

summer 2013

Grad Students and Postdocs Named to GSA Committees

GSA graduate student and postdoctoral members were named to eight of the Society's *ad hoc* committees, which advise the GSA Board of Directors on the development of policies and programs to benefit GSA members. These early career members were among the more than 50 applicants who volunteered last year to serve in leadership positions on the GSA Board of Directors and its committees. Graduate student Kathleen Dumas (University of Michigan, Ann Arbor) and postdoctoral researcher Krista Dobi (Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center, New York) were previously selected to serve as representatives to the Board of Directors. Their insightful contributions to the discussions at the spring 2013 GSA Board meeting were appreciated by the Directors, many of whom said that they found the trainee perspective to be particularly useful. GSA President Michael Lynch notes, "It is vitally important that GSA provides our young researchers with such leadership opportunities; it not only assists in their professional development, but it allows the governing bodies of GSA to hear from the trainees that make up half of our membership. Their input will be invaluable going forward."

continued on page eighteen

Graduate Student Perspective:

Tackling NSF's Graduate Education Challenge



Robert Arthur

Benjamin Krinsky

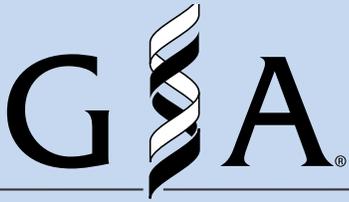
The National Science Foundation recently held a national competition, the Innovation in Graduate Education Challenge, asking graduate students across the sciences to submit proposals for programs that would profoundly improve graduate education. Entries were meant to address the career prospects of young scientists while bringing their scientific expertise to bear on pressing global challenges.

A small group of us from the University of Chicago (Team name: External Graduate Assistant Program; Team Leader: Sebastian Heilpern; Team Members: Courtney Stepien, Benjamin Krinsky, Robert Arthur, Colin Kyle) submitted a proposal that was subsequently awarded third place in the contest. Although we are of course honored and thrilled to be acknowledged for our work, we are more excited to be part of a national discourse about the nature of graduate education and the future of the scientific workforce and enterprise.

Our interest in entering the NSF challenge grew out of a number of informal discussions that have taken place many times among our fellow graduate students and postdocs. As groups of us sat around drinking copious quantities of coffee, we inevitably began talking about the experience and nature of graduate school. We are extremely grateful to be at an institution like the University of Chicago, with extraordinary intellectual resources at our disposal, but it is still interesting and important to ask: can graduate education be improved, and if so, how?

We reached the conclusion that while graduate schools seem to be doing a reasonably good job of allowing students to pursue rigorous and interesting science, graduate programs often fail to prepare us for many practical aspects of our subsequent professional lives. Amongst the graduate students, there is a great deal of anxiety about our future careers in science, given both the tight funding situation in the U.S. and the widely

continued on page four



Genetics Society of America

Published three times a year
and distributed by
The Genetics Society of America

Volume 10, Number 2

Officers

Michael Lynch, President
Vicki L. Chandler, Vice President
Phil Hieter, Past President
Anne M. Villeneuve, Secretary
Carol S. Newlon, Treasurer

Board of Directors

Bonnie Bartel
Judith G. Berman
Lynn Cooley
Sarah C. R. Elgin
Anna Di Rienzo
Marnie E. Halpern
Jeannie T. Lee
Mohamed A. F. Noor
John C. Schimenti
Deborah A. Siegele

Journal Editors-in-Chief

Mark Johnston, *GENETICS*
Brenda J. Andrews,
G3: Genes/Genomes/Genetics

Executive Director

Adam P. Fagen

Thanks to Phyllis R. Edelman for most of
the content of this issue of *The GSA Reporter*

The publication of an advertisement in this newsletter does not constitute on the part of the Genetics Society of America a guarantee or endorsement of the quality or value of the advertised products or services described in the advertisement, or of any of the representations or claims made by the advertisers with respect to such products or services.

9650 Rockville Pike
Bethesda, MD 20814-3998
Tel: (301) 634-7300
Fax: (301) 634-7079
Email: society@genetics-gsa.org
www.genetics-gsa.org

Copyright ©2013 by the Genetics Society of America.
All rights reserved.

From the Executive Director

Exciting Times for GSA

It's an exciting time at GSA. As you can read in the column from GSA President Michael Lynch (p3), we are moving ahead with a conference in 2016 that will bring together many of the existing model organism communities. The 2016 conference will also feature a track in population, evolutionary, and quantitative genetics; we're excited to provide a venue for this important segment of our community—who have been active GSA members and frequent authors in our journals—to come together to share their results and network. We hope that the 2016 meeting will catalyze connections across all of genetics in addition to strengthening the individual communities. There will be much more information to come, but please save the date: July 13-17, 2016, in Orlando, Florida.



Adam Fagen

GSA is continuing to offer opportunities that engage our trainee members. As you may know, there are now graduate student and postdoc representatives on each of GSA's programmatic committees as well as advisory representatives on the GSA Board of Directors. All of these representatives worked together to launch a survey of the trainee members of our community to provide the Board and committee reps with broad input on the student and postdoc perspective. Thanks to all who completed the survey and those who continue to help GSA best serve the needs of our trainee members! We're also looking for additional representatives to serve the Society in 2014 and 2015, so we encourage interested trainees to submit their application for Board and committee positions.

One thing we have heard from our trainee members is that you want more career development programming, such as advice on getting grants and more exposure to careers beyond academia. As a result, GSA will be launching career development 'bootcamps' at our 2014 conferences. These bootcamps will expand the number and diversity of career development sessions to address topics of most interest to our early career attendees. Keep your eyes out for the specific schedule for your meeting, as some of these bootcamps will occur on the first day of the meeting before the official conference kicks off.

Since the last issue of the *GSA Reporter*, we've had some changes in the office. If you've called GSA headquarters in the last few months, you've had the pleasure of speaking

with Sally Celia, our new Membership and Office Associate. Sally recently moved to DC after helping support plant genetics research at the University of Georgia. Earlier in her career, she worked behind the scenes on television coverage of the 2000 and 2002 Olympic Games. We're very excited to add someone so personable and efficient to our team!



Sally Celia

We're also in the process of recruiting for two staff positions at GSA: a Journals Assistant Editor, who will work with the editors and staff to increase the profile

continued on page nineteen



Michael Lynch

GSA Looks to the Future

Over the past few months, the GSA Board and office staff have been engaged in a number of activities with substantial implications for the future of the society. Most notably, the Board has formally decided to go forward with a GSA-wide conference in 2016 (which also happens to be the 100th anniversary year of the journal *GENETICS*). Although the GSA has been sponsoring many well-known model-organism-specific meetings for quite some time, this will be the first time a full-spectrum GSA meeting has been held since the 61st Annual GSA Conference in 1992. Jeannie Lee (Mass General Hospital/Harvard Medical School) and Phil Hieter (University of British Columbia) have generously agreed to serve as the overall organizers, and although the rest of the Coordinating Committee is still under development, the date and location of the meeting is set: July 13-17, 2016, at the Marriott World Center in Orlando, Florida. The structure of the meeting will be unique in that a number of the traditional model-organism conferences (thus far including ciliates, *Drosophila*, mouse, zebrafish, and yeast, as well as the *C. elegans* community in their conference's "off year") will be held concurrently in conjunction with the overall meeting, thereby preserving the

foci of such gatherings. But there will also be cross-coordination with respect to genetics topics; so, for example, those

...the 2016 meeting will highlight the establishment of a new focal group encompassing the cross-cutting fields of population, evolutionary, and quantitative genetics...

with interest in meiotic recombination will be able to navigate between non-overlapping sessions within the different model-organism subclusters as well as sessions highlighting nontraditional model species, theory, and computational analysis. The 2016 conference will also include a number of cross-cutting scientific sessions and numerous professional development workshops. This venue should provide numerous opportunities for cross-fertilization and integration that are not possible at organism-specific meetings.

