Genetics Society of America

GENEtics

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From the President's desk:

GENETICS and Its Place in Science Today

In July, the GSA Board convened at the GSA offices in Bethesda for their midyear meeting. We dedicated some moments to the memory of Elizabeth Jones, the late Editor-in-Chief of *GENETICS*, who passed away unexpectedly in June. We remembered her dedication to our Journal, as well as her commitment to science education. It was fitting that much of the subsequent discussion at the meeting centered on the future of *GENETICS*, and how we will meet the daunting task of identifying an editor-in-chief who can fill Beth's shoes.

E. Jones

Scientific publishing is in flux. There are serious voices that caution there may be no long-term future for society-owned journals. Just as we have watched many daily newspapers decline, and in recent years some have disappeared altogether, it is possible that only a few journals will survive in the long run. As more online publication possibilities develop that encourage self-publication and science blogs etc., this could result in the loss of subscribers, to the detriment of many scholarly journals. In addition, rapid new developments in our discipline and the online revolution in publishing raise questions that need to be addressed. It is important to consider the special value of journals published by scientific societies, as opposed to those published by commercial enterprises. Is it in the interest of the scientific community to continue support for journals such as *GENETICS*? I strongly believe the answer is an unequivocal YES!

Society-published journals strive to consider manuscripts submitted to them by a scientifically fair process that is unconcerned with the apparent "news-worthiness" of the subject. Good science is likely to be recognized by scientist editors who are themselves active experts in their field, and who are not driven by the monetary considerations of a commercial enterprise. This is certainly the reason why many of us are willing to serve as editors and reviewers for such journals.

But there are pitfalls to this process, too. There is a danger that standards may be set too low. There are, after all, a lot of manuscripts that present quite solid, publishable data, but may not present a coherent analysis that pushes the field forward. Rejection because of insufficient advance of the field is more difficult than finding simple flaws in the results. But an overly generous,

Continued on page 19

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Dear Abbot:

I'm a young Assistant Professor assigned to teach a graduate level seminar course. When I was a student the standard format was to assign each student a research paper to present in a journal club style. My memory is that these courses were dull, with discussion limited to the presenter and the instructor. I want to adopt a format that would ignite the entire class. What do you suggest?

Dr. Sparky

Dear Dr. Sparky:

We have a solution that will set your students on fire! We recently taught a seminar course entitled, "Controversies in Chromatin," in conjunction with the departmental seminar series. Speakers were asked to submit a controversial topic in their field of research. Each controversial topic became the discussion point for four sessions.

During the first session, a course instructor gave an introductory lecture on the topic, set up the controversy and presented students with a position related to the controversy. Students were then divided into two groups; one charged with supporting the position, the other with refuting it. During the second session, the two groups met independently to discuss data gathered from published literature that either defended or refuted their position. The instructors facilitated the development of rational arguments and encouraged the students to consider both sides of the issue.

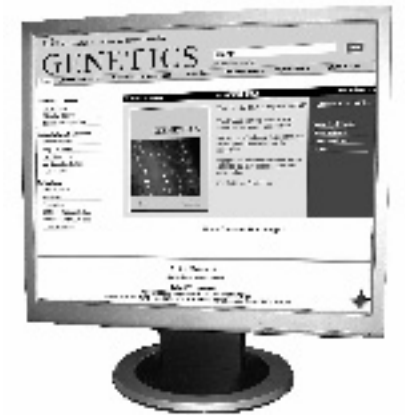
During the third session, each team gave an oral presentation. One student provided background information; a second gave evidence to support their position; and a third summarized and provided future experiments designed to resolve the controversy. Presentations were given to an audience of fellow students and faculty members who voted for the team that provided the most persuasive argument. The fourth session was an informal meeting between students and the seminar speaker who provided the controversial topic. This was an interactive discourse that provided personal perspectives from an insider in the field.

Students and instructors were highly enthusiastic about this course as evidenced by student evaluations stating, "I honestly learned more in this seminar course than I have learned in some of my three credit graduate courses," and "I thought the debate format was great and added fun/excitement." This course format is generally applicable to any topic and serves as an effective mechanism for teaching students how to build scientific arguments.

The Dynamite Duo
a.k.a. Pamela Geyer and Lori Wallrath
The University of Iowa, Iowa City

Beyond Appearances:

The New *GENETICS* Website offers Enhanced Content with Clean Design



Visit *GENETICS* online at www.genetics.org

Nearly one year ago, with Editor-in-Chief Elizabeth W. Jones at the helm, a group of Genetics Society of America members took on the challenge of redesigning the journal website. Under Suzanne Sandmeyer's leadership, a committee of our colleagues responded to the need to redesign the Journal's website to reflect its steadily increasing standards and to showcase our content with a contemporary aesthetic and clean form and delivery.

During 2002, 457 peer-reviewed articles were published in 5575 pages of the journal. Just five years later, the journal published 613 articles in over 7200 pages, an average of 51 articles each issue. With such volume and breadth, it is important to ensure that our readers could swiftly locate and use these articles.

The Committee watched, listened, and learned by conducting interviews, focus groups, and questionnaires with authors, readers, non-readers and GSA members. San Francisco designer, Elizabeth Kairys Design was hired. The designer exchanged ideas and partnered with the journal technology provider, HighWire Press, a division of Stanford University Libraries.

The Result

It's easier for you to find, read, and use research articles. The table of contents is organized by section subheading with distinct color to orient the reader. Issue highlights are provided with summaries targeted to our diverse readership.

With one click, you can access Reviews, Genetics Education, and Most-Read or Most-Cited articles. The new web interface enables easy downloading of figures for use in teaching. Cover-to-cover PDFs are offered for a more accurate historical record. Our color covers – started just two years ago – form a collection of visual images that also highlight individual articles.

The redesigned web pages feature a sans-serif font, providing a clean, easy-to-read look. Consistent navigation lets you move quickly and seamlessly through the site, with color intuitively guiding your way.

Beyond Appearances

These changes are more than cosmetic. Our editorial process was recently enhanced by recruiting eight Senior Editors of sections ranging from Gene Expression to Population and Evolutionary Genetics to Genome and Systems Biology, extending and enhancing the long tradition of *GENETICS* as a peer-reviewed and peer-edited journal (stay tuned for more on these developments in an upcoming issue of the journal).

The recently added Reviews section, edited by Allan Spradling, has been very well-received. The Reviews, along with the ever-popular Perspectives articles that illuminate the foundations of our field, edited by Bill Dove and Jim Crow, are more accessible than ever on the redesigned *GENETICS* website.

From 1916 until Tomorrow

Beginning with the first paper published in the journal — Calvin Bridges' classic demonstration in 1916 that chromosomes carry genes — *GENETICS* has led the way in our field. Today, the journal is ranked in the top 9% of all scientific journals by ISI Journal Citation Reports, and in the top 1.2% in Eigenfactor. ISI also ranks *GENETICS* in the top 1.5% of journals for the highest number of total cites.

