



APRIL 2004

GENETICS

From the President's desk:

As the Genetics Society of America approaches its 75th anniversary in 2006, it leads a field at the cutting edge of science, just as it did when it was founded. The GSA has facilitated discoveries in genetics — from the validation of the chromosome theory of inheritance to determination of the human genome sequence. The future has never looked brighter for our field, and the GSA intends to continue to serve the community of geneticists.

We are redoubling our efforts to make the GSA serve you, our members. This newsletter initiates the first of what we intend to be a regular conversation among GSA members. It will communicate the activities of the GSA and inform you as to what GSA is doing for you and your profession. Our success depends upon input from you on how to enhance the role of the GSA in our professional lives. Please let us know what you would like GSA to do to support our field, and what you would like to read about in future editions of this newsletter. Send your suggestions and ideas to society@genetics-gsa.org.

Sincerely yours,

Mark Johnston



Volume 1, Number 1

9650 Rockville Pike
Bethesda, MD 20814-3998

Tel: (301) 634-7300

Fax: (301) 634-7079

Email:

society@genetics-gsa.org
www.genetics-gsa.org



R. Scott Hawley, left, presenter, and Trudy Mackay, right, recipient of the 2004 GSA Medal at the 45th Annual Drosophila Research Conference in Washington, DC, held March 24-28.

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

OFFICERS

Mark Johnston, President
Terry Orr-Weaver, Vice-President
Cynthia J. Kenyon, Past-President
Bruce S. Weir, Treasurer
Anita K. Hopper, Secretary
Elizabeth W. Jones, GENETICS editor

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Andrew G. Clark, Thomas W. Cline, James E. Haber, Kenneth J. Kemphues, Terry R. Magnuson, Maynard V. Olson, John Harvey Postlethwait, Trudi Schupbach, Gerald R. Smith

WEB CONTENT DIRECTOR

R. Scott Hawley

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR AND EDITOR

Elaine Strass



GENETICS: A Leader in its Field

The journal GENETICS

Since the founding of the GSA in 1931, a major activity of the Society has been publication of significant, high quality reports of genetic investigations in our journal GENETICS. The journal has long been the leader in the field, and continues to thrive under the leadership of Editor-in-chief Elizabeth W. Jones and Managing Editor Tracey DePellegrin Connelly and their team of 87 associate editors.

While many scientific journals are limiting the number and size of published manuscripts, GENETICS continues to provide a forum for thorough, high quality research reports. Unlike many other scientific journals, manuscripts can be submitted directly to an associate editor who is your peer, thus ensuring a fair and knowledgeable review. There is no page limit, no charge for color reproductions, and page charges are low. We hope you will continue to submit your best papers to GENETICS, and will encourage your colleagues to do the same.

The journal sometimes devotes a special section to topics of particular interest to our readers or to topics that may be underrepresented in the journal. A special section on wheat genetics and genomics will come out soon; a special issue on zebra fish genetics and genomics is being planned. If you have suggestions for future special issues, please send them to the editor at Genetics-gsa@andrew.cmu.edu.

GENETICS is open access!

The GSA has embraced open access publishing. Beginning with the July 2004 issue (Vol. 167, No. 3), a preprint of every article published in GENETICS will be freely available on the journal's Web site approximately two weeks after acceptance for publication. The journal is made freely available on the Web three months after the publication date. This is one of the most liberal open access policies among scientific society journals, and makes the access to the research reported in the journal an option for everyone with an Internet connection.

While GSA supports open access publishing, we recognize that it poses a significant challenge for the Society since so much of our income derives from journal subscriptions. We will continue to strive to keep the cost of the journal low to maintain our subscribers. However, an increase in page charges seems likely to be necessary in the near future. The long-range plan for the journal is to gradually increase the page charges to make us less dependent on institutional subscribers to support the costs of journal production. Significant cost savings are expected to be realized from a reduction in the number of printed copies of the journal as members increasingly opt to receive the online version. The journal plays an important role in our field in disseminating research results. We encourage our colleagues to maintain their GSA memberships to support the journal and the missions of the Society.

All issues of GENETICS now online!

We are pleased to report that all papers published in GENETICS – all the way back to the first paper published in the journal in 1916 by Calvin Bridges, (“Non-Disjunction as Proof of the Chromosome Theory of Heredity”) – are now available online at <http://www.genetics.org/>. What's more, the full text of all papers is searchable.

Yeast Genetics and Molecular Biology Meeting

The 2004 Yeast Genetics and Molecular Biology Meeting will be held at the University of Washington, Seattle, July 27-Aug. 1, 2004. Stan Fields, (University of Washington) and Michael Snyder (Yale University) are the co-chairs of the meeting. Over 1000 yeast geneticists are expected to attend under sunny skies in the shadow of Mount Rainier.

THIS YEAR'S MEETING FEATURES

Lifetime Achievement Award: Ron Davis • **Ira Herskowitz Mid-Career Award:** Jef Boeke

Winge-Lindgren Address: Andre Sentenac • **Lee Hartwell Lecture:** Susan Lindquist

GSA-sponsored cash prizes for outstanding poster presentations

The deadline for submitting abstracts has passed (April 1, 2004), but late abstracts (for poster presentation, and printed as a supplement to the program book) will be accepted until April 21, 2004.

Advance meeting registration deadline is June 28, 2004. Registration fees increase by \$50 after that date. Deadline for advance housing reservations is also June 28. For more information on this meeting visit <http://genetics.faseb.org/genetics/yeast/>.



