

SIROCCO

Silencing RNAs: organizers and coordinators of complexity in eukaryotic organisms

JAN 2008 Newsletter 12

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RENÉ KETTING JOINS EMBO YOUNG INVESTIGATOR NETWORK



Partner 5 René Ketting has been named by the European Molecular Biology Organization as one of 18 of Europe's most talented young researchers. Selected for the high standard of their research, EMBO Young Investigators are offered academic, practical and financial support in the early years of their independent careers. Raising the profile of the young investigators and helping them to attract new collaborations and funding are the main aims of the programme.

http://www.embo.org/about_embo/press/new_yips07.html

OLIVIER VOINNET IS AWARDED ERC STARTING GRANT



Partner 3 CNRS-ibmp Olivier Voinnet has been awarded a starting investigator grant from the European Research Council. Fewer than 300 grant proposals from over 9000 submissions were successful. For a full list of awardees see

<http://erc.europa.eu/pdf/Listfinal.pdf>

Olivier has also won the Liliane Bettencourt Prize for Life Sciences—awarded to a European Researcher under 45 years of age with outstanding publications and research project. The prize was presented on December 6th in Paris.



RESEARCH SPOTLIGHT



Partner 6 Gunter Meister and his colleagues have shown that the 5' phosphorylation status of siRNA acts as an important determinant for strand selection and that asymmetric 5' modification of siRNA duplexes can be useful for controlling targeting specificity. [Chen PY, Weinmann L, Gaidatzis D, Pei Y, Zavolan M, Tuschl T, Meister G](#). Strand-specific 5'-O-methylation of siRNA duplexes controls guide strand selection and targeting specificity. *RNA* 2008 Feb;14(2):263-74. Epub 2007 Dec 19

Partner 9 Stephen Cohen and his co-author Natasha Bushati have published a review of research using animal models that provide insight into the diverse roles of miRNAs in vivo. [Bushati N and Cohen SM](#). microRNA functions. *Annu Rev Cell Dev Biol*. 2007;23:175-205

Partner 5 René Ketting has written a preview

for *Cell* discussing a paper by Kedde et al on Dead end (Dnd1) - an RNA-binding protein that mediates germ-cell viability and suppresses the formation of germ-cell tumours. Dnd1 mediates these effects by counteracting microRNA-mediated silencing of mRNAs. Kedde et al *Cell*. 2007 Dec 28;131(7):1273-86. [Ketting RF](#) A Dead End for MicroRNAs. *Cell*. 2007 Dec 28;131(7):1226-7.

Partner 4 Witek Filipowicz has published two recent reviews on microRNA: [Grosshans H and Filipowicz W](#). Molecular biology: the expanding world of small RNAs. *Nature* 2008 Jan 24;451(7177):414-6 and [Filipowicz W., Bhattacharyya SN., Sonenberg N](#). Mechanisms of post-transcriptional regulation by microRNAs: Are the answers in sight? *Nature Rev. Gen. Nat Rev Genet*. 2008 Feb;9(2):102-14. [Epub Jan 16 2008]

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
Keynote speakers are [John Rossi](#) from City of Hope National Medical Center, Duarte CA and [Judy Lieberman](#), Harvard Medical School, Boston MA

[Register](#) now!

ANNUAL REPORTING

Please make sure your Form C financial statements and audit certificates if appropriate are sent to [aileen](#) as soon as possible if you have not already done so

Forms can be found on the partner pages of the project website <http://www.sirocco-project.eu/> [username sirocco password smallrna]

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