With the redesigned web page, *GENETICS*' content is now more accessible than ever. Published papers are available to non-subscribers six months after publication; articles published online ahead of print are free to all. And our entire online archive, dating all the way back to that first paper by Bridges, followed by those from Beadle, Hershey, Luria, Delbruck, Horvitz, Hartwell, Sulston and Brenner – the leaders of our field – is freely available, and easily searchable.

Visit the NEW *GENETICS* online at www.genetics.org! Tell us what you think; we welcome your comments and questions as *GENETICS* continues to evolve.

GSA Awards Nominations Now Open

Applications for GSA Awards are now being accepted at www.genetics-gsa.org/pages/awards.shtml. The five awards accepting nominations are:

- The **Thomas Hunt Morgan Medal** for lifetime contributions in the field of genetics.
- The **Genetics Society of America Medal** for outstanding contributions to the field of genetics in the last 15 years.
- The **George W. Beadle Award** for outstanding contributions to the community of genetics researchers.
- **Elizabeth W. Jones Prize for Excellence in Education** in recognition of significant and sustained impact on genetics education, and,
- The **Novitski Prize**, funded by the Novitski family and named in honor of Drosophila geneticist Edward Novitski (1918-2006). The Prize is designed to recognize an extraordinary level of creativity and intellectual ingenuity in solving significant problems in genetics research.

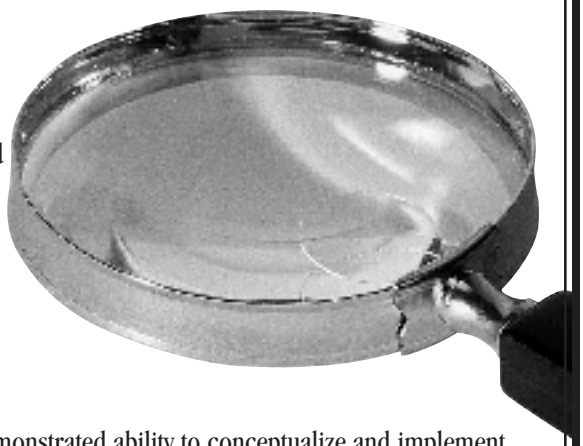
The deadline for the receipt of applications for these awards is Friday, October 31, 2008.

GSA is seeking an Executive Director

The GSA is searching for a new Executive Director to provide leadership and initiative in overseeing the mission of the Society. If you are interested in this position please apply; if you know someone who might be right for this position please encourage them to apply.

The responsibilities of the Executive Director include:

- Represent the GSA in public and private venues
- Serve as the Executive member of the Committees of the Board
- Develop new programs and initiatives in conjunction with the GSA Board
- Oversee management of the GSA's journal, *GENETICS*,
- Serve as Executive Editor of the Society's newsletter, *GENEtics*
- Facilitate the GSA's scientific meetings as Executive Organizer
- Administer the GSA website
- Direct membership recruitment and retention
- Oversee maintenance of financial records of the GSA
- Manage the GSA office and staff in Bethesda, MD



This position requires experience in organizational management and a demonstrated ability to conceptualize and implement new projects. Postgraduate training in science and an understanding of genetics is desirable. Familiarity with the non-profit sector and advocacy activities will be an advantage.

To apply send a letter of application, resume, and names of three references to Susan Scalco, at sscalco@faseb.org. Application deadline is October 31, 2008.

Visit http://www.genetics-gsa.org/pages/gsamission.shtml for more information on this position.

Saying "Goodbye" is Hard to Do

After more than 17 years working for GSA with nearly all of those at the helm as Executive Director, Elaine Strass will be retiring within the next several months. Elaine, who jointly served as Executive Director of the American Society of Human Genetics, retired from that position at the end of August. She took a little time recently to talk with *GENEtics* about the job, her future plans and her advice for the next GSA Executive Director.

GENEtics: **What have you liked most about the job?**

Elaine Strass: My favorite thing generally is working with people both in and out of the office. My focus has been in helping people. I've helped members so that meetings could come about. I've helped them develop campus meetings, and preserve the DROS meeting and help it grow. I've made sure there was always money available to do the things the Board said they wanted to do. For example, the Board said they wanted to raise money for travel awards, so I worked with people to make that happen.

GENEtics: **What will you miss most about the job?**

Elaine: I will miss seeing GSA grow and change as it has in the past. GSA is a very dynamic organization; its members are doing cutting edge genetics research and many of them are very involved with the organization.

Working with GSA members who come up with solutions to the challenges of a membership society has been particularly rewarding. I've enjoyed the working relationships I've had with so many of the active members of the Society.

GENEtics: **What have been some of the highlights for you at GSA?**

Elaine: There have been several I can think of off the top of my head. They are:

- Developing the DeLill Nasser Fund and giving travel awards. This led to giving more and more awards, such as the poster awards now given at all GSA meetings as well as other meetings, such as SACNAS.
- Developing this newsletter and watching it grow from 4 to 20 pages.
- Helping GSA change its image (with a new logo) and helping it further its mission by participating in scientific advocacy with other societies through the Coalition for the Life Sciences. Getting the message to Capitol Hill about biomedical research funding has been very important.
- Developing "Conversations in Genetics". This was a huge project from the beginning idea suggested by Shelly Esposito until seeing the DVDs developed. I believe that over time, it will be considered a fine record of the careers of the people who set the foundation of genetics and their journey of discovery. In time it will be appreciated as a fitting memory of these pioneers who shaped the field.

GENEtics: **Were there any real challenges you faced during your tenure as Executive Director?**

Elaine: The main challenge is to keep the organization on track as the times change. It's important to keep abreast with technological development and to meet the financial challenges as economic times change.

GENEtics: **How do you plan on keeping up with GSA after you retire?**

Elaine: I'm going to keep up my membership!

GENEtics: **What are you going to do with your time once you retire?**

Elaine: As I said before, I like working with people. As people age in place, I see that there are many people who with just a little help can get out into the community and enjoy themselves. So, I'm going to develop a business in my community called, "Dial-a-Daughter". The idea is that someone who is basically housebound could call me and we could go to a movie, have lunch or in some way enhance their social life. It isn't errand running – it's to keep them active and social.

I also have numerous hobbies. Among them are music – I'm a retired concert pianist – singing, lots of handicrafts – knitting and beading to name a few – and gardening.

GENEtics: **What advice do you have for someone who will be applying for the position of Executive Director of GSA?**

Elaine: My advice is to love genetics, embrace GSA and all it stands for, and to keep an open mind while making sure the goals of the Society can always be met.