Given the liberating effects of genomics and the growing arsenal of efficient and generalizable genetic methodologies, the cluster of "model organisms" for geneticists is now rapidly expanding, providing the kinds of phylogenetic bridges across the eukaryotes (think, for example, sticklebacks, *Daphnia*, *Physcomitrella*, and *Mimulus*), that are ultimately necessary for evaluating the generalities of genetic mechanisms at both the molecular and population-genetic levels. Thus, with no area of genetics left untouched and a focus on the whole spectrum of biological systems, the 2016 conference will truly be a landmark meeting for the GSA. Most notably, the 2016 meeting will highlight the establishment of a new focal group encompassing the cross-cutting fields of population, evolutionary, and quantitative genetics

(PEQG). As there has never been a regular conference with such a focus and the journal *GENETICS* has long been the repository of the best research in these areas, the hope is that PEQG will become a regular GSA-sponsored meeting, much like the current model-organism conferences.

If the GSA-wide 2016 meeting is a success (we expect more than 3,000 participants among the various concurrent meetings), we anticipate this conference format becoming institutionalized, probably on a two- or three-year cycle. One related matter of interest is that the GSA has also agreed to serve as a cosponsor of the International Congress of Genetics (ICG) meeting in 2018 in Vancouver, British Columbia. The ICG has a long history of hosting the international genetics community every five years, but the congress hasn't been held in North America since 1988.

Before closing, a word on our journals, *GENETICS* and *G3: Genes | Genomes | Genetics*, which combined provide coverage of the fields of genetics and genomics far beyond that seen in other publications. *G3*, our two-year-old open-access journal under the guidance of Editor-in-Chief Brenda Andrews, continues to expand. *GENETICS* is also expanding, complementing its regular slate of scholarly research papers covering all areas of genetics with key Review papers, interesting historical Perspectives articles, Primers providing powerful educational resources, and Commentaries on published papers. *YeastBook*, a compendium of detailed review papers on *Saccharomyces* biology ranging from the cell cycle to cell structure to genome organization, is a thriving resource with an average of 6,700 views per article, and it will continue to be expanded. We envision similar endeavors being pursued by other model-organism communities over the

continued on page nineteen

continued page 1 **Graduate Student Perspective**

acknowledged shortage of permanent academic positions. Shockingly, only 15% of graduate students in the biological sciences were in tenure track positions six years after graduation (1). Moreover, even those of us who are seriously contemplating careers outside of academia are often at a loss about other professional options we might have outside of academic research.

Thus, the topic of graduate education and how it could be improved to address these worries has been squarely on our minds for quite some time. It was therefore a happy coincidence that the NSF held a competition when it did, since it gave us an opportunity to share ideas beyond a small group of us at one university. When the contest was announced, we decided to meet up regularly to put together an entry. In the end, we were one of over 500 proposals submitted to NSF. Clearly, the state of graduate education burdens the thoughts of many students.

The NSF competition mentioned two aspects of graduate education that are in need of improvement. First, since the career landscape for STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics) graduates is particularly challenging, more needs to be done to broaden career and employment opportunities for young scientists. Second, many of society's most pressing problems can only be

solved by the application of scientific knowledge.

From the beginning of our discussions as a group, we tried to keep both of these criteria in mind. We also tried to remind ourselves that whatever we proposed, it actually had to be feasible, given the scope and mission of the NSF. Sebastian Heilpern, our team leader, is a freshwater ecologist and has extensive experience working with non-profit conservation groups. Based on this experience, he initially came up with the concept of a program by which graduate students could productively interface with non-governmental organizations. From there, we tried to broaden the scope of our idea so that it could be relevant for the wide spectrum of STEM disciplines.

We eventually hit upon an idea of proposing a program akin to a teaching assistantship in order to give students the opportunity (on a part-time basis) to interact with organizations outside their graduate programs. Each assistantship would allow a graduate student to gain a semester's worth of experience with an off-campus organization without interrupting the normal course of their research. This seemed like a very promising direction, since graduate students already participate in TAships as part of the normal course of graduate school, and it provides considerable flexibility depending upon the institution and graduate program.

We didn't want to propose a program that would radically alter or undermine the parts of graduate education that work. Our proposal therefore is conservative in the sense that it maintains graduate education in the sciences essentially as is, while providing an additional vehicle through which graduate students can contribute meaningfully to extra-academic organizations while also getting a taste for careers beyond academia. In addition, we hoped that students from many different disciplines could find organizations relevant to their own objectives, whether those were in nonprofits, government, or elsewhere. Finally, we structured our proposal such that it could be feasibly implemented: it is scalable, easy to track outcomes, and not disruptive to the existing structures of graduate education.

While NSF is under no obligation to implement our proposal, we hope that by bringing the competition to a broader audience, we might engage stakeholders in the academy and force them to consider how graduate education could be improved. Given the dire state of the academic job market, and the pressing need for scientific solutions to global problems, such a conversation is of the utmost importance.

1. Cyranoski, D. et al. (2011). Education: The PhD factory. *Nature*: **472**, 276-279.

DROSOPHILA INCUBATORS

Incubators with controlled temperature, lighting, and humidity for fly research. Chambers have a 15-30°C temperature range*, highest quality Electrofin® coated coils, RH meter, casters... and many other features, depending on the level of sophistication needed. Six sizes (from 6 c.f. to 72 c.f. capacity) and four levels of temperature, lighting, and humidity control.

*Extended temperature ranges available. Incubators for mosquito and sand fly research are also available.



Powers Scientific, Inc.

800.998.0500 • tel 215.230.7100

www.powersscientific.com

Nine Undergraduate Travel Grant Awardees Present Research at Fly Conference

The Genetics Society of America and the *Drosophila* community of geneticists selected nine undergraduate student winners of the Victoria Finnerty Undergraduate Travel Awards. The awards were used by these students to present their research at the 54th Annual *Drosophila* Research Conference in Washington, D.C., April 3-7, 2013. These students are juniors or seniors in college and doing research using *Drosophila* as a model organism or using the tools of *Drosophila* research to study other insects. Among the topics researched by these young scientists are cell death, immunity, and neural development and communications.

2013 Victoria Finnerty Awardees



Susanna E. Brantley, senior, Emory University, Atlanta, Georgia

Principal Investigator: Todd Schlenke, PhD



Gina D. Castelvechi, junior, University of Wisconsin – Madison

Principal Investigator: Arash Bashirullah, PhD



Robert W. Fernandez, senior, York College, City University of New York, Jamaica, Queens, New York

Principal Investigator: Anne F. Simon, PhD



Michelle A. Frazer, senior, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor

Principal Investigator: Peter K. Todd, MD, PhD



Robert A. Gingras, junior, Hofstra University, Hempstead, New York

Principal Investigator: Justin R. DiAngelo, PhD



Jihyun Irizarry, senior, California State University, Los Angeles

Principal Investigator: Angelike M. Stathopoulos, PhD



Samuel Hutton Friedman, junior, Vanderbilt University, Nashville, Tennessee

Principal Investigator: Kendal Broadie, PhD



Gary Iacobucci, senior, State University of New York at Buffalo

Principal Investigator: Shermali Gunawardena, PhD



Sierra K. Mesticone-Wangansteen, senior, Randolph-Macon College, Ashland, Virginia

Principal Investigator: Traci L. Stevens, PhD

For many of these students, this was the first time they attended a professional scientific research conference where they are describing their research to other undergraduates, doctoral students, postdoctoral scholars, and principal investigators—including Nobel Laureates—from research laboratories all over the world.

“A fundamental part of science is the presentation of one’s work to fellow scientists. This travel award enhances the research experience of undergraduates by giving them the opportunity to present their work at the annual *Drosophila* Conference,” said Helen Salz, PhD, Chair of the Finnerty Award review committee and a professor at Case Western Reserve University in Cleveland, Ohio.

“We at GSA have no doubt that the future of genetics is strong with such talented young people leading the field,” added Adam Fagen, PhD, GSA Executive Director.

The Victoria Finnerty Undergraduate Travel Awards were established in 2011 in memory of its namesake, who was a long-time GSA member, a dedicated undergraduate educator at Emory University for 35 years, and an active member of the *Drosophila* research community and the genetics community at large. This is the second year the Victoria Finnerty awards have provided funding for undergraduates to attend the annual *Drosophila* Research Conference. In the two years of the awards’ existence, more than \$10,000 has been distributed to 15 undergraduates, enabling them to attend GSA’s Annual *Drosophila* Research Conference.

