

SIROCCO

Silencing RNAs: organizers and coordinators of complexity in eukaryotic organisms

DEC 2007 Newsletter 11

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ELISA IZAURRALDE WINS GOTTFRIED WILHELM LEIBNIZ PRIZE

Partner 6-db2 Elisa Izaurralde has won the prestigious Gottfried Wilhelm Leibniz Prize from the German Research Foundation (DFG) which is the largest award in German Research. The prize is awarded to outstanding young researchers for their exceptional achievements in their field. Quality of research is the sole criterion for nomination. Previous winners include SIROCCO's own Detlef Weigel http://www.dfg.de/en/research_funding/scientific_prizes/gw_leibniz_prize.html



SIROCCO computational analysis of small RNAs on Nature Networks

The SIROCCO online forum for discussion of computational analysis of small RNA data is growing with members from four research groups so far.



ERC Advantaged Investigator Grants
The European Research Council has announced the first call for Advanced Grants for PIs with an outstanding track record and a ground-breaking research idea. Funding is up to €3.5M over five years. Submission deadline for life sciences is

22 April 2008

<http://erc.europa.eu>



SIROCCO/RIGHT

**Young Investigators Symposium
16-19 April 2008
Cambridge UK**

Organised by SIROCCO and RIGHT

All postdocs and students involved with SIROCCO or RIGHT are invited to participate

Register at

http://www.sirocco-project.eu/S_RYoungscientists_regform.htm

Confirmed keynote speakers are John Rossi from City of Hope National Medical Center, Duarte CA

And Judy Lieberman, Harvard Medical School, Boston MA



RESEARCH SPOTLIGHT



Partner 9 Steve Cohen and his co-author Thomas Sandmann have identified 53 novel miRNA loci most of which contain unique seed sequences not found in other *Drosophila* miRNAs and are therefore expected to regulate novel sets of target genes. [Sandmann T, Cohen SM.](#) Identification of Novel *Drosophila melanogaster* MicroRNAs. PLoS ONE. 2007 Nov 28;2(11):e1265.

Partner 6-db1 Detlef Weigel and his co-author Yasushi Kobayashi have published a review of the molecular mechanisms that integrate spatial and temporal information in day-length-dependent flowering
[Kobayashi Y and Weigel D](#) Move on up, it's time for change--mobile signals controlling photoperiod-dependent flowering Genes Dev. 2007 Oct 1;21(19):2371-84.

Partner 11 Eric Miska and his colleagues report the analysis of miRNA expression in 93 primary human breast tumours, using a bead-based flow cytometric miRNA expression profiling

method. This study represents the first integrated analysis of miRNA expression, mRNA expression and genomic changes in human breast cancer. [Blenkiron C, Goldstein LD, Thorne NP, Spiteri I, Chin SF, Dunning MJ, Barbosa-Morais NL, Teschendorff AE, Green AR, Ellis IO, Tavaré S, Caldas C, Miska EA.](#) MicroRNA expression profiling of human breast cancer identifies new markers of tumour subtype. Genome Biol. 2007 Oct 8;8(10):R214 [Epub ahead of print]

Partner 15 Caroline Dean and her colleagues have demonstrated a close association of FCA and FLD in mediating H3K4 demethylation and thus transcriptional silencing of FLC revealing roles for antisense RNA processing and DCL3 function in this regulation
[Liu F, Quesada V, Crevillén P, Bäurle I, Swiezewski S, Dean C.](#) The Arabidopsis RNA-binding protein FCA requires a lysine-specific demethylase 1 homolog to downregulate FLC. Mol Cell. 2007 Nov 9;28(3):398-407.



ANNUAL REPORTING



- The deadline is approaching to make your contribution to the periodic annual report by visiting <http://www.sirocco-project.eu/> and filling in the form on the partner pages [username sirocco password smallrna]
- Send any images by email to [aileen](#) and please include a figure legend.
- The deadline for the scientific activity report for the first 12 months and the planning for the next 18 months (months 13-30) should be submitted by the **Christmas break**. Use the online submission form or email directly



- The deadline for the financial reporting is **31st January 2008** Audit certificates only necessary if spending has exceeded 150K