Science and Socializing Mix at Yeast 2008

A heady mixture of the latest research in yeast genetics and many new social events marked the 2008 Yeast Genetics and Molecular Biology Meeting sponsored by GSA at the University of Toronto, Ontario, Canada, July 22-27. There were 800 attendees from 32 countries presenting 81 oral presentations and over 500 posters.

Recipients of this year's awards were: David Drubin (UC-Berkeley), Ira Herskowitz Award; The Cold Spring Harbor Yeast Group: Jeff Strathern (NCI-Frederick, MD), Amar Klar (NCI-Frederick, MD) and Jim Hicks (Cold Spring Harbor Lab) delivering the Winge-Lindgren Lecture; Mitsuhiro Yanagida (Kyoto Univ, Japan) presenting the Lee Hartwell Lecture; and the late Elizabeth Jones (Carnegie Mellon Univ), who received the Lifetime Achievement Award, which was presented posthumously. Aaron Mitchell, a colleague of Beth's at Carnegie Mellon, accepted the award on behalf of Elizabeth Jones' family and gave a moving description of Beth's life and her many accomplishments, and how much of a colleague she was to many in the audience.

The GSA Poster Awards were presented to: 1st place -Janine Mok (Yale University), 2nd place - John Dittmar (Columbia University), and 3rd place - David Berry (Univ of Wisconsin, Madison).

Thanks to Organizing Committee member Charlie Boone's (Univ of Toronto) unfailing enthusiasm, the meeting had many new and very enjoyable social events, including a reception at the Royal Ontario Museum, a terrific concert by rising star Serena Ryder, a 5k "Fun" Run, and a loud concert by Jully Black at the closing banquet. And the Canadian products of yeast fermentation were enjoyed by many.

Thanks to Organizing Committee Chair Brenda Andrews for carrying the Yeast Meeting torch north of the border, and for keeping it burning brightly there! The torch has been passed to Phil Hieter (Univ of British Columbia), who will keep it north of the border for the next meeting to be held July 24-28, 2010 at the University of British Columbia, Canada. Mark your calendars now!

1 L to R: GSA Vice President Fred Winston (Harvard Medical School) with Dan Gottschling (Fred Hutchinson Cancer Research Ctr) and David Botstein (Princeton) **2** L to R: Yoshi Ohya (Univ of Tokyo) with Matsuhiro Yanagida (Kyoto Univ), presenter of the Lee Hartwell Lecture. **3** Aaron Mitchell (Carnegie Mellon Univ), right, who accepted the Lifetime Achievement Award on behalf of the family of the late Elizabeth Jones (Carnegie Mellon Univ) with Martha Cyert (Stanford Univ). **4** L to R: Charlie Boone (Univ of Toronto) with Manolis Kellis (MIT) and Jeff Strathern (NCI-Frederick, MD). **5** L to R: Gerry Fink and Winge Lindegren Address presenter Amar Klar (NCI-Frederick, MD). **6** L to R: Gerry Fink (Whitehead Inst) and Winge Lindegren Address presenter Jeff Strathern (NCI-Frederick, MD). **7** L to R: Gerry Fink and Winge Lindegren Address presenter Jim Hicks (Cold Spring Harbor Lab). **8** L to R: Poster Award winners David Berry (3rd Place, Univ of Wisc - Madison) and Janine Mok (1st Place, Yale) with Meeting Organizer Chair Brenda Andrews (Univ of Toronto). **9** L to R: Mark Johnston (Washington Univ, St. Louis) with Susan Lindquist (Whitehead Inst, MIT), recipient of the 2008 GSA Medal. **10** L to R: Charlie Boone (Univ of Toronto) member of the Yeast meeting Organizing Committee, with David Drubin (UC-Berkeley), recipient of the Ira Herskowitz Award and David Botstein (Princeton). **11** L to R: Tim Hughes (Univ of Toronto) an organizing committee member, with Anita Hopper (Ohio State Univ) and Jamie Konopka (SUNY-Stony Brook). **12** L to R: Tony Hazbun (Purdue) with Stan Fields (Univ of Washington, Seattle) and Fritz Roth (Harvard Med School). **13** L and R: Organizing Committee members Jim Broach (Princeton) and Mike Snyder (Yale) with Brenda Andrews (Univ of Toronto), center, Chair of the 2008 Yeast Meeting.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Vote Online Now for 2009 GSA Board Members

To guarantee your voice in the leadership of GSA, now is the time to vote for the vice-president and directors for 2009. **The deadline for voting is midnight, Friday, October 31st.**

An e-mail ballot with the candidate bios was sent to all members in mid-September. There will be a final reminder sent a week before the voting deadline to those who have not already voted.

We thank past president Allan C. Spradling, and directors Kathryn M. Barton, Michael P. Snyder, and Mariana F. Wolfner whose terms on the Board will end this year. Continuing on the Board and the date their tenure expires will be: Fred Winston (2010), President 2009; Trudi M. Schüpbach (2009), President 2008; Trudy F. Mackay (2010), Treasurer; James E. Haber (2009), Secretary; Mark Johnston, Acting Editor-in-Chief, *GENETICS*; Victor R. Ambros (2009); Nancy M. Bonini (2009); Sally A. Camper (2010); Charles H. Langley (2010); Susan T. Lovett (2010); and Tim Schedl (2009), Directors.

Listed on the next few pages are brief bios of the candidates and their photos. Please vote for one candidate for vice-president and for a total of three directors (one in each section.) Results of the election will be announced on the GSA website and in the January 2009 issue of this newsletter.

VICE-PRESIDENT (vote for one)

Stanley Fields, Ph.D.

Professor, Departments of Genome Sciences and Medicine, University of Washington, and Investigator, Howard Hughes Medical Institute.

Advanced degree(s): B.A., Middlebury College (1976); B.A., M.A., Ph.D., Cambridge University and MRC Laboratory of Molecular Biology (1981).

Career Summary: Postdoctoral Fellow with Ira Herskowitz, Department of Biochemistry and Biophysics, UCSF (1981-85); Assistant Professor, Associate Professor, Professor, Department of Molecular Genetics and Microbiology, SUNY Stony Brook (1985-95); Professor, Department of Genome Sciences, Department of Medicine, University of Washington (1995–); Acting Chair, Department of Genome Sciences (2001-02); Investigator, HHMI (1997–).

Honors and Awards: NSF Predoctoral Fellowship (1978-81); Helen Hay Whitney Postdoctoral Fellowship (1982-85); ASBMB Young Investigator Award (1993); Fellow, American Association for the Advancement of Science (1997); Fellow, American Academy of Microbiology (1998); Gabriel Lester Lecture, Reed College (1998); Member, National Academy of Sciences (2000); Chiron Biotechnology Research Award (2000); Lou Siminovitch Lecture, University of Toronto (2000); Middlebury College Alumni Achievement Award (2001); Provost's Lecture, SUNY Stony Brook (2001); John S. O'Brien Memorial Lecture, University of Pennsylvania (2001); Jacob Heskel Gabbay Award (2003); Visiting Fellow Commoner, Trinity College, Cambridge (2006); Vollum Award (2007).