Fungal Genetics on the Water

The 100-year old Asilomar State Beach and Conference Grounds in Pacific Grove, California, was the setting for the 27th Fungal Genetics Conference, March 12-17, 2013. There was, as is common for this conference, a large international presence, with 39 countries, including the United States, represented by the participants. Of the 932 attendees, nearly two-thirds were from overseas.

The scientific program featured four plenary and concurrent sessions along with three poster and exhibitor sessions. One highlight of the Conference was the Perkins/Metzenberg Lecture, "How to Become a Model" presented by Regine Kahmann (Max Planck Institute for Terrestrial Microbiology). Her entertaining and interesting lecture reviewed the history of the founding and use of *Ustilago maydis* or corn smut as a model organism and Kahmann's research on this fungus. A video of this presentation is available at <http://www.fungalgenetics.org/2013/>. This biennial meeting was co-chaired by Katherine Borkovich (UC Riverside) and Francis Martin (INRA, Nancy, France).

Educational Activities

The Fungal Genetics Conference had an excellent education workshop, as they do at each meeting. "Education, Outreach, and Professional Development" was organized by

Mimi Zolan (Indiana University) and Steven Denison (Eckerd College), and featured a range of talks, including "Using fungal barcoding to introduce non-science majors to scientific research" (aka "Shrooms!") by Claire Burns (Washington & Jefferson College), a lively discussion about Massive Open Online Courses (MOOCs), and a parting lecture from Pat Pukkila (University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill), an indispensable member of both the fungal genetics community and GSA, who is retiring this year.

More than 150 trainees participated in the successful GSA Career Luncheon, where 30 career scientists at 24 tables mentored graduate students and postdocs on topics ranging from

the job search to finding a work-life balance.

GSA's outreach program for local community colleges, the Genetics Conference Experience (GCE), welcomed 15 students from Monterey Peninsula College (MPC). MPC had previously brought a cohort of students to the GCE in 2011 and were pleased to have the opportunity to do so again. The GCE program included a lecture from Marilee Ramesh (Roanoke College) about fungal research and the use of model organisms in basic research, after which students sat in on three talks in the morning plenary session.

The GCE is intended to provide students from local community colleges and primarily undergraduate institutions without an active research program—including local minority serving institutions—with the unique opportunity to engage with distinguished career scientists who present their current research in a conference setting. The program gives students a glimpse into the real world of genetics research, with the goal of enhancing appreciation for scientific research and helping foster an interest in furthering their science education.

Overflowing with attendees eager to hear the plenary talks





Joe Heitman speaks with other conference attendees



Photo credits: Matt Sachs

Sarah Covert, Bridget Barker, Hans van Etton, and Kevin McClusky enjoying the poster session



GSA Executive Director Adam Fagen makes some remarks at the opening plenary session



The closing banquet



Regine Kahmann, who delivered the Perkins/Metzenberg Lecture



Francis Martin and Kathy Borkovitch, the co-chairs for the 2013 meeting



The opening mixer

FUNGAL GENETICS POSTER AWARDEES



Postdoctoral Associates

Michelle Leach (pictured above left)
University of Toronto, Ontario, Canada
"Uncovering the mechanisms of thermal adaptation in *Candida albicans*."
Biochemistry and Metabolism

Sinem Beyhan (pictured above right)
University of California, San Francisco
"A temperature-dependent complex transcriptional network controls cell shape and virulence in *Histoplasma capsulatum*."
Genomics, Genetics and Gene Regulation

Johanna Takach (pictured above center)
The Samuel Roberts Noble Foundation, Ardmore, Oklahoma
"Alkaloid genotype profiling of tall fescue endophytes to determine influence of ancestral progenitors."
Pathogenic and Mutualistic Interactions

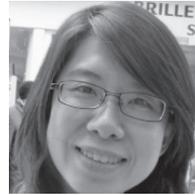
Graduate Students



Diana Anyaogu Technical University of Denmark, Lyngby
"N-glycan profiling of *Aspergillus nidulans* using solid-phase glycan extraction and mass spectrometry"
Biochemistry and Metabolism

Darren Thomson (group, far right) University of Aberdeen, Institute of Medical Sciences, United Kingdom
"Characterisation of contact-dependant tip re-orientation in *Candida albicans* hyphae."
Cell Biology and Development

Martin Weichert (group, 4th from right)
Technical University, Braunschweig, Germany
"Specific Structural Features of Sterols Affect Cell-Cell Signaling and Fusion in *Neurospora crassa*."
Cell Biology and Development



Chia-Chen Chang
University of Edinburgh, United Kingdom
"The role of calcium and calmodulin during cell fusion and colony initiation in *Neurospora crassa*."
Cell Biology and Development

Steven Ahrendt (group, 2nd from right)
University of California, Riverside
"Comparative Analysis of Putative Rhodopsins in Early Diverging Fungal Lineages."
Genomics, Genetics and Gene Regulation

Damien Downes (group, far left)
Kansas State University, Manhattan
"Histidine 704 of the *Aspergillus nidulans* GATA factor AreA is required for nuclear export."
Genomics, Genetics and Gene Regulation

Kwang-Woo Jung (group, 4th from left)
Yonsei University, Seoul, South Korea
"Unravelling of sexual differentiation mediated by Ire1 via Hxl1-independent manners in *Cryptococcus neoformans*."
Genomics, Genetics and Gene Regulation

Benjamin Doughan (not pictured)
University of Florida, Gainesville, FL
"*Sclerotinia sclerotiorum* MAT genes function in fertility and apothecial morphogenesis."
Genomics, Genetics and Gene Regulation

Stephan Poppe (group, 3rd from left)
Max Planck Institute, Marburg, Germany
"The functional characterization of candidate genes involved in host specialization of Zygomycota grass pathogens."
Pathogenic and Mutualistic Interactions

Gemma M. Cartwright (group, 3rd from right)
Massey University, Palmerston North, New Zealand
"Redox regulation of an AP-1-like transcription factor, YapA, in the fungal symbiont *Epichloë festucae*."
Pathogenic and Mutualistic Interactions

André Müller (group, 2nd from left)
Max Planck Institute, Marburg, Germany
"The *U. maydis* effector Pit2 inhibits maize cysteine proteases to suppress host defense."
Pathogenic and Mutualistic Interactions

Marta Piotrowska (not pictured)
Scotland's Rural College, Edinburgh, United Kingdom
"Estimation of genetic diversity of *Ramularia collo-cygni* populations using nuclear SSR markers to infer its potential to adapt to environmental changes."
Population and Evolutionary Genetics

Drosophila 2013 a Monumental Success



Conference attendees enjoy a plenary talk

Photo credits: Adam Fagen

The blooming of the cherry blossoms was delayed, but the GSA-sponsored 54th Annual *Drosophila* Research Conference started on time Wednesday evening, April 3, 2013 with the welcome and opening remarks by Richard Mann (Columbia Univ), who with Kristin Scott (UC Berkeley), Hannele Ruohola-Baker (Univ of Washington, Seattle), and David Stern (HHMI), served as the meeting organizers.

The Opening Session

The opening session of the meeting featured the ever popular and interesting presentation by the Larry Sandler Memorial Award recipient. This award is for the best PhD thesis in *Drosophila* research from the previous year. This year, Weizhe Hong, now a postdoc at Caltech, described how axons from olfactory receptor neurons form connections with the dendrites of

the right class of projection neurons which he studied while at Stanford University.

This was followed by the keynote address by Jules Hoffmann, 2011 Nobel Prize winner in Physiology or Medicine for his work in the discovery of the Toll receptor as the sensor of innate immunity in the fly. He shared this Nobel Prize with Bruce Beutler, who had shown that Toll-like receptors performed a similar role in mammals, and Ralph M. Steinman, for his discovery of the dendritic cell and its role in adaptive immunity. The official evening program ended with the presentation of the GSA George W. Beadle Award to Past President (2010) R. Scott Hawley (Stowers Inst for Medical Research).

Plenary sessions covered topics ranging from axon degeneration to stem cells, while concurrent platform sessions included sessions on wound

healing, the development of kidney stones in flies, the effects of the sugar mannitol, on the fruit fly brain, which has implications for treating Parkinson's Disease, and the identification of a gene that leads to axon destruction after injury, which has implications for patients with neurological disorders.

