



MINIM



Volume 20, Issue 4

BIOCHEMISTRY NEWSLETTER

April 2006

CHAIRMAN'S CORNER

Scholar Awards

Several months ago, I was asked to chair the RWJMS Committee on Awards and Honors. The committee, composed of representatives from each department, has the task of nominating faculty members for awards restricted to junior faculty (such as the Pew, Sinsheimer, and Sloan awards), as well as honors recognizing highly accomplished senior faculty. Participating in this process has been enlightening, and a number of issues have been raised. Should RWJMS be nominating a faculty member for every possible award and honor; is this a feasible or reasonable thing to do? How should a final decision be made if only one candidate can represent RWJMS? Does the route to success depend on finding a "star" candidate to nominate for many awards; or is the key to ensure that the nominating letters say the right things in the most convincing manner and that the candidate's application is written in an appropriate way?

Possible directions arose during meetings with Joe Broderick from the Research Office and Rhonda Allen, Director of the Office of Faculty Development. One idea is to create a website which contains a description of the major awards available for junior faculty, including requirements, deadlines, amount of the award, and a list of past RWJMS faculty award recipients. Another suggestion is to have a workshop on these scholar awards for junior faculty. I believe these awards are more important than ever for our junior faculty: with intensely competitive NIH funding, such awards provide needed funding, recognition, encouragement, and often an opportunity to become acquainted with other outstanding faculty in a range of fields. It is our obligation and pleasure to nominate as many scientist n our school, in our community and in our field for appropriate awards. Ann Stock has been the recipient of a number of these young faculty awards (Lucille Markey Biomedical Scholar Award, Sinsheimer Scholar Award, and NSF Young Investigator Award), and I asked her to comment on the impact they have had on her career. Her comments are below:

Ann Stock: Awards play an important role in academic science. The satisfactions of having one's work recognized should not be underestimated, but awards also bring very tangible benefits including funding, influence and more awards. With awards, as with many things in life, there is truth to the saying that "the rich get richer".

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Seminars/Meetings

Mike Hampsey served on an NIH Special Emphasis Panel/Scientific Review Group to evaluate Program Project Grant applications in San Francisco, CA on March 27th, 2006.

Masayori Inouye attended the Chemical and Molecular Biology Symposium in Kyoto, Japan on March 27-28, 2006 and presented a lecture entitled, "mRNA Interferase: A Novel Mechanism for Cell Growth Regulation."

Ann Stock presented an invited seminar in the Biochemistry Department at Brandeis University (Waltham, MA) on March 29, 2006 entitled, "Phosphorylation-mediated regulation of OmpR/PhoB family transcription factors."

Danny Reinberg was invited to speak at the 2006 ASBMB Meeting on Chromatin and Development/Disease held in San Francisco, CA., on April 1-5, 2006. The title of his talk was "Chromatin and Its Impact on Gene Expression and Cellular Memory."

Publications

Tang, G.Q. and **Patel, S.S.** (2006) Rapid binding of t7 RNA polymerase is followed by simultaneous bending and opening of the promoter DNA. *Biochemistry*. 45(15):4947-56.

Tang, G.Q. and **Patel, S.S.** (2006) T7 RNA polymerase-induced bending of promoter DNA is coupled to DNA opening. *Biochemistry*. 45(15):4936-46.

Su, L.T., Agapito, M.A., Li, M., Simonson, W.T., Huttenlocher, A., **Habas, R.**, Yue, L. and Runnels, L.W. (2006) TRPM5 Regulates Cell Adhesion by Controlling the Calcium-dependent Protease Calpain. *J. Biol. Chem.* 281(16):11260-70.

Trojer, P. and **Reinberg, D.** (2006) Histone lysine demethylases and their impact on epigenetics. *Cell*. 125(2):213-7.

In Press:

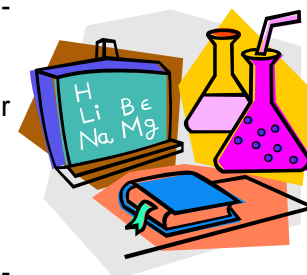
Bupp, K., Anindita Sarangi, A. and **Roth, M.J.** (2006) Selection of feline leukemia virus Envelope proteins from a library by functional association with a murine leukemia virus Envelope. *Virology*.

Guhaniyogi, J., Robinson, V.L. and **Stock, A.M.** (2006). Crystal structures of beryllium fluoride-free and beryllium fluoride-bound CheY in complex with the conserved C-terminal peptide of CheZ reveal dual binding modes specific to CheY conformation. *J. Mol. Biol.*

Perez, E., Zheng, H. and **Stock, A.M.** (2006). Identification of methylation sites in *Thermotoga maritima* chemotaxis receptors. *J. Bacteriol.*

Mohs, A., Popiel, M., Li, Y., Baum, J. and **Brodsky, B.** (2006) Conformational features of a natural break in the type IV collagen Gly-X-Y repeat. *J. Biol. Chem.*

Zhu, L., Zhang, Y., The, J.S., Zhang, J., Connell, N., Rubin, H. and **Inouye, M.** (2006) Characterization of mRNA interferases from mycobacterium tuberculosis. *J. Biol. Chem.*



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Publications (continued from page 2)

Yoshida, T., Qin, L., Egger, L.A. and **Inouye, M.** (2006) Transcription regulation of ompF and ompC by a single transcription factor, OmpR. *J. Biol. Chem.*

Ueki, T, Nariya, N. and **Inouye, S.** (2006) A novel regulation on developmental gene expression of fruiting body formation in Myxobacteria. *Applied Microbiology and Biotechnology.* (Minireview)

Bachhawat, P. Swapna, G.V.T., Montelione, G.T. and **Stock, A.M.** (2005) Mechanism of activation for transcription factor PhoB suggested by different modes of dimerization in the inactive and active states. *Structure* 13: 1353-1363 was recently published as a "featured article" in *Structure* and is currently featured as a "Science Highlights story" at the National Synchrotron Light Source at Brookhaven National Laboratory

Grant Submitted

Celine Gelinas submitted a grant application to The Foundation of UMDNJ entitled "Functional analysis of Bfl-1/A1 in apoptosis and oncogenesis".

Scholar...(continued from page 1)

A prestigious graduate fellowship lays the foundation for postdoctoral fellowships that in turn help to secure translational awards, junior faculty awards, grants and achievement awards. There is no doubt that the "Honors and Awards" section of one's cv influences perceptions and impacts evaluations for additional awards and promotions.

One of the most influential factors in my career has been the tremendous support and promotion that I have received from mentors and colleagues. I am very fortunate to be associated with mentors who view their own greatest achievements to be the successes of their mentees. When I look around at departments, institutes and schools in which awards abound, it is apparent to me that the distinguishing feature of these places is not simply the high quality of the awardees, but rather the prevalence of exceptional mentors and the great pride that the faculty take in their colleagues' achievements. An award culture within a department or school becomes a self-perpetuating movement.

Knowing the value of a supportive, promoting environment, I try to take every possible opportunity to nominate others for awards at every level. Just this afternoon I arranged for the nomination of one of my graduate students for an AAAS membership award. There is no award too small or a colleague too junior to benefit from special recognition. In part, I view this as a responsibility to pay back and to perpetuate the generous support I have received through the years. But the real motivation is that with awards, as with other valuable gifts, it is a much greater joy to give than to receive.

Written by: Dr. Barbara Brodsky