Professional Service Activities: Meeting Organization: Yeast Genetics and Molecular Biology Organizing Committee (2000-06), Co-Chair (2002), Chair (2004); Keystone Symposia Scientific Advisory Board (2000-03); Keystone Symposium on Proteomics, Co-Chair (2003); Review Activity: NIH Biomedical Research and Research Training (1995-99); NIH Study Section ad hoc (1992, 1998, 2000, 2002); NIH Genetic Sciences Integrated Review Group (2000); National Institute for General Medical Sciences Council (2004-07); Scientific Advisory Committee, Damon Runyon-Walter Winchell Cancer Research Fund (1993-96). GSA Service: Member, Board of Directors (2005-07). University of Washington: Director, Training Grant in Genomic Sciences; Molecular Medicine Training Program executive committee; Proteomics Resource advisory committee; iGEM faculty advisor; Editorial Boards: Molecular and Cellular Biology (1992–), Molecular and Cellular Proteomics (2001–), Genetics (2007–), PNAS (2008-09).

Major Research Interests: Yeast genomics and proteomics, technology development, use of yeast-based assays to analyze proteins implicated in human disease.

Website URL: http://depts.washington.edu/sfields/

R. Scott Hawley, Ph.D.

American Cancer Society Research Professor, and Investigator, Stowers Institute for Medical Research; Professor of Molecular and Integrative Physiology, University of Kansas Medical Center; Adjunct Professor of Biological Sciences at the University of Missouri Kansas City; Adjunct Professor of Undergraduate Program in Biology, The University of Kansas.

Advanced Degree(s): Ph.D., Genetics, University of Washington, Seattle (1979).

Career Summary: Post-doctoral training: Helen Hay Whitney Fellow, Inst. for Cancer Research, Philadelphia, PA. (1979-82). Employment: Assoc. Prof., Department of Genetics and Mol. Biol., Albert Einstein Coll. of Medicine, NY (1982-91); Professor, Section of Mol. and Cellular Biology, University of California at Davis (1991-2001);

Investigator, Stowers Institute of Medical Research, Kansas City, MO (2001–); Professor of Molecular Biosciences, University of Kansas (2001-06); Professor of Physiology, University of Kansas Medical Center (2006–); Adjunct Professor of Biology, University of Missouri at Kansas City (2006–).

Honors and Awards: Fellow, Helen Hay Whitney Foundation (1979-82); Searle Scholar (1984-87); American Cancer Society Faculty Research Awards (1984-93); NSF Creativity Extension Award (1992-94); Chair, Gordon Research Conference on Meiosis (1994); Board of Directors, Genetics Society of America (1996-99); Co-chair, Cold Spring Harbor Advanced Drosophila Genetics Course (1994-2004); American Cancer Society Research Professor (2005-10); Member of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences (since 2006); Appointed to the Biological Sciences Advisory Committee of the National Science Foundation (2007-09); Genetics Society of America Award for Excellence in Education (2008)

Professional Service Activities: Genetics Society of America: Member, Board of Directors (1996-99); Editor, GSA Web Page (2001-06); Associate Editor, GENETICS (1994-2008); Senior Editor for GENETICS (2008–); Highlights Editor, GENETICS (2006–). The Drosophila Genetics Community: Co-organizer, National Drosophila Meeting, San Diego, California, (April 2002); Advisory Board, National Drosophila Stock Center, (1996-2000); Member, Sandler Award Committee, National Drosophila Society (1996, 1997, 2000); Chair, Sandler Award Committee, National Drosophila Society (1998, 2006); Co-taught with Michael Ashburner, Advanced Drosophila Genetics Course (1990–).

Major Research Interests: Investigation of mechanisms that influence how chromosomes pair and segregate during meiosis using Drosophila (fruit fly) as an experimental system.

DIRECTOR (vote for one)

Joanne Chory, Ph.D.

Investigator, Howard Hughes Medical Institute, and Professor, The Salk Institute for Biological Studies; Adjunct Professor of Biology, University of California, San Diego.

Advanced Degree(s): A.B., Biology, Oberlin College; Ph.D, Microbiology, University of Illinois, Champaign-Urbana (1984).

Career Summary: Postdoctoral Training: Harvard Medical School (1984-88); Faculty Appointments: The Salk Institute, Assistant Professor (1988-94), Associate Professor (1994-98), Professor (1998–); Howard Hughes Medical Institute, Investigator (1997–); Adjunct Professor, UCSD (1993–).

Honors and Awards: National Academy of Sciences Award for Initiatives in Research (1994); American Society of Plant Physiologists, Charles Albert Schull Award (1995); Kumho Award in Plant Molecular Biology (2004); Distinguished Research Award of the Intl. Plant Growth Substances Association (2007).

Memberships: Fellow, American Academy of Arts and Sciences (1998); Member, U.S. National Academy of Sciences (1999); Fellow, American Association for the Advancement of Science (2005); Associate Member, EMBO (2006); Member, German National Academy of Sciences (2008). Professional Societies: AAAS, ASCB, GSA, SDB, American Society of Plant Biologists.

Recent Professional Service Activities: NRC Committee on National Plant Genome Initiative (2007); ASCB Nominating Committee (2007); Keystone Symposia, Plant Biology Study Group (2004–); National Research Council, Board on Life Sciences (2001-04); Board of Directors, Boyce Thompson Institute for Plant Research (2001-04). Meetings: Co-organizer: Keystone Meeting on Plant Interactions with environment (2009) and Keystone Meeting on Plant Hormone Signaling (2008), among others. Editorial Boards: GENETICS (1993-98); Cell (2001–); Science BoRE (1998-2004); Faculty of 1000, Head of Plant Biology (with E. Meyerowitz, 2007–); PloS Biology (2003–). Grant Review Panels: Member, Eukaryotic Genetics Panel, NSF (1994-99); NIH CDF-1 Study Section (1999-2002).

Major Research Interests: We use genetics and biochemistry to identify the mechanisms by which plants alter their shape and size in response to changes in their ambient environment.

Susan R. Wessler, Ph.D.

University of Georgia Foundation Chair in the Biological Sciences, Howard Hughes Medical Institute Professor, Department of Plant Biology, University of Georgia, Athens.

Advance Degree(s): B.S., State University of New York, Stony Brook (1974); Ph.D., Biochemistry, Cornell University, Ithaca, NY (1980).

Career Summary: Postdoctoral Fellow, American Cancer Society at the Carnegie Institution, Dept. of Embryology (1980-82); Assistant Professor of Botany (1983-89), Associate Professor of Botany (1989-92), Professor of Botany/Plant Biology (1992–), Distinguished Research Professor (1994-2005), Regents Professor (2005-07), University of Georgia, Athens.

