

SIROCCO

Silencing RNAs: organizers and coordinators of complexity in eukaryotic organisms

FEB 2008 Newsletter 13

SIROCCO MONTH 14 of 48

RENÉ KETTING WINS ERC GRANT

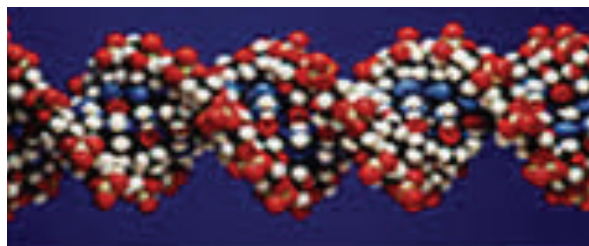
Partner 5 René Ketting has been awarded a starting investigator grant from the European Research Council. Fewer than 300 grant proposals from over 9000 submissions were successful. For a full list of successful applicants see

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



Deadline for ERC Advanced Grants in the Life Sciences is 22 April 2008
Up to €3.5 million per grant
[ERC flyer](#)

*Registration is now on for the SIROCCO/
RIGHT Young Scientists Symposium
16-19 April 2008 Register online at
www.sirocco-project.eu—deadline 15 March*



California company claims faster, cheaper gene map

A California company predicts it will soon be able to sequence an entire human gene map in four minutes, for just 1,000 USD. Pacific Biosciences says its new gene-sequencing machines are far faster than existing equipment. "It will change health care forever if it works," Hugh Martin, the chief executive officer of the company, said in a telephone interview on Monday. "The real idea is to be able to sequence people fast enough and cheaply enough so we can turn some really interesting discovery problems in genetics and genetic diseases into software problems," Martin said. Competitors also racing to make a faster, cheaper DNA map include Solexa, now a division of Illumina Inc, Applied Biosystems, 454 Life Sciences Corp, a Roche company, and Helicos Biosciences Corp.

See [Reuters](#) for full article



RESEARCH SPOTLIGHT



Partner 7-gre Gyorgy Hutvagner has published a review on the Argonaute family of proteins and their role in RNA-based gene silencing mechanisms [Hutvagner G, Simard MJ](#).

Argonaute proteins: key players in RNA silencing. *Nat Rev Mol Cell Biol.* 2008 Jan;9(1):22-32. Review.

Partner 12 Roberto di Lauro and his co-author Mario De Felice have published a review of the current knowledge of thyroid morphogenesis

[De Felice M, Di Lauro R](#).

Murine models for the study of thyroid gland development. *Endocr Dev.* 2007;10:1-14. Review.

Coordinator David Baulcombe and his colleagues Becky Mosher, Frank Schwach and David Studholme have published a paper on the role of DNA-dependent RNA polymerase (Pol)IV in DNA methylation. [Mosher RA, Schwach F, Studholme D, Baulcombe DC](#). PolIVb influences RNA-directed DNA

methylation independently of its role in siRNA biogenesis. *Proc Natl Acad Sci U S A.* 2008 Feb 19; [Epub ahead of print]

Partner 6-db2 Elisa Izaurralde and her co-authors have published a review on the mechanisms by which miRNAs silence gene expression in animal cells [Eulalio A, Huntzinger E, Izaurralde E](#). Getting to the root of miRNA-mediated gene silencing. *Cell.* 2008 Jan 11;132(1):9-14.

Partner 6-db1 Detlef Weigel and his colleagues have published a paper that reviews various strategies for small RNA-based gene silencing and describes in detail the design and application of artificial microRNAs in many plant species. [Ossowski S, Schwab R, Weigel D](#). Gene silencing in plants using artificial microRNAs and other small RNAs. *Plant J.* 2008 Feb;53(4):674-90.

SIROCCO/RIGHT Young Investigators Symposium

16-19 April 2008 Cambridge UK

Keynote speakers:

Judy Lieberman, Harvard Medical School Boston MA
John Rossi, Beckman Research Institute of the City of Hope, Duarte CA

All other presentations either in oral or poster form will be given by graduate students and postdoctoral researchers

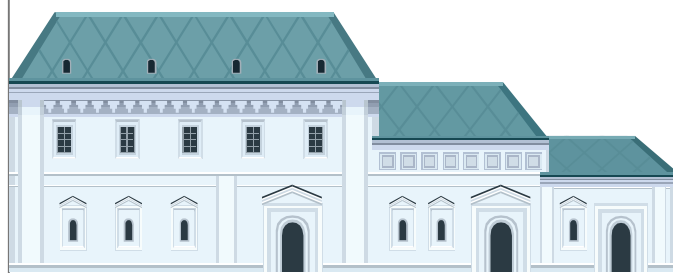
Register online www.sirocco-project.eu

Registration and abstract deadline: 15 March 2008

SIROCCO 2008

We are considering venues for the next annual meeting of the SIROCCO consortium in the autumn of 2008.

Anyone who has a preference of venue or location for the next meeting is invited to contact aileen.hogan@sainsbury-laboratory.ac.uk



ANNUAL REPORTING

The SIROCCO Annual Report for 2007 has been submitted to the European Commission

Download the report and the acknowledgement of receipt letter from the European Commission on the partner pages of the project website www.sirocco-project.eu [username sirocco password smallrna]

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