Educational Events

Attendees had a variety of educational events plus a new pre-conference GSA Career Development Workshop. This workshop, co-organized by Joyce Fernandes and Leslie Pick from the National Science Foundation (NSF), also included two panelists from National Institutes of Health (NIH). The speakers discussed NSF and NIH federal funding opportunities followed by a hands-on exercise to examine program solicitations and review criteria and to work through the mechanics of writing a good proposal.

continued on page 10



GSA Journals' Assistant Managing Editor Ruth Isaacson (left) and Executive Editor Tracey DePellegrin Connelly (right) staff the *GENETICS/G3* booth

GSA worked with the Federation of American Societies for Experimental Biology (FASEB) to provide trainees with a career coach during exhibit hours of the conference. Attendees signed up for sessions with Joe Tringali to discuss anything from polishing up their CV to searching for a career outside of traditional academia.

This meeting also had a successful GSA Career Luncheon and Undergraduate Mixer. In addition, the second Plenary Session and Workshop for Undergraduate Researchers welcomed speakers Mariana Wolfner (Cornell) and John Carlson (Yale) and finished up with a panel discussion by six graduate students on choosing and navigating grad school. And finally, the long-standing *Drosophila* Research and Pedagogy at Primarily Undergraduate Institutions workshop, arranged this year by Scott Ferguson (SUNY-Fredonia), Hemlata Mistry (Widener Univ), and Justin DiAngelo (Hofstra Univ), featured four talks by undergraduate researchers followed by breakout groups that discussed funding undergraduate programs, using *Drosophila* effectively in the classroom, and becoming a faculty member at a primarily undergraduate institution.

Awards and Grants

In addition to the Larry Sandler Award, there were several other awards and

grants given to participants attending the annual *Drosophila* Research Conference. Nine undergraduates, juniors and seniors in college, were given Victoria Finnerty Travel Awards enabling them to attend the conference and present their research at the poster sessions (see article, page 5). Another nine trainees, including three undergraduates, three graduate students, and three postdoctoral researchers were selected for the best poster awards from among the 500 student and postdoc posters presented (see article, page 11).

FASEB President Judith Bond presented former GSA President (2006) Terry Orr-Weaver with the 2013 FASEB Excellence in Science Award. The award "is given in recognition of outstanding achievement by women in biological science."

Held in conjunction with the *Drosophila* Conference was a presentation and reception for 2013 GSA Award recipients Elaine A. Ostrander (NHGRI/NIH), who received the GSA Medal and Jonathan K. Pritchard (HHMI and Univ of Chicago), who received the Edward Novitski Prize. Scott Hawley, who was presented with the 2013 George W. Beadle Award during the opening

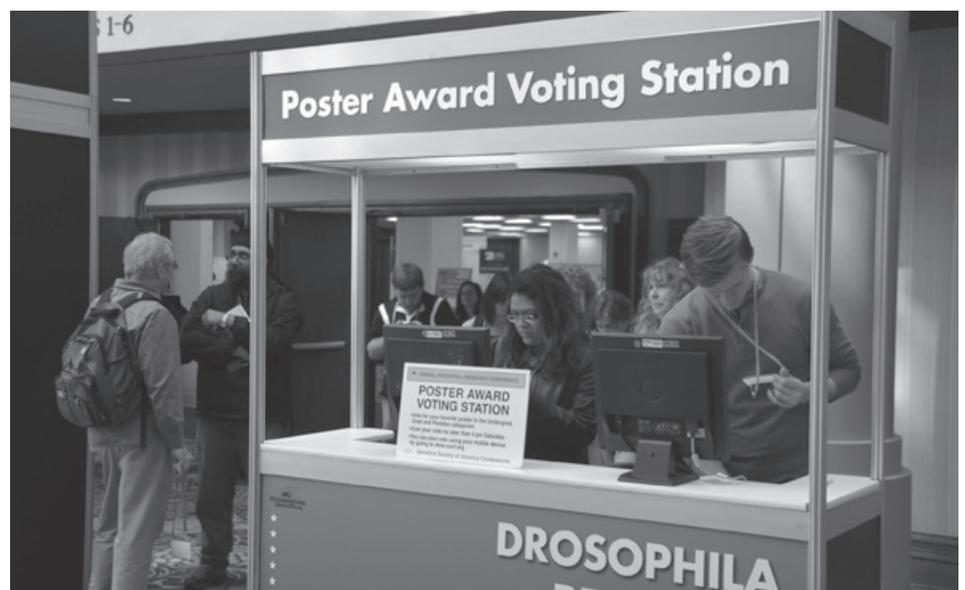
session of the *Drosophila* Conference, was also acknowledged at this event.

Other Activities

Between morning and nighttime, and the plenary, platform, awards and education presentations that came in-between, there were also poster sessions, where 1,070 posters were presented, almost half by undergraduate and graduate students and postdoctoral researchers. There were another 10 workshops in addition to the education ones mentioned above, the FlyBase demonstrations, the *GENETICS* and *G3* publishers' breakfast, exhibits, and the opening night mixer. The meeting was chock full of activities for every level of *Drosophila* researcher – from undergraduate to PI.

2014 Planning Underway

Mark your calendar now for the 55th Annual *Drosophila* Research Conference, March 26-30, 2014 at the Town & Country Resort in San Diego, CA. Co-chairs are Daniela Drummond-Barbosa (Johns Hopkins Univ), Elisa Lei (NIDDK/NIH), Mihaela Serpe (NICHD/NIH), and Mark Van Doren (Johns Hopkins Univ).



A busy voting station; posters were judged by conference attendees for the first time this year

Nine Win Poster Awards at *Drosophila* Conference

Nine early career geneticists are recipients of poster awards for their presentations at the 54th Annual *Drosophila* Research Conference held April 3-7, 2013 in Washington, D.C.

Poster awards were presented to trainees at three career stages: undergraduate students, graduate students, and postdoctoral researchers. Each category offered a first prize of \$500, second of \$300 and third of \$200. Recipients also received a complementary extension to their GSA membership and a copy of *Conversations in Genetics*, a series of interviews with prominent geneticists.

"These poster awards recognize the significant science these early career researchers are already pursuing and provide them with an incentive to continue their studies and training in genetics," said Adam Fagen, Executive Director of GSA.

"These young scientists should be very proud of their award-winning work, said Amy Bejsovec, President of the North American *Drosophila* Board. "This meeting was jam-packed with good science, and they stood out as the best. The poster awards recognize not just top-quality research but also the ability to present that work creatively and clearly. Communication is an essential skill for scientists," she added.

The nine award recipients were selected from among 500 student and postdoc posters, representing more than half of the nearly 1,000 poster presentations at the conference. To read the abstracts for these posters, go to <http://www.drosophila-conf.org/2013/abstracts/search.html> and search by the program number following the titles.

Undergraduate Awardees:



1ST PLACE:
Emily J. Simon, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill

Poster Title: Negative Regulation of the Folded Gastrulation Signaling Pathway by the -arrestin Kurtz (228C)

PI: Stephen L. Rogers, PhD; Mentor: Alyssa Manning, PhD



2nd Place: Susanna E. Brantley, Emory University, Atlanta, Georgia

Poster Title: JAK/Stat signaling in the *D. melanogaster* cellular immune response (578B)

PI: Todd A. Schlenke, PhD



3rd Place: Marvin Nayan, University of Washington, Seattle

Poster Title: Analysis of Dendrite Patterning Dynamics in Novel Self-

Avoidance Mutant (921A)

PI: Jay Parrish, PhD

Graduate Awardees:



1st Place: Jermaine Ross, Brown University, Providence, Rhode Island and the National Institutes of Health, Bethesda, Maryland

Poster Title: Dissecting the cis-regulatory DNA that controls the POU-domain transcription factor genes, *pdm-1* & *pdm-2* (813A)

Adviser: Ward F. Odenwald, PhD

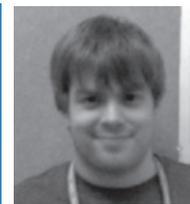


2nd Place: Rebecca A. Somer, University of Utah School of Medicine, Salt Lake City

Poster Title: Transgenerational Inheritance of Metabolic

State in *Drosophila* (770C)

Advisor: Carl S. Thummel, PhD



3rd Place: Balint Z. Kacsóh, Emory University, Atlanta, Georgia

Poster Title: Trans-generational medication in *Drosophila*

sechellia (489C)

PI: Todd A. Schlenke, PhD

Postdoctoral Researchers:

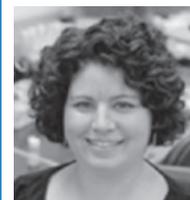


1st Place: Miriam Osterfield, PhD, Princeton University, New Jersey

Poster Title: Three-dimensional epithelial morphogenesis in

developing eggshells (178A)

PI: Stanislav Shvartsman, PhD



2nd Place: Pam Vanderzalm, PhD, University of Chicago, Illinois

Poster Title: A non-transcriptional role for

Hippo pathway signaling (358A)

PI: Richard Fehon, PhD



3rd Place: Bahar H. Sahin, PhD, Bogazici Universitesi, Istanbul, Turkey

Poster Title: Salt Inducible Kinases in *Drosophila*

Development (941C)

PI: Arzu Celik, PhD



C O N T R I B U T I O N S

Keep GSA Programs Running

GSA distributes thousands of dollars annually to undergraduate and graduate students and postdoctoral researchers through travel grants and poster awards. Nearly \$25,000 has been distributed from December 2012 through April 2013 for these activities. Nearly half of these awards were given to undergraduate students to provide them with the experience of attending a scientific conference and to encourage them to continue their studies in genetics.