Honors and Awards: Member, National Academy of Sciences (elected 1998); Fellow, American Academy of Arts and Sciences; Fellow, American Association for the Advancement of Science; Member, Council of the National Academy (2004-06); Howard Hughes Research Institute Professor (2006–); Creative Research Medal (1991), Lamar Dodd Creative Research Award (1997), University of Georgia; first recipient of the Distinguished Scientist Award (2007), Southeastern Universities Research Association (SURA).
Professional Service Activities: Co-author, The Mutants of Maize (Cold Spring Harbor Press) and of over 120 research articles. One of the principle authors of the Genetics textbook, Introduction to Genetic Analysis (Freeman); new co-author of the Introductory Biology textbook Life (Sinauer). Editorial Boards: Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences (1998–), Associate Editor (2006–); Current Opinions in Plant Biology.
Major Research Interests: My scientific interest focuses on the subject of plant transposable elements and the evolution of plant genomes.

DIRECTOR (vote for one)

Angelika Amon, Ph.D.

Professor of Biology, David H. Koch Institute for Integrative Cancer Research at MIT.
Advanced Degree(s): Ph.D. Biology, University of Vienna (1993).
Career Summary: Postdoctoral Training: Institute of Cytology and Genetics, University of Vienna (1993-94); Whitehead Institute for Biomedical Research (1994-95); Whitehead Fellow at the Whitehead Institute for Biomedical Research (1996-99). Faculty Appointments: Assistant Professor (1999-2002), Associate Professor (2002-07), Investigator of the Howard Hughes Medical Institute (2000–), Professor of Biology, David H. Koch Institute for Integrative Cancer Research at MIT Center (2007–).
Honors and Awards: National Academy of Sciences Award in Molecular Biology (2008); Elected to Fellowship of the American Academy of Microbiology; Paul Marks Prize (2007); ASBMB Amgen Award (2007); MIT School of Science Prize for Excellence in Undergraduate Teaching (2007); Alan T. Waterman Award (2003); Eli Lilly and Company Research Award (2003); Investigator of the Howard Hughes Medical Institute (2000); Presidential Early Career Award for Scientists and Engineers (1999).
Professional Service Activities: Meeting and Course Organization: FASEB meeting. Advisory Boards: Charles King Trust Foundation, the Wellcome Trust; NIH Review Activities: NDT Study Section. Massachusetts Institute of Technology: Supervisor Media Facility. Editorial Boards: Science, Genes & Development, Developmental Cell, Current Biology, Founding Board Member of the Rosalind Franklin Society.
Major Research Interests: We study chromosome segregation in mitosis and meiosis using budding yeast as a model system. Our efforts are focused on understanding how the various aspects of chromosome segregation are connected to each other and integrated with other cellular events. It is our hope that deciphering the regulatory networks that ensure accurate chromosome segregation will not only shed light on the regulation of normal cell division but will also allow us to understand what goes wrong during abnormal cell division that leads to cancer and birth defects.

Douglas E. Koshland, Ph.D.

Staff Member, Department of Embryology, Carnegie Institution and Investigator, Howard Hughes Medical Institute.
Advanced Degree(s): Ph.D. Biology, Massachusetts Institute of Technology (1982).
Career Summary: Postdoctoral Training: University of Washington, Department of Genetics (1982-86); University of California – San Francisco Medical School, Department of Biochemistry (1986-87). Faculty Appointments: Staff Member (1987–), Department of Embryology, Carnegie Institution and Investigator, Howard Hughes Medical Institute. Adjunct Associate Professor(1987-98), Adjunct Professor (1998–), Johns Hopkins University Department of Biology; Associate Investigator, Howard Hughes Medical Institute (1997-2003); Visiting Associate Professor (1997-2003), Adjunct Professor (2003–), Molecular Biology and Genetics, Johns Hopkins Medical School, and Investigator, Howard Hughes Medical Institute (2003–).
Honors and Awards: Helen Hay Whitney Fellow, Lucille P. Markey Scholar, Dan Fellow, Beckman Young Investigator Award, NIH Research Award (R01), member of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences.
Professional Service Activities: Advisory Boards: Beckman Foundation Selection Committee, Life Sciences Research Foundation, American Society for Cell Biology Public Policy Committee. NIH Review Activities: Molecular Cytology Study Section. Editorial Boards: Journal of Cell Biology, Molecular Biology of the Cell, Current Opinion in Cell Biology.
Major Research Interests: Higher order chromosome structure including sister chromatid cohesion and chromosome condensation, chromosome integrity, genome evolution, mitosis and cell cycle regulation.
Website URL: http://www.ciwemb.edu/labs/koshland/Subdirectories/Research.html

DIRECTOR (vote for one)

Jay C. Dunlap, Ph.D.

Professor and Inaugural Chair, Department of Genetics, Dartmouth Medical School. Hanover, NH.

Advanced Degree(s): Ph.D. Biology, Harvard University (1979).

Career Summary: Postdoctoral Training: UC Santa Cruz (1980-83). Faculty Appointments: Department of Biochemistry, Dartmouth Medical School: Assistant Professor (1984-90), Associate Professor (1990-94), Professor (1994-99). Department of Genetics, Dartmouth Medical School Chair (1999–).

Honors and Awards: Damon Runyon, NRSA Postdoctoral Fellowships; Honma International Prize For Biological Rhythms Research; Senior Scientist Award, NIMH; Visiting Professor, Univ. Rome; Davis Memorial Lecture; MERIT Award, NIGMS; (first) Robert L. Metzenberg Award.

Professional Service Activities: Meeting Organization: Organizer, 16th Biennial Fungal Genetics Meeting; American Physiological Soc. meeting on Physiology and Genetics of Biological Clocks; Co-chair, Cellular and Molecular Fungal Biology Gordon Conference; Convener, International Congress on Chronobiology; Co-organizer, Keystone Meeting on Genetics of Circadian Rhythms and Sleep; Co-organizer, 25th Fungal Genetics Meeting, Asilomar. Elected Offices: Neurospora Policy Committee, Chair; Fungal Genetics Policy Committee; Society for Research on Biological Rhythms: Treasurer, President-elect, President. Advisory Boards: NSF Center for Biological Timing; Mayo Pharmacogenetics Glue Grant; Lab Molecular/Cellular Regulation, NIMH; International Prize for Biology (Japan Prize). Editorial Boards: Editor, Eukaryotic Cell (2001–); co-editor-in-chief, Advances in Genetics (1992–); Dartmouth Medicine (1993- 99), Journal of Biological Rhythms (1994-2001). Review Activities: NSF-Microbial Genetics panel; NIH-Microbial Genetics and Physiology Study Section, Circadian Rhythms Study Section, Eureka Awards, NIH Director's Pioneer Awards final, National Advisory Council of the National Institute of General Medical Sciences.