Capturing Stories of Our Intellectual Heritage in Genetics

In keeping with the GSA's mission to educate students of all ages about genetics and to recognize outstanding contributions to the field of genetics, the GSA is supporting the development of a groundbreaking collection of videotaped interviews with leading geneticists who have made major contributions to the field. The project was conceived by Past-President Shelly Esposito, who recognized that many anecdotal stories about the origin of important concepts in genetics were in danger of being lost. These stories are not well documented in formal literature, which often presents an overly simplified linear view of how ideas develop. To preserve these stories Shelly is using contemporary technologies in public communication to produce *Conversations in Genetics*, a unique series of videotaped interviews available on DVD.

The goal of this series is to provide an inspiring educational resource for scholars and future students of genetics that reflects a broader more accurate view of our intellectual heritage in this field. The interviews, conducted by distinguished geneticists across the field, are insightful and enlightened exchanges on how specific experiments and ideas originated that provide the foundation for current research. In a dynamic conversational format, they capture the excitement of doing research in genetics over the last 50 years and underscore the roles that serendipity, synchronicity of thought, individual intuition and human creativity played in sparking the crystallization of critical scientific insights. The influence of pivotal individuals who helped create stimulating environments, and the historical context in which now classic experiments were undertaken, are described with humor, appreciation and thoughtful reflection.

The first volume of the *Conversations*, which includes interviews with Lee Hartwell, François Jacob, Ed Lewis, Arno Motulsky, and Evelyn Witkin, is now available. Volume two in this series, which includes interviews with Seymour Benzer, James Crow, Ira Herskowitz, Dan Lindsley and Janet Rowley, will be released in August 2004. For more information on the *Conversations in Genetics* project and to purchase, visit <http://www.genestory.org>.

CONVERSATIONS *in* GENETICS

An oral history of our intellectual heritage in genetics is presented in a video collection of captivating interviews with prominent scientists who have made major contributions to the conceptual development of modern genetics. The series provides a rich resource for anyone interested in the evolution of scientific ideas.

VOLUME 1

TALKING WITH:	INTERVIEWED BY:
<i>Leland Hartwell</i>	<i>Rochelle E. Esposito</i>
<i>François Jacob</i>	<i>Lucy Shapiro</i>
<i>Edward Lewis</i>	<i>Elliot Meyerowitz</i>
<i>Arno Motulsky</i>	<i>Mary-Claire King</i>
<i>Evelyn Witkin</i>	<i>Carol Ross</i>

The series is directed by Rochelle Easton Esposito and produced under the auspices of The Genetics Society of America and The American Society of Human Genetics

Purchase online at www.genestory.org

Reach Out to Your Community through the Mentor Network

An important mission of the GSA is to educate students of all ages about genetics. A great opportunity for doing this is coming at the end of this month: April 30 is national DNA Day. The GSA, in collaboration with the American Society of Human Genetics, the National Society of Genetic Counselors and the Genetic Alliance, would like to have as many mentors as possible in classrooms that day. You can participate by clicking on the ASHG Web site at www.ashg.org/genetics/ashg/educ/003.shtml. There you will learn about the network and how to be entered into the database.

This effort is part of a project initiated in 2003 by the NHGRI, which has designed unique educational resources for students in grades K-12 and their teachers. Last year over 700 geneticists reached thousands of students in classrooms, museums, and other venues across the nation and Canada to tell them about the exciting advances in genetics, using downloadable educational materials available on the NHGRI Web site at <http://www.genome.gov/Pages/educationkit/> and also <http://www.genome.gov/DNAday>

We invite GSA members to sign up to become mentors in order to provide in-depth and personal learning opportunities for as many students as possible. DNA Day is 4/30/2004, and it would be wonderful if K-12 classrooms could be visited by geneticists around that time. Once you have signed up as a mentor, go to the National Science Teachers Association (NSTA) Web site at www.nsta.org. Then go to: Professional Info, then click on Building a Presence for Science, then click on State Coordinators.

The State Coordinator will help you find a science teacher for your local school district. Let him/her know you are part of the mentor network. Once you connect with a teacher, contact Jane Salomon at jsalomon@ashg.org to obtain handouts and materials for your teaching experience.



The Genetics Society
of America

9650 Rockville Pike · Bethesda, MD 20814-3998

Supporting Research through Advocacy Efforts

We all know that support for the scientific enterprise is not something we can take for granted, and the GSA has long been active in educating our legislators. Since 1992 the GSA has been a member of the Joint Steering Committee for Public Policy (JSC; <http://www.jscpp.org/about.html>), a collaborative effort of several scientific societies that informs Congress about scientific advances and the importance of the federal investment in biomedical research. The JSC input into the effort to double the NIH budget is a noteworthy example of scientists uniting to advocate for support of cutting-edge biomedical research. The JSC has advocated for special support for the National Science Foundation as well.

The NIH budget picture is dimming, making the JSC mandate to keep biomedical research at the forefront of Congress's domestic agenda more important than ever. The JSC sponsors a Capitol Hill Day program with the primary purpose to strengthen the connection between scientists and their representatives in Congress. It is a rare opportunity to personally experience the inner workings of our government and advocate for good science public policy on Capitol Hill. It is critical for scientists to communicate with their elected officials on behalf of the NIH, the NSF and other funding agencies. For more information or to register for one of the upcoming Capitol Hill Days on May 19, June 23 or Sept. 15, please contact Matt Zonarich, (301) 347-9309 or mzonarich@jscpp.org.

Another excellent way to contribute to these legislative efforts is to sign up to receive alerts from the Congressional Liaison Committee (CLC) of the JSC. When issues critical to biomedical research come before Congress, the CLC sends alerts by e-mail and provides information on how you can respond with a letter to your representative. This has proven very effective on several occasions in the recent past, when a large response from the research community had a clear effect on our representatives in Congress. You can sign up to participate in this important activity by visiting <http://www.jscpp.org/clc.html>.