The GSA General Fund

Donations to the GSA general fund strengthen our community as a whole. A donation to the general fund allows GSA to enhance advocacy programs, enrich educational programs and develop programs for public outreach.

Special Funds

Donating to GSA special funds keeps the memory and the legacy of esteemed members of the genetics community alive. These special funds are:

- **DeLill Nasser Awards for Professional Development in Genetics.** Established in 2001 by GSA in memory of DeLill Nasser (1929-2000), a long-time GSA member and a National Science Foundation program director in eukaryotic genetics. Nasser was considered the “patron saint” of genetics and extremely supportive of early career researchers. These travel grants allow graduate students and postdoctoral researchers to attend any national or international conference or laboratory course.

- o **DeLill Nasser Awards in memory of Gerold Schubiger** (1936-2012). Schubiger, like Nasser, his long-time friend, was

dedicated to excellence in science and committed to training young scientists.

- **Victoria Finnerty Undergraduate Travel Awards.** Established in 2011 by the *Drosophila* community and GSA, this award honors the memory of Victoria Finnerty (1938-2011) who trained many undergraduates during her 35-year career as a teacher and research scientist at Emory University. This award enables undergraduates who are using *D. melanogaster* as a model organism in their research to attend the Annual *Drosophila* Research Conference.

- **GSA Undergraduate Travel Awards.** In order to provide travel awards to undergraduates who attend and present their research at GSA-sponsored conferences other than the annual *Drosophila* Research Conference where students are eligible for the Victoria Finnerty Travel Awards, in 2012 the GSA Undergraduate Travel Awards program was developed. Five students will be attending the upcoming 19th International *C. elegans* Conference, June 26-30, 2013 at the University of California, Los Angeles, as a result of these awards. (See article on page 5.)

- **Chi-Bin Chien Award.** Named in memory of Chi-Bin Chien (1965-2011), GSA worked with the zebrafish community in 2012 to establish an award to honor an outstanding graduate student, postdoctoral researcher, or newly appointed faculty member who has made significant contributions to the field of zebrafish research and has exhibited the generosity and openness that characterized and motivated Chien in his lifetime.

None of these funds are self-sustaining; all of them rely on continual support from the genetics community in order to make these opportunities available to our early career members.

Strengthening the Genetics Community

We invite every member to make a contribution to GSA to ensure the future of our discipline. From \$1 to \$10,000, every donation is greatly appreciated for the impact it makes on the next generation of researchers or the genetics community at large.

To donate by credit card, please go to www.genetics-gsa.org/donate. Or donate online when you renew your membership at www.genetics-gsa.org/pages/joinrenew.shtml

Checks are also accepted, payable to the Genetics Society of America. In the “note” of the check indicate whether this is for the general fund, DeLill Nasser Fund, DeLill Nasser – Gerold Schubiger Memorial, Victoria Finnerty, or Chi-Bin Chien Award. 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.

Thank You to the GSA Donors

The Genetics Society of America is grateful to our 115 members who have contributed \$9,700 from December 2012 through April 2013 to the Society and/or its special funds. These funds enable GSA to support educational programs, public policy activities, and media and public outreach that promote the next generation of geneticists.

Specifically, GSA uses the funds it receives from members to encourage undergraduates to attend GSA-sponsored conferences by distributing travel grants; to provide the opportunity for graduate students and postdocs to attend career development conferences, workshops or labs with DeLill Nasser travel grants; to distribute poster awards to undergrads, graduates and postdocs at GSA-sponsored conferences, all of which recognize the scientific accomplishments of these early career geneticists. As Robert Gingras, a junior at Hofstra University in New York, who won a Victoria Finnerty travel grant to attend the 2013 *Drosophila* Research Conference said, "Attending this conference puts me one step toward attending a graduate school and pursuing the research that I've only just begun to love."

GSA once again expresses its thanks to the family and friends of Dr. Gerold Schubiger (Univ of Washington), who contributed additional funds 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.

GENERAL FUND

President's Circle (\$500+)

Lawrence S. B. Goldstein, University of California, San Diego; Sanford Consortium for Regenerative Medicine, La Jolla, CA

Boosters (\$100-\$499)

Ellen Dempsey, Cornwall-on-Hudson, NY
 Janan T. Eppig, The Jackson Laboratory, Bar Harbor, ME
 James W. Erickson, Texas A&M University, College Station, TX
 David H. Hall, Albert Einstein College of Medicine, Bronx, NY
 David J. Harris, Auburndale, MA
 Erik A. Lundquist, University of Kansas, Lawrence
 William M. Leiserson, Yale University, New Haven, CT
 Orlando J. Miller, Lansdowne, VA
 David R. Mitchell, SUNY Upstate Medical University, Syracuse, NY
 Virginia E. Papaioannou, Columbia University, New York, NY
 Leo W. Parks, Seattle, WA
 John Plenefisch, University of Toledo, OH
 Linda L. Restifo, University of Arizona, Tucson
 Bih-Hwa Shieh, Vanderbilt University, Nashville, TN
 Jeremy Thorner, Berkeley, CA
 Lie S. Tsai, Clinton, CT
 John Wang, Biodiversity Research Center, Academia Sinica, Taipei, Taiwan
 Anonymous (12)

Supporters (\$50-\$99)

Marsha I. Altschuler, Williams College, Williamstown, MA
 Flora Banuett, California State University, Long Beach
 Jeffrey M. Becker, University of Tennessee, Knoxville
 Edward Blumenthal, Marquette University, Milwaukee, WI
 Bonita J. Brewer, University of Washington, Seattle
 Hugh P. Cam, Boston College, Chestnut Hill, MA
 Dana Carroll, University of Utah School of Medicine, Salt Lake City
 Todd A. Ciche, Michigan State University, East Lansing
 Perry B. Cregan, Beltsville Agricultural Research Center, MD
 Dean S. Dawson, Oklahoma Medical Research Foundation, Oklahoma City
 Dirk Jan de Koning, Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences, Uppsala, Sweden
 Winifred W. Doane, Arizona State University, Phoenix
 Catherine H. Freudreich, Tufts University, Medford, MA
 Jadwiga M. Giembultowicz, Oregon State University, Corvallis
 Bikram S. Gill, Kansas State University, Manhattan
 David Greenstein, University of Minnesota, Minneapolis
 James E. Haber, Brandeis University, Waltham, MA
 Dominique Helmlinger, CNRS, Montpellier, France
 Jonathan Hodgkin, University of Oxford, United Kingdom
 Andrew D. Kern, Rutgers University, Piscataway, NJ
 Anita S. Klein, University of New Hampshire, Durham
 Andrew J. Kreuz, Stevenson University, Baltimore, MD
 Han-Woong Lee, Yonsei University, Seoul, South Korea
 Leslie A. Lewis, York College-CUNY, Jackson Heights, NY
 Margaret Lieb, South Pasadena, CA
 Pamela B. Meluh, Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine, Baltimore, MD
 Beth A. Montelone, Kansas State University, Manhattan
 Tammy A. Morrish, University of Toledo College of Medicine, OH
 Corey Nislow, University of British Columbia, Vancouver, Canada
 Janis M. O'Donnell, University of Alabama, Tuscaloosa
 Damien M. O'Halloran, George Washington University, Washington, DC