Major Research Interests: Genetics and molecular biology of circadian rhythms beginning in fungi, especially Neurospora, and more recently including mice and mammalian cells in culture; fungal genetics and photobiology; high throughput gene knockouts and whole genome functional genomics.

Marnie E. Halpern, Ph.D.

Staff Member, Carnegie Institution for Science, Department of Embryology; Adjunct Professor, Johns Hopkins University, Department of Biology.

Advanced Degree(s): M.Sc. McMaster University; Ph.D. Neurobiology, Yale University (1990).

Career Summary: Postdoctoral Training: University of Oregon, Institute of Neuroscience University (1990-94). Faculty Appointments: Carnegie Staff Member (1995–). Adjunct Assistant Professor (1994-2001), Adjunct Associate Professor (2001-05), Adjunct Professor (2005–), Department of Biology, Johns Hopkins University.

Honors and Awards: Medical Research Council of Canada Centennial Fellowship; Pew Scholar of Pew Scholars Program in Biomedical Sciences; American Association of Anatomists Mossman Developmental Biologist Award.

Professional Service Activities: Meeting and Course Organization: Embryology course, Marine Biological Laboratory, Woods Hole, MA; UNESCO Research Course on Vertebrate Development, UFRJ, Brazil; Society of Developmental Biology, Annual Meeting Organizing Committees, Organizer Regional Developmental Biology and Zebrafish Meetings; Co-organizer, Cold Spring Harbor Conference on Zebrafish Development and Genetics. Advisory Boards: Society for Developmental Biology Board of Directors, Zebrafish International Resource Center, FASEB Science Policy Committee (Chair of Subcommittee 'Educating About Evolution'), FASEB panel review for scientific awards; American Cancer Society panel member for peer review; Damon Runyon Fellowship Award Committee; Pew Science and Society Advisory Board; Marine Biological Laboratory Alumni Relations Advisory Board; Society of Neuroscience Committee for the Advancement of Women in Neuroscience. NIH Review activities: Genetics Study Section, Genomics Study Section, Neurogenesis and Cell Fate Study Section and others. Baltimore activities: Graduate Admissions Committee, Johns Hopkins University Biology Department; Organizer of public high school outreach program 'Women Serious About Science'; Minority high school student research mentor; three Grand Prize Winners, Baltimore Science Fair. Editorial Boards: Developmental Biology, genesis: Journal of Genetics and Development, Mechanisms of Development (Managing Editor).

Major Research Interests: Zebrafish developmental genetics, differentiation of the neural tube, left-right asymmetry of the brain, genetic control of myelination, transgenic tools for gene regulation.

GSA Members are Major Participants at the International Congress of Genetics

by Elaine Strass, GSA Executive Director

The XX International Congress of Genetics held July 12-17, 2008 in Berlin, offered a scientific banquet of talks, posters and prizes. Registration figures showed more than 2,000 international attendees. A highlight of the Congress was the presentation of the 2008 Genetics Prize of the Peter and Patricia Gruber Foundation to Allan Spradling (Carnegie Institution, HHMI), 2007 GSA President, who received a check for $500,000 and a gold medal. The Prize was in recognition of Allan's pioneering development of gene transfer methods and his seminal work on stem cells. The Gruber Foundation Prize in Genetics has been given eight times in as many years and is presented at major genetics meetings worldwide.

GSA used some of your dues to support the next generation of geneticists: we contributed $10,000 to support the travel of eleven trainee members to the Congress ($5,000 from general funds and $5,000 from the DeLill Nasser Fund, which is used to support student travel to various meetings each year).

GSA member plenary speakers included Elizabeth Blackburn (UCSF) and Oliver Smithies (UNC, Chapel Hill), the 2007 recipient of the Thomas Hunt Morgan Medal. Invited speakers included Allan Spradling, Joe Nadeau (Case Western Reserve Univ), Terry Orr-Weaver (Whitehead Institute, MIT), Trudy Mackay (NCSU, Raleigh) and Amar Klar (NCI, Frederick, MD). Other members, Aravinda Chakravarti (McKusick-Nathans Institute, JHMU), Thomas Kaufman (Indiana Univ, Bloomington), Maynard Olson (Univ of Washington, Seattle), Eric Wieschaus (Princeton, HHMI), Hugo Bellen (Baylor College of Medicine, HHMI), and Andy Clark (Cornell Univ, Ithaca) were also prominent in the program. Numerous GSA members participated on the Scientific Program Committee (SPC). The Congress administration was headed by President Rudi Balling, Secretary General Alfred Nordheim and Advisor Phil Batterham. The heavy lifting of the SPC was ably led by GSA Board member Chuck Langley (UC, Davis) with the help of Jan Drake, a longtime friend and supporter of the International Congress tradition. He and Tony Griffiths of the Genetic Society of Canada have provided a continuous and thorough backdrop for Congress efforts for the past 30 years. Jan, however, plans to step down and enjoy some time with his family.

Mark your calendars now for the next ICG in 2013 to be held in Singapore and hosted by the Singapore Genome Institute.

Allan Spradling, recipient of the 2008 Gruber Genetics Prize.

GSA Treasurer Trudy Mackay (North Carolina State Univ) making a presentation.

Aravinda Chakravarti (Johns Hopkins Univ Sch of Med), GSA member and ASHG Board President presenting at the ICG.

GSA member Elizabeth Blackburn (UCSF) making one of the introductions prior to presentation of the 2008 Gruber Award.

Uta Francke and GSA Executive Director Elaine Strass in conversation.

GSA member Phil Batterham (Melbourne Univ, Australia) and 2008 Gruber Award recipient Allan Spradling, GSA Past President at the ICG.

Peter Gruber, left, and Patricia Gruber, right, congratulating Allan Spradling upon receiving the 2008 Gruber Genetics Award.

Congress President Rudi Balling (GBF) and one of the Congress organizers, bringing the ICG to order.

Panel L to R: Allan Spradling, Uta Francke, Elizabeth Blackburn, Peter and Patricia Gruber getting ready to present the 2008 Gruber Genetics Prize to Allan Spradling.

GSA member and 2007 Nobel Laureate Oliver Smithies contemplates a question.

L to R:
1995 Nobel Laureates Eric Wieschaus (Princeton Univ) and Christiane Nüsslein-Volhard (Max Planck Institute for Developmental Biology) chatting with each other at the meeting. Nüsslein-Volhard was one of three ICG Honarary Presidents at this meeting

Elaine Strass roasting Allan Spradling at the ICG. Photo courtesy of Dr. Danielle Hilson, Executive Director, Peter and Patricia Gruber Foundation

GSA Board Member Chuck Langley (UC-Davis) and Tomoko Ohta, (National Institute of Genetics, Mishima, Japan), one of three honorary presidents of the ICG.

Jan Drake expounds.

