

# SIROCCO

FEBRUARY 2007 Newsletter 1

SIROCCO MONTH 2 of 48

## Silencing RNAs: organizers and coordinators of complexity in eukaryotic organisms

### SIROCCO is up and running!

- 1<sup>st</sup> January 2007 - 31<sup>st</sup> December 2010 (48 months)
- Integrated Project of the Sixth Framework Programme of the European Commission
- Please quote contract LSHG-CT-2006-037900 on publications

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### RONALD PLASTERK APPOINTED MINISTER



Ronald Plasterk has been appointed as the new Dutch Minister of Education Culture and Science.

Dutch monarch Queen Beatrix has sworn in the new centre-left cabinet of Prime Minister Jan Peter Balkenende at the royal palace Huis ten Bosch in The Hague.

Since February 2000 Ronald has been the director of the Hubrecht Laboratory / Netherlands Institute for Developmental Biology in Utrecht, and

Professor of Developmental Genetics at the University of Utrecht.

The Hubrecht Laboratory will be responsible for sequence analysis of sRNAs in animals as well as the genome-wide analysis of the mechanism of miRNA function.

René Ketting has agreed to take over responsibility for the Hubrecht Laboratory workpackages, and a replacement partner will be chosen to oversee the Hubrecht Laboratory portion of the SIROCCO integration and dissemination activities (subprojects 7 & 8)



### ROSETTA DOES NOT ACCEDE

By mutual agreement it was decided that Rosetta Genomics will not accede to the SIROCCO contract. This was for reasons related to contract administration. A competitive call will now be held to choose a replacement partner who will complete the tasks set out in the Description of Work. These workpackages include:

Sequence analysis of sRNAs in animals

Profiling miRNAs in human cancers

Establishing genetic variability of miRNAs

The Consortium, with the assistance of two independent experts will decide on the successful proposal.

### NEW PROJECT MANAGER FOR SIROCCO

Aileen Hogan has been appointed by Coordinator David Baulcombe as the new project manager for SIROCCO.

She will be the main contact point for information on the project and will liaise between the SIROCCO consortium and the European Commission.

Aileen received her PhD from the University of Western Ontario and did postdoctoral training in developmental biology in Canada and at Oxford.

Most recently she was project manager of another Framework 6 Integrated Project Cancer-gradome.



## SIROCCO PARTNERS

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KICK-OFF MEETING 25-26<sup>th</sup> APRIL 2007

The SIROCCO kick-off meeting will be held in Norwich and will run from 9.00 on Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> April to approximately 17.00 on Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> April. The first day and the morning of the second day will be reserved for short talks from each consortium member describing their interests relative to SIROCCO.

The second afternoon will be for a session on Integration Activities – how SIROCCO can create scientific synergy between partners.

**Anita Bounds** is still with us but can now turn her attention to other projects!  
Many thanks to Anita for all her work on SIROCCO.



[www.sirocco-project.eu](http://www.sirocco-project.eu)