Cahir J. O'Kane, University of Cambridge, United Kingdom
 Eric M. Phizicky, University of Rochester, NY
 Patricia Ramos, Universidad Nacional Autonoma de Mexico, D.F., Mexico
 Ronda J. Rolfes, Georgetown University, Washington, DC
 Jeanne Romero-Severson, University of Notre Dame, IN
 Rodney J. Rothstein, Columbia University Medical Center, New York, NY
 Elizabeth F. Ryder, Worcester Polytechnic Institute, MA
 Jane S. Schultz, Riverside, CA
 Anne O. Summers, University of Georgia, Athens
 Anonymous (19)

Friends (\$1-\$49)

Eric S. Haag, University of Maryland, College Park
 Eleanor M. Maine, Syracuse University, NY
 Michelle A. Mondoux, College of the Holy Cross, Worcester, MA
 Maurice J. Rosenstraus, Somerset, NJ
 Albert W. Spencer, Durango, CO
 Holly L. Johnsen, MIT, Cambridge, MA
 Julien F. Ayroles, Harvard University, Cambridge, MA
 Anonymous (8)

DELILL NASSER

Boosters (\$100-\$499)

MaryLou Guerinet, Dartmouth College, Hanover, NH
 C. R. McClung, Dartmouth College, Hanover, NH
 Linda L. Restifo, University of Arizona, Tucson
 Barbara Taylor, Oregon State University, Corvallis

Supporters (\$50-99)

Patricia V. Burke, University of Illinois, Urbana
 Christina Hull, University of Wisconsin, Madison
 Mary M. Lamb, Seattle, WA
 Jason E. Stajich, University of California, Riverside
 Gail Winberg, Seattle, WA

Friends (\$1-\$49)

Susan Lynette, Seattle, WA

DELILL NASSER

in Memory of Gerald Schubiger

President's Circle (\$500+)

Celeste A. Berg, University of Washington, Seattle

Boosters (\$100-499)

Angela Giangrande, IGBMC-CNRS, Illkirch, C.U. Strasbourg, France
 Jack R. Girtan, Iowa State University, Ames
 Martin J. Milner, University of St. Andrews, Scotland, United Kingdom

VICTORIA FINNERTY

Boosters (\$100-499)

Steven W. L'Hernault, Emory University, Atlanta, GA
 Janis O'Donnell, University of Alabama, Tuscaloosa

Career Series:

An Interview with Dr. Tina Saey, Science Journalist

Dr. Tina Saey is a science journalist with *Science News* magazine in Washington, D.C. She received her PhD from Washington University in St. Louis and her Master's in Science Journalism from Boston University. After two internships and a position at the *St. Louis Post-Dispatch*, she became a reporter for the molecular biology beat at *Science News*.

Basic job description:

Science Journalist for *Science News* Magazine

Type of education/training required:

I have a PhD in Molecular Genetics and a Master's in Science Journalism. The PhD is absolutely not required and most of my colleagues do not have PhDs. Some went to science writing programs, others just jumped in after being scientists. We also have people who have worked here for 30 years and have always simply been "journalists."

Special talents or skills that contribute to career:

It is definitely necessary to have an interest in science. You also need to be able to grasp what is important on your beat, and then translate that for people who don't know *anything* about your writing subject. Journalists synthesize things and make connections where other people don't and then tell that in a story form the average person can understand.

Average income range for people working in your area (entry level through experienced persons):

This depends a great deal on whether it is a freelance or staff job. If you have a staff job, then salary depends on the publication you write for and your experience. Someone who is just starting out as a staffer can expect a salary in the low \$30,000s.

Freelancers usually have contracts and can write for many different outlets. Most freelancers tell an editor verbally or in writing their story idea and then the editor says, "yes" or "no," or has other stories they would prefer them to work on. The income is highly variable.

How many science journalists work for your publication? How many science journalists would you estimate are in the U.S.?

Science News currently has nine science writers, four full-time editors and one part-time editor. Several freelancers help out with editing from time to time or contribute stories to the magazine.

Tinsley Davis, Executive Director of the National Association of Science Writers, says there are "1,948 regular (i.e. non-student) members who are based in the U.S." There is no real way to estimate how many people are science writers that don't belong to that or any other organization.

What is involved in a typical workday?

I deal with a lot of email and phone calls, I look through journals searching for articles, I talk to scientists, I write stories, and I look for pictures to illustrate stories. *Science News* has a small staff, so we rely a lot on photos from researchers.

When I am looking for current research to report on, I focus on many different journals. Fortunately, science journalists usually get advance knowledge from many journals about what they will be publishing, but agree to an embargo. This gives us time to read the research paper, examine their findings and look at the data to verify their conclusions. It also gives us time to interview researchers, and find other scientists who can comment. For the most part, people are excited to talk about their work and have it presented to the average person in a way that they can understand.



To get good leads I go to quite a few meetings each year, and talk to attendees to get a sense of where certain fields are going and what I can expect to be published. I also review the table of contents of notable journals and see which field has lots of papers being published, because that may be ripe for a feature story.

.....

What do you like the best about your work? The least?

Being a science journalist means being involved in science, but in a hands-off way. This job is constant variety, and sometimes switching gears can be quite dizzying. I got in to science writing because I like knowing lots of different things and being in a lab didn't satisfy that. And I like talking to the scientists. If you have been on a beat for a long time, you start absorbing a lot. You have to have a fairly deep knowledge of a subject in order to look at new research and say "what is new here, and is this news?"

The writing is the most difficult part. Some stories write themselves, but with others you struggle to get what comes out of your fingers on the keyboard to match the vision in your head. Sometimes it can be extremely painful. When you think a piece is terrible, editors make it better, or you go back and look at it later and it isn't nearly as bad as you thought. That is very satisfying.

.....

Why did you choose this career?

I made the decision to pursue science journalism halfway through my graduate career. I was bored in the lab and I felt only five people in the world, other than me, cared about what I was working on. I had a greater curiosity about the world, and I wanted something different. Faced with the prospect of being a postdoc with one project or a principle investigator with one small slice of a field, I realized I needed broader scientific exposure.

Around the time I was having this crisis, a graduate student across the hall from me went to the science journalism program at the University of California, Santa Cruz. This was the first I'd ever heard of these programs, or that someone like me, trained as a scientist, could transition to being a writer. I knew that I really enjoyed writing in graduate school, so it sounded like a great option.

.....

What are your career goals?

I'm there! The reporting is what I enjoy most and I have no desire to move up, to become an editor. This job is fantastic, I get to accomplish all of my work in-office, I don't work most weekends and I don't usually work evenings. I value my free time.

.....

What path did you take to get to your current position?

As previously mentioned, I got my PhD in Molecular Biology from Washington University in St. Louis and my Master's in Science Journalism from Boston University. The Master's program at Boston University is a three-semester program, and between the second and third semesters I was an intern at the *Dallas Morning News*. Immediately following my degree completion I did an internship at *Science News*. After interning, I was a reporter at the *St. Louis Post-Dispatch* for seven and a half years, and then I came back to *Science News* to work for my editor from the *Dallas Morning News*. It was a shock moving from a newsroom with 200+ people and constant noise to a room with only four people in it; it was almost too quiet! Everyone at *Science News* has their own beat, and we divvy up stories among us when beats overlap. We have three interns per year, so many times if there is something that I think is important but I can't get to, I ask the interns if they are interested in covering it.

.....

In what ways do your degrees help you with this job?

Experience was more important than the Master's degree, but I felt I needed to do the program in science journalism because I had no clue how the business worked, and in graduate school I got stuck in the passive-voice writing style.