Save These Meeting Dates!

Two GSA meetings will be celebrating milestones in 2009 and now is the time to mark your calendars to attend:

- **March 4-8, 2009** come celebrate the **50th Annual Drosophila Research Conference – Sheraton Chicago Hotel & Towers, Chicago, Illinois**. Since its inception, the fly meetings have been a core component of the fly community, providing a venue for sharing data, forming collaborations and exchanging ideas. This golden anniversary will include a lively discussion of members who as participants have seen the meeting evolve over the course of the last 50 years. Help us celebrate our history.

  The abstract submission site is open until November 3. Check the website at www.drosophila-conf.org/2009/ for other important deadlines.

- **March 17-22, 2009** will mark the **25th Fungal Genetics Conference – Asilomar Conference Center, Pacific Grove, California**. A preliminary silver anniversary program is online at www.fgsc.net/25thFGC/FGC25.htm. The abstract submission site will be open from October 27-December 12, 2008. For deadlines and more information about the program, visit the website above.

Also set for 2009:

- **June 24-28, 2009** is the **17th International *C. elegans* Conference at the University of California, Los Angeles**. Check the GSA website at www.genetics-gsa.org and click *C. elegans* for the meeting information.

And, thinking even further ahead to 2010:

- **June 12-15, 2010** is the **3rd GENETIC ANALYSIS: Model Organisms to Human Biology Meeting at the Sheraton Boston, Massachusetts**. Please note that the meeting, previously held in January, will now be held in June to make it accessible to more participants. As always, plans are being made to have speakers who are at the forefront of genetics research. In addition, a visit to Boston in June holds the possibility of seeing a Red Sox game at Fenway Park – or at least hearing the roar of the crowd.

GSA Genetics Society of America

GENEtics

Survey

Newsletter Feedback Wanted

Nearly five years have passed since GSA initiated its triannual newsletter, *GENEtics*. While the overwhelming response to the newsletter has been positive, GSA would like to learn if there are ways in which we can improve the newsletter, both in content and design.

Please take our short, newsletter survey at:

http://www.surveymonkey.com/s.aspx?sm=WyiyEfKoh_2fjy6NeD2BuT_2bQ_3d_3d.

Let us know how you feel about the information we provide and give us suggestions for information you would like to see. We will publish the results in an upcoming issue of the newsletter and at the GSA website, www.genetics-gsa.org.

From the September Issue of *GENETICS*

by R. Scott Hawley, Stowers Institute of Medical Research, Kansas City, MO and Andrew G. Clark, Cornell University, Ithaca, NY

Localization of the genetic determinants of meiosis suppression in *Daphnia pulex*

Authors: Michael Lynch, Amanda Seyfert, Brian Eads and Emily Williams

Some genotypes of the microcrustacean *Daphnia pulex* are obligately asexual, but can still be induced to produce males with functional meiosis. Such a system provides a powerful mechanism for the contagious spread of meiosis suppression into sexual populations. These authors demonstrate that the meiosis suppression mechanism involves an interaction between at least four genetic factors, contrary to the prior hypothesis that the evolution of sex-limited meiosis suppression is conferred by a single genetic factor. This work sets the stage for the molecular determinants and genetic consequences of the conversion of meiosis to an effectively mitotic form of reproduction.

Retention of induced mutations in a Drosophila reverse-genetic resource

Authors: Jennifer L. Cooper, Elizabeth A. Greene, Bradley J. Till, Christine A. Codomo, Barbara T. Wakimoto and Steven Henikoff

In this first large-scale assessment of using live breeding lines as a genetic repository, the authors describe the results and analysis of data generated by Fly-TILL, a reverse-genetic resource of induced point mutations. The authors have identified nearly 2000 induced mutations in a large breeding population, commonly known as the "Zuker collection," an invaluable reverse-genetic resource for more than a decade. Their analysis reveals evidence for selection and differential retention of mutations.

Sister chromatid cohesion role for CDC28-CDK in *Saccharomyces cerevisiae*

Authors: Alex Brands and Robert V. Skibbens

These authors conclude that Cdc28, the major cyclin-dependent protein kinase (CDK) in budding yeast, functions in sister chromatid cohesion because (1) *cdc28* are lethal in combination with a mutation in the cohesion establishment gene *CTF7* and (2) *cdc28* mutants exhibit precocious sister chromatid separation in mitosis. Thus, even though Ctf7 is a CDK substrate *in vitro*, it appears to function in parallel to CDK in sister chromatid cohesion.

Inducing segmental aneuploid mosaicism in the mouse through targeted asymmetric sister chromatid event of recombination

Authors: Arnaud Duchon, Vanessa Besson, Patricia Lopes Pereira, Laetitia Magnol and Yann Hérault

The Cre/loxP recombinase is widely used to engineer mouse chromosomes. This article shows that Cre-induced recombination between two widely separated (>0.5 Mb) loxP sites takes place during the G2 phase of the cell cycle. This leads to mosaic animals, with their cells carrying a microdeletion or a microduplication for the region. Using this approach in the mouse, the authors provide insight into the consequences of segmental aneuploidy for regions of the human chromosome 21 on cell survival.

A genomewide linkage scan for quantitative trait loci influencing the craniofacial complex in baboons (*Papio hamadryas* spp.)

Authors: Richard J. Sherwood, Dana L. Duren, Lorena M. Havill, Jeff Rogers, Laura A. Cox, Bradford Towne and Michael C. Mahaney

Craniofacial anomalies are among the most common congenital defects in humans. These investigators examine quantitative measures of craniofacial form in a pedigreed population of baboons. Only a few of the 12 significant quantitative trait loci that influence variation in the craniofacial complex are in chromosomal regions that influence craniofacial structures, demonstrating the potential to identify novel genes influencing the craniofacial complex in primates.

HP1 is distributed within distinct chromatin domains at Drosophila telomeres

Authors: Radmila Capkova Frydrychova, James M. Mason and Trevor K. Archer

The authors examine the distribution of heterochromatin protein 1 (HP1) in Drosophila telomeres, and it is the first evidence that HP1 is distributed along the length of Drosophila telomeres, and thus HP1 is not limited to telomere cap as previously thought. The authors show that mutations in gene-encoding HP1 upregulate telomere elongation by stimulation of transcriptional activity of telomeric retroelements located along the whole terminal array of the elements. These observations suggest that telomeric chromatin in Drosophila may be distinct from either euchromatin or heterochromatin.

The PhenX Project:

Identifying Standard Measures for Genomics Research

As genome-wide association studies (GWAS) became increasingly feasible and, thus, more popular, it is becoming apparent that consistent measures are lacking. The National Human Genome Research Institute (NHGRI) of the National Institutes of Health developed a research funding opportunity to establish a core set of measures for GWAS. If standard measures are established and used, researchers will be able to compare and combine their GWAS results more effectively, increasing the statistical power to detect genes associated with common, complex diseases. To achieve these goals, the PhenX project, led by RTI International, was begun in October 2007. As the project progresses, standard measures and protocols will be made available to the scientific community via a web-based PhenX Toolkit. According to Carol Hamilton, Director of Bioinformatics at RTI International and the project's Principal Investigator, "The ability to combine studies is critical to furthering our knowledge of the many complex relationships between genetics and environmental factors. The goal for RTI is to make such integration possible."

The 12-member Steering Committee, chaired by Jonathan Haines, Director of the Center for Human Genetics Research at Vanderbilt University, selected 20 high-priority research domains. Several of these – demographics, anthropometrics, alcohol, tobacco and other substances, cardiovascular, diet, cancer, exposure and diabetes – are being addressed by a PhenX Working Group. For each research domain, a Working Group of diverse experts is charged with reviewing commonly used measures, proposing standard measures, recommending measurement protocols, and contributing to the development of the PhenX toolkit. Staff from many of the NIH's Institutes and Centers are active participants in PhenX. To see who is involved, please visit www.phenx.org.

Surveys

In October 2008 the PhenX Alcohol, Tobacco and Other Substances (ATOS) Survey will become available for review and comment. Anonymous survey responses will be collected via the web portal www.phenx.org/surveys. The ATOS Survey presents a list of measures proposed by a Working Group composed of experts from each of the designated fields. Researchers can rate the usefulness and priority of the measures, suggest other measures, and comment on the protocols and procedures.

A key component of the project is consensus-building. By giving the research community the opportunity to respond to recommended measures, Working Groups and the Steering Committee will be able to provide vetted measures in the PhenX Toolkit. The responses will be reviewed by the RTI team and the PhenX ATOS Working Group. Ultimately, a set of 15 measures will be chosen for inclusion in the PhenX Toolkit. Other Working Group Surveys (e.g., cardiovascular, diet, cancer) will follow shortly thereafter. To be notified of PhenX Surveys, and for more information about the project, please visit www.phenx.org.

PhenX Toolkit

The goal is to maximize the benefits of future research by having comparable measures so that studies can be integrated. The Toolkit will make this goal possible by providing tools for selecting measures, such as common data elements, a data dictionary, frequently asked questions, links to references and resources that provide in-depth coverage of specific domain and guidance for use of the measures. According to Carol Hamilton, "Researchers will be able to select 'core sets' of measures from the Toolkit, customize their selections and readily access measurement protocols and supporting documentation."

The first release of the PhenX Toolkit is expected near the end of 2008.

Public Policy Update:

Continued from page 20

NIH Director and ARISE Discussed at Recent CLS Meeting

by Jim Haber, GSA Treasurer and CLS Representative

At a recent meeting of the CLS, there was a general discussion of the pre-election resignation of Elias A. Zerhouni, M.D., NIH director, effective at the end of October. Hopefully, with this announcement the replacement process will start early in the new administration. The acting director is Raynard Kington, who was deputy director. CLS will attempt to gather names of possible directors to feed these into the system. There was also a discussion of getting information, including possible names for a new NIH director to the two presidential candidates and their campaign staffs.

Tom Cech discussed the American Academy of Arts and Sciences report, "Advancing Research in Science and Engineering" (ARISE), which focuses on junior faculty development and on promoting high risk, high reward research. This may be of interest to many GSA members as it emphasizes what government and academic institutions need to do to support and mentor junior faculty. Among the interesting points raised was that NIH currently penalizes institutions that provide hard-money salary support by reducing overhead to academic institutions. The report stresses a need for institutions to provide more salary and program support for junior faculty, and was mostly directed at medical schools where the population of researchers has doubled in the last decade.

Read the full report at http://www.amacad.org/ariseFolder/default.aspx

From the President's desk:

Continued from page 1

author-friendly editorial process can result in publication of what Beth Jones called "archival" articles. While such articles may help lay a foundation for other researchers, if too many of them fill the pages of a journal, readers will abandon the journal. Authors who have meaningful findings may choose to publish elsewhere if they come to feel the journal is not publishing significant stories. Finding the right balance between a fair and open-minded assessment of submitted articles while keeping to high standards of scientific impact has always been a concern of *GENETICS*. It is one of the issues the editors are focusing on, and the new editor-in-chief of *GENETICS* will have to take a leadership position on this as well.

The peer review process, as imperfect as it may be, is still our best implement for ensuring that publications adhere to high scholarly standards. In the end, every reader has to make his or her own judgment of the authors' conclusions, but without peer review much time and effort would be wasted by readers. It is the society-published journals, with their scientist editors who are peers of the authors, who can set the highest standards for our field. And because they are practicing scientists, they are in the best position to apply those standards fairly. Peer-review and peer-editing are the bedrock of science, and scientific societies like the GSA stand squarely on that bedrock.

The GSA Board, therefore, believes it is important that we do our best to maintain and enhance our journal *GENETICS*. This requires identifying a new editor-in-chief who will take a lead with these issues. It also requires the support of our membership. I encourage you to submit your best work to *GENETICS*. I also urge you to take on the often seemingly thankless job of anonymous reviewer. Finally, please make sure your institutional libraries continue to subscribe to *GENETICS*.

Sincerely,

Trudi Schüpbach
GSA President
society@genetics-gsa.org

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Public Policy Update

Lynn Marquis, National Coordinator, The Coalition for the Life Sciences CLS)

Know Your Candidates: *Do They Stand for Science?*

For more than five years the federal government has neglected its long standing commitment to scientific discovery and innovation by slashing research and education budgets. To attempt to reverse these trends, the Coalition for the Life Sciences (CLS) works with those members of Congress who understand the need to advance science and prevent legislation that could harm the scientific enterprise. The CLS asks you to write, visit, or call your elected congressional representative to communicate the needs of the biomedical community.

We are grateful that many of you have responded. But it's still not enough. Members of Congress who vote against science do so because there are no repercussions: elections are not won or lost based on issues relevant to the scientific enterprise. The CLS wants that to change! Several scientific organizations have created voter guides geared to science and technology issues.

A guide by Research!America – one of the nation's largest not-for-profit public education and advocacy alliances – is *Your Candidates – Your Health*, (at www.yourcandidatesyourhealth.org/). This nonpartisan voter education tool provides a way to learn candidates' positions on issues of health, science, and research.

All members of Congress up for re-election, and the two Presidential candidates, were invited to complete a questionnaire telling Americans where they stand on research and health-related issues. To view the results, visit www.yourcandidatesyourhealth.org.

In addition, sign up to be a part of the Congressional Liaison Committee (CLC) of the CLS at www.coalitionforlifesciences.org/clc.cfm. Receive alerts to pending legislation affecting scientists and learn how you can become an advocate for biomedical research. Believe me – you can make a difference!

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