



# MINIM



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## CHAIRMAN'S CORNER

### *NIH MERIT Awards*

Established in 1986, the NIH has offered MERIT (Method to Extend Research In Time) awards to selected investigators who have demonstrated superior competence and outstanding productivity during their previous research endeavors. The principle feature of the MERIT award is to relieve the selected applicant from writing frequent renewal applications by providing the opportunity to gain up to 10 years of support in two segments. Specifically, an initial 5-year RO1 award is accompanied by an opportunity for an extension of 3-5 years, based on an expedited review of accomplishments during the initial period. Investigators do not apply for MERIT awards. Rather, the NIH staff and advisors identify individuals to be offered MERIT awards from competing RO1 applications, prepared and submitted in accordance with conventional NIH procedures. However, it is important to note that only applications requesting 5 years of support are eligible for MERIT awards. Typically, MERIT recipients have received two consecutive RO1 percentile rankings under 5%. To be selected for a MERIT Award is truly an extraordinary achievement.



Our department now boasts two MERIT award recipients: Smita Patel and Ann Stock. In June, Dr. Patel was informed that her RO1 application was selected to receive a MERIT award and Ann Stock's 2003 MERIT award was granted the full 5-year extension (2008-2013). CONGRATULATIONS TO DRs. PATEL AND STOCK!!

### *Departmental News*

**Monica Roth** served as the chair of the Reverse transcriptase/Viral Inhibitor session of the Cold Spring Harbor Retrovirus meeting, May 2007.



**Mike Hampsey** and Claire Moore (Tufts Medical School) were awarded a competitive renewal of their collaborative NIH RO1 grant entitled "The coupling of mRNA transcription and 3'-end formation" in the amount of \$475,000 direct costs per year for four years (9/1/07 - 8/31/11).

## Publications

**Phadtare, S.**, Kazakov, T., Bubunenko, M., Court, D.L., Pestova, T. and Severinov, K. (2007) Transcription Antitermination by Translation Initiation Factor IF1. *J. Bacteriol.* 189 (11):4087-93.

Friedland, N., Mack, T.R., Yu, M., Hung, L.W., Terwilliger, T.C., Waldo, G.S. and **Stock, A.M.** (2007) Domain Orientation in the Active Response Regulator Mycobacterium tuberculosis MtrA Provides a Barrier to Activation(.). *Biochemistry.* 46(23):6733-6743.

Fan, Y. and **Gélinas, C.** (2007) An optimal range of transcription potency is necessary for efficient cell transformation by c-Rel to ensure optimal nuclear localization and gene-specific activation. *Oncogene.* 26(27):4038-43.

**Hampsey, M.** and Kinzy, T.G. (2007) Synchronicity: policing multiple aspects of gene expression by Ctk1. *Genes. Dev.* 21 (11):1288-91.



### In Press:

**Nanda, V.** and Schmeidekamp, A. (2007) Are Aromatic Carbon Donor Hydrogen Bonds Linear in Proteins? *Proteins: Structure, Function and Bioinformatics.*

**Nanda, V.**, Andrianarijaona, A. and Narayanan, C. (2007) The Role of Protein Homochirality in Shaping the Energy Landscape of Folding. *Protein Science.*

Sarangi, A, Bupp, K. and **Roth, M.J.** (2007) Retargeting retroviral infection to an alternative receptor, the SLC35F2 protein, through library screening. *Proc Natl Acad Sci USA.*

Bryan, M.A., Brauner, J.W., Andrele, G., Flach, C.R., **Brodsky, B.** and Mendelsohn, R. (2007) FRIR Studies of Collagen Model Peptides: Complementary Experimental and Simulation Approaches to Conformation and Unfolding. *J. Am. Chem. Soc.*

Awano, N., Xu, C., Ke, H., Inoue, K., **Inouye, M.** and **Phadtare, S.** (2007) Complementation analysis of the cold-sensitive phenotype of the *Escherichia coli* *csdA* deletion strain. *J. Bacteriol.*

Lu, L.J., Sboner, A., Huang, Y.J., Lu, H.X.; Gianoulis, T.A., Yip, K.Y., Philip M., Kim, P.M., **Montelione, G.T.** and Gerstein, M.B. (2007) Comparing classical pathways and modern networks: Towards developing an edge ontology. *TIBS.*

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**Publications (continued from page 2)**

Xu, S., Benoff, B., Liou, H.L., Lobel, P. and **Stock, A.M.** (2007) Structural basis of sterol binding by NPC2, a lysosomal protein deficient in Niemann-Pick type C2 disease. *J. Biol. Chem.*

Bachhawat, P. and **Stock, A.M.** (2007) Crystal Structures of the Receiver Domain of Response Regulator PhoP from *Escherichia coli* in the Absence and Presence of the Phosphoryl Analog Beryllifluoride. *J. Bacteriol.*

Aramini, J; Y., Huang, Y. J., Swapna, G.V.T., Cort, J.R., Rajan, P. K., Xiao, R., Shastry, R., Acton, T.B., Liu, J., Rost, B., Kennedy, M.A. and **Montelione, G.T.** (2007) The solution NMR structure of *Escherichia coli* ytfP expands the structural coverage of the UPF0131 protein domain family. *Proteins: Struct. Funct. Bioinformatics.*

Bhattacharya, A., Wunderlich, Z., Monleon, D., Tejero, R. and **Montelione, G.T.** (2007) Assessing model accuracy using the homology modeling automatically (HOMA) software. *Proteins: Struct. Funct. Bioinformatics.*