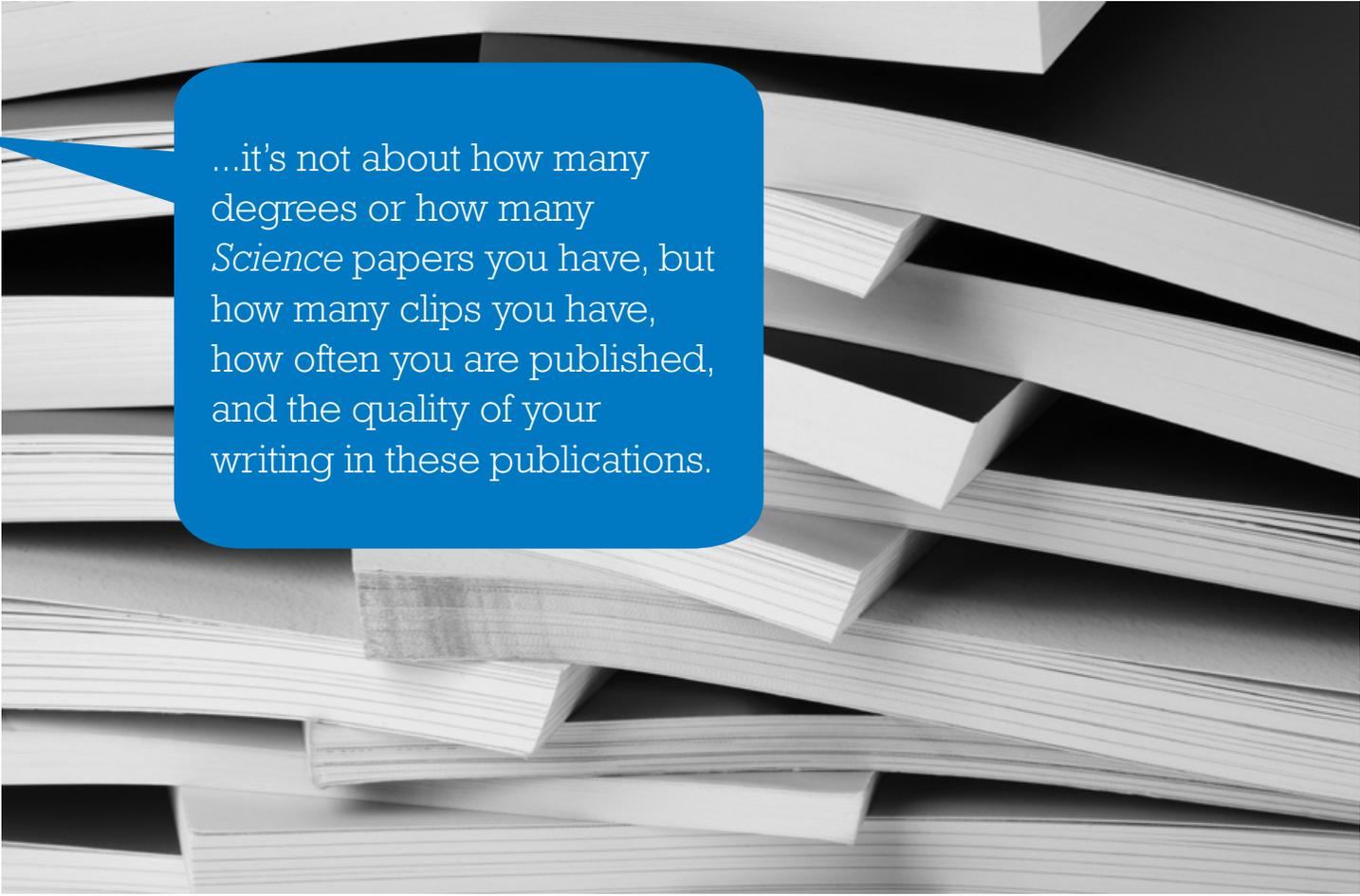
After participating in a science journalism program, you automatically have a network of people who are extremely helpful for getting internships and jobs. At the time I was getting my Master's there were just a handful of programs, but now there are many different science journalism schools.

As far as the PhD, it gives me credibility. A lot of times scientists think journalists are clueless, but when they see I have my PhD they think perhaps I'm not. It helps me get a call back from people I don't know. However, this can be a liability if they talk to me like I am a PhD and I want them to help me translate their work for the general public. I can talk to them on that level, but then I don't get any nice quotes out of the conversation.

.....

If you could begin again in your career, what would you do differently?

I would have liked to have started my journalism career a little earlier, but other than that I have no regrets. I'm not sure I'd change anything about the path I have taken.



...it's not about how many degrees or how many *Science* papers you have, but how many clips you have, how often you are published, and the quality of your writing in these publications.

.....

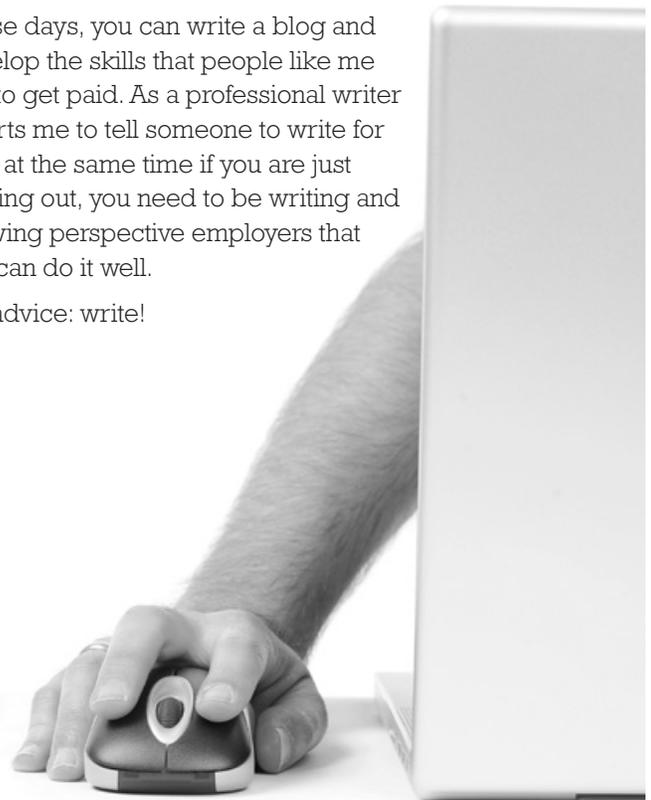
What would be your career advice to someone who is currently in a genetics PhD program? To someone who is currently a postdoctoral associate?

I've talked to a lot of people about becoming a science writer. The job market is really difficult; being a freelancer is incredibly hard work, and getting a steady staff writer job is tough.

In this profession it's not about how many degrees or how many *Science* papers you have, but how many clips you have, how often you are published, and the quality of your writing in these publications. I advise people to write stories for their campus newspaper if they can. I wrote some science articles during my PhD, and those clips helped me get into the Master's program, which helped me get into internships. If you can't publish in your campus newspaper (postdocs might have trouble doing so), there is usually at least one science writer in the university's office of public information. Contact the science writer there and offer to write press releases, because that is very similar to writing news for the general public.

These days, you can write a blog and develop the skills that people like me use to get paid. As a professional writer it hurts me to tell someone to write for free; at the same time if you are just starting out, you need to be writing and showing perspective employers that you can do it well.

My advice: write!



Capitol Hill Prepares for the Next Budget Battle

Three months into the new year, Congress proved that when it comes to budget battles, they are able to multi-task. Over several weeks in March lawmakers passed a final fiscal year (FY) 2013 spending package (HR 933) that combined a revised “continuing resolution” (CR) and five appropriations bills, including the one that funds the Agriculture and Food Research Initiative (AFRI) at the United States Department of Agriculture, into an omnibus bill. Although it was nearly six months late, approval of the FY 2013 spending package allowed federal agencies to move forward with key initiatives that had been delayed due to the previous CR. The House passed HR 933 by a vote of 318-109. Senate approval followed on a 73-26 vote. President Barack Obama signed the bill into law on March 26th. HR 933 includes a discretionary spending cap of \$984 billion which is the original FY 2013 spending total (\$1.043 trillion) mandated by the Budget Control Act of 2011 minus the cuts necessary to implement the March 1st sequestration order.

AFRI received a \$33.4 million increase in the FY 2013 spending package, although much of that gain was offset by the sequestration reduction, leaving the agency’s final funding level at \$275.5 million (\$11 million above the FY 2012 level). The National Institutes of Health (NIH) fared far worse than AFRI. NIH was increased by \$71 million but lost \$1.5 billion (a 5.1 percent cut) due to sequestration, reducing the biomedical research budget to \$29.3 billion.

