

SIROCCO

Silencing RNAs: organizers and coordinators of complexity in eukaryotic organisms

MAY 2008 Newsletter 16

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Congratulations to SIROCCO partners Caroline Dean and Stephen Cohen

Stephen Cohen elected a Fellow of the Royal Society (UK)

Stephen Cohen has been elected as a Fellow of the Royal Society. Fellows are elected for their contributions to science, both in fundamental research resulting in greater understanding, and also in leading and directing scientific and technological progress in industry and research establishments.



The Royal Society originated from a group of natural philosophers who began meeting in the mid-1640s. Its official foundation date is 28 November 1660 when 12 of them met at Gresham College after a lecture by Christopher Wren and decided to found 'a Colledge for the Promoting of Physico-Mathematicall Experimentall Learning'.

Caroline Dean elected member of the National Academy of Science (USA)

Caroline Dean OBE FRS has been elected a member of the USA's National Academy of Sciences (NAS) for her excellence in original scientific research. Membership in the NAS is one of the highest honours for a scientist or engineer in the USA.



Caroline will be inducted into the Academy next April during its 146th annual meeting in Washington, D.C.

The National Academy of Sciences (USA) is a society of distinguished scholars engaged in scientific and engineering research. The NAS was signed into being by President Abraham Lincoln on March 3 1863.



SIROCCO 2008 will be held 10-12 December 2008 at the Wellcome Trust Conference Centre in the Wellcome Trust Genome Campus - home to some of the world's leading genome and bioinformatics research institutes including the European Bioinformatics Institute.

Located within a 30 minute drive from London's Stansted Airport

<http://www.wtconference.org/>

2007-2010 SIROCCO Integrated Project
European Commission 6th Framework Programme
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RESEARCH SPOTLIGHT



Partner 3 Olivier Voinnet and his co-authors have shown that plant miRNA-guided silencