an alliance of more than 120 organizations and universities united by a concern for the future vitality of the national science, mathematics, and engineering enterprise, with a particular focus on increasing the national investment in the National Science Foundation. [www.cnsfweb.org](http://www.cnsfweb.org)
- GSA also participates in less structured coalitions when their activities are consistent with GSA's interests including the **AFRI Coalition**, which advocates for robust competitive research at the U.S. Department of Agriculture, and the **Ad Hoc Group for Medical Research**, a coalition that promotes enhancing federal investment in research supported by NIH.

<sup>1</sup> In addition to GSA, CLS members are the American Society for Biochemistry and Molecular Biology, The American Society for Cell Biology, American Society for Clinical Investigation, Howard Hughes Medical Institute, and Society for Neuroscience.

## Society Journals

GSA now publishes two journals: *GENETICS*, the long-standing gold standard for scholarly work in genetics, and *G3: Genes | Genomes | Genetics*, our more recent open-access journal. Take a look at the running list of the most cited papers from *GENETICS* (<http://www.genetics.org/reports/most-cited>), and then think about what the field of genetics would be like without this body of work.

As outlined in Phil Hieter's essay in the Fall 2012 newsletter, and Mark Johnston's recent *GENETICS* editorial (<http://www.genetics.org/content/192/3/761.full>), there are many additional reasons for publishing your best work in the GSA journals, including the very rapid turn-around time (an average of just 30 days from submission to first decision) combined with a highly rigorous peer-review process. The GSA journals also apply high-end copyediting to all papers, greatly enhancing the literary quality of papers.

The next time you submit a paper to a non-society journal, think about what this means. Our scholarly

publications not only enhance research communications in the field of genetics, but income generated also enables GSA to support the membership in numerous ways: the development of educational resources; the administration and organization of the GSA conferences noted above; travel awards that help students and postdocs attend such meetings; and public-policy endeavors that enhance the research climate and funding situations for genetics. No other profit or nonprofit journal provides this level of enrichment to the genetics community.

All scientific societies are struggling with the issue of publication models, open access, and the challenge of maximizing the global accessibility of published papers while maintaining key services to societal members. GSA is, in fact, ahead of the curve in establishing an open access journal that fosters the goals of a scientific society, with *G3*, under the able hands of Editor-in-Chief Brenda Andrews, serving as a model for how this can be done. Just one and a half years old, this new journal is already publishing 20 new papers each month.

## Graduate Student and Postdoctoral Fellow Involvement in Society Governance

In an effort to expand the involvement of the entire membership, the GSA Board of Directors recently appointed two early-career scientists as advisory representatives to the Board (see "Early Career Reps" article on page 1). From a pool of over 50 impressive applicants, graduate student Kathleen Dumas (University of Michigan, Ann Arbor) and postdoctoral researcher Krista Dobi (Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center, New York) have been selected to fill the first terms in these positions. In addition, we will soon be adding other student and postdoctoral members to each of the Society's committees. We welcome this new level of involvement and commitment from the early career members of GSA.

In these rapidly changing times, the GSA must continue to evolve to meet the needs of its membership, and we especially look forward to your thoughts on how this can be best accomplished. Please feel free to contact me at [society@genetics-gsa.org](mailto:society@genetics-gsa.org).

## Spring Meeting Previews

### continued page 1 Packed House Expected for 27th Fungal Genetics Conference

Development." The GSA Careers Luncheon in Thursday, March 14 is an opportunity for graduate students and postdoctoral researchers to have informal discussions with senior career scientists to learn about the unique challenges and rewards of a scientific career. On Friday evening, there's a mixer for the GSA Education Special Interest Group, which is comprised of faculty who teach genetics education.

Undergraduate students attending genetics classes at institutions local to the Asilomar Conference Grounds are also invited to "The Genetics Conference Experience." This half-day, invitation-only opportunity, lets students who may never have attended a professional research conference to learn about genetics firsthand, outside of a textbook.

#### First-Time Attendees

New this year is a dinner on Wednesday evening, March 13 for first-time attendees. This dinner is designed to help new attendees become acquainted with other new attendees and the community organizers, including the Fungal Policy Committee members and GSA staff. Stop by to meet Adam Fagen, GSA's Executive Director, who will be hosting one of the tables.

#### For More Information

Platform and poster assignments are expected online a month in advance of the meeting. For more information, registrants and abstract submitters should visit the website at [www.fungalgenetics.org/2013/](http://www.fungalgenetics.org/2013/).



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## GSA 2013 CALENDAR

## JANUARY – MAY

### JANUARY

**19-23**

5th Strategic Conference of  
Zebrafish Investigators

**20**

Late abstract submission deadline  
54th Annual *Drosophila*  
Research Conference

**21**

Early (discounted) conference  
registration deadline  
*Drosophila* Conference

### APRIL

**3-7**

54th Annual *Drosophila* Research  
Conference, Washington, D.C.

**12**

Abstract submission deadline  
*C. elegans* Meeting

### FEBRUARY

**11**

Platform & poster assignments online  
27th Fungal Genetics Conference

**13**

Abstract submission site opens – 19th  
International *C. elegans* Meeting

**26**

Mobile website available  
Fungal Conference

**28**

Registration opens  
*C. elegans* Meeting

### MAY

**14**

Financial aid application deadline  
*C. elegans* Meeting

**22**

Registration and housing reservation deadlines  
*C. elegans* Meeting  
Platform & poster assignments online  
*C. elegans* Meeting

### MARCH

**12-17**

27th Fungal Genetics Conference,  
Pacific Grove, CA

**13**

Hotel reservations deadline  
DROS Conference

**21**

Housing site opens  
*C. elegans* Meeting

[www.genetics-gsa.org](http://www.genetics-gsa.org)