In addition to finalizing the FY 2013 budget, the House and Senate passed Budget Resolutions setting overall spending priorities for FY 2014. The House budget (H Con Res 25) was drafted by Budget Committee Chairman Paul Ryan (R-WI) and requires non-defense discretionary accounts to absorb all of the spending cuts mandated by the second year of sequestration. Senate Budget Committee Chairwoman Patty Murray’s proposal (S Con Res 8) assumes that Congress will eventually pass legislation to replace sequestration with an alternative deficit reduction plan.

The budget battles that took place in March offered a preview of the fiscal fights ahead. On April 10th, President Obama released his FY 2014 budget proposal. It replaces sequestration (for FY 2014 and beyond) and reduces the deficit with new tax revenue, savings in health care and mandatory programs, and another \$200 billion in discretionary spending cuts, split evenly between defense and non-defense accounts. The President requested \$31.3 billion for NIH in FY 2014, an increase of \$471 million (1.5 percent) above the FY 2012 funding level. NIH estimates that it will support 10,269 new and competing research project grants (RPG’s) in FY 2014, an increase of 1,283 (14 percent) over the number funded in FY 2012. The



total number of RPG’s funded by NIH in 2014 is expected to be 36,610. In addition, the budget proposes that NIH increase focus on brain research, improve the clinical trials network, and implement new policies to collect better data on trainees and institutions’ administrative costs. For FY 2014, the President proposes increasing funding for AFRI to \$383 million, a \$119 million increase above the FY 2012 level. This funding will provide enhanced support for competitive research grants.

As in previous years, the 2014 appropriations process is expected to be contentious. The differing spending assumptions in the House and Senate Budget Resolutions mean that the House appropriators will be drafting bills that spend \$55 billion less than their Senate counterparts. In addition, unless Congress reaches agreement on a plan to replace the FY 2014 sequestration cuts with an alternative, federal agencies face another round of budget reductions.

By Jennifer Zeitzer, Director of Legislative Relations, Federation of American Societies for Experimental Biology

continued page 1 **Grad Students and Postdocs Named to GSA Committees**

The new trainee representatives to the *ad hoc* GSA committees are also happy to provide their input. Victoria Schulman, the graduate student representative for the Conferences Committee, says, "volunteering to serve on a GSA committee provides a unique opportunity to gain professional experience in collaboration and administration that is needed in order to be competitive in today's job market but isn't taught in standard graduate and postdoctoral training." Adds Peter Stirling, postdoctoral representative for the Membership Committee, "volunteering with the GSA provides an exciting opportunity for me to have a direct role in shaping policies and programs that could help constituent trainees like myself."

The committees and the 16 new members – one graduate student and one postdoc representative on each committee – are listed below. Early career members of GSA are encouraged to contact these representatives if they have suggestions for programs or services in the areas these members represent. You can contact Committee or Board of Directors representatives via the GSA email: society@genetics-gsa.org. Please put the name of the committee/board and the representative's last name in the subject line, e.g., Education Committee-Hall; Board-Dobi.

Awards



Justin Bosch

University of California, Berkeley
(Graduate Student Rep)



Alan Bergland, PhD

Stanford University, CA
(Postdoctoral Rep)

Communications



Delbert André Green II

Harvard University, Cambridge, MA
(Graduate Student Rep)



David Mets, PhD

University of California, San Francisco
(Postdoctoral Rep)

Conferences



Victoria Schulman

Weill Cornell Graduate School of Medical Sciences, New York, NY
(Graduate Student Rep)



Zeba Wunderlich, PhD

Harvard Medical School, Boston, MA
(Postdoctoral Rep)

Education



Sonia Hall

University of Kansas, Lawrence
(Graduate Student Rep)



Alysia Mortimer, PhD

Emory University, Atlanta, GA
(Postdoctoral Rep)

Membership



Debamita Chatterjee

University of Rochester, NY
(Graduate Student Rep)



Peter Stirling, PhD

University of British Columbia, Vancouver, Canada
(Postdoctoral Rep)

Public Policy



Jessica Chery

Brown University, Providence, RI
(Graduate Student Rep)



Brett Tomson, PhD

University of Pittsburgh, PA
(Postdoctoral Rep)

Publications



Teresa O'Meara

Duke University, Durham, NC
(Graduate Student Rep)



Aakanksha Singhvi, PhD

Rockefeller University, New York, NY
(Postdoctoral Rep)

Women in Genetics



Anna (Brosius) Sunshine

University of Washington, Seattle
(Graduate Student Rep)



Patricia Jumbo-Lucioni, PhD

Vanderbilt University, Nashville, TN
(Postdoctoral Rep)

next few years, and *GENETICS* Editor-in-Chief Mark Johnston would welcome your input on this and other matters.

For those of you who believe in the importance of scientific societies, I want to strongly encourage the submission of your very best work to the GSA journals. The oversight of both *GENETICS* and *G3* is carried out by professional geneticists. Rigorous reviews of manuscripts are acquired from the most highly qualified members

of the field of genetics/genomics. The review process is not only helpful, but also quite efficient, with the time to the first decision on your manuscript within about 31 days for either journal. The highly competent editorial office staff ensures that final manuscripts are rapidly processed, copy edited for quality, and posted online within a week or two of acceptance. No other society, and certainly no non-society journal, gives back to the genetics community

at the level carried out by the GSA. But these kinds of activities can only be sustained by a membership devoted to maintaining a high-stature set of journals. The street is two-way – just as we want to ensure that *GENETICS* and *G3* attract papers with the greatest influence on genetics, your editors will welcome direct feedback on areas where improvement and/or expansion are desirable.

continued page 2

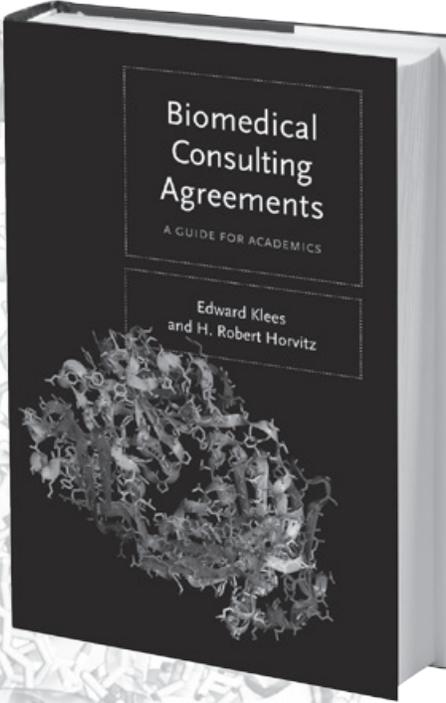
From the Executive Director

and impact of the GSA journals; and a Communications and Engagement Manager, who will expand and enhance GSA's communications activities to better engage the community in the work of the Society. The best applicant pool for both positions will be the GSA membership, since we are looking for those with a background in genetics and a passion for

science. See the GSA website for details about both positions and information about how to apply.

As always, please do not hesitate to be in touch with me or any members of the staff or Board with your ideas and suggestions for how GSA can best serve the genetics community.


The MIT Press



Biomedical Consulting Agreements

A Guide for Academics

Edward Klees and H. Robert Horvitz

An attorney and a scientist outline issues that arise in biomedical consulting agreements, including institutional obligations, confidentiality, consulting fees, stock, and options.

144 pp., 1 illus., \$30 paper

The MIT Press mitpress.mit.edu



Genetics Society of America

A Constitute Society of FASEB

9650 Rockville Pike

Bethesda, MD 20814-3998

Non-Profit
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
Bethesda, MD
Permit No. 7004

GSA 2013 CALENDAR SEPTEMBER – DECEMBER

SEPTEMBER

WEBSITE LIVE!

11th International Conference on Zebrafish Development and Genetics

24

Abstract submission and conference registration open
55th Annual *Drosophila* Research Conference

27

Victoria Finnerty Undergraduate Travel Award application deadline
55th Annual *Drosophila* Research Conference

OCTOBER

WEBSITE LIVE!

2014 Yeast Genetics Meeting

11

Spring 2014 DeLill Nasser Award application deadline

DECEMBER

9

Abstract submission deadline
55th Annual *Drosophila* Research Conference

22

Larry Sandler Award nomination deadline
55th Annual *Drosophila* Research Conference

NOVEMBER

5

Workshop request deadline
55th Annual *Drosophila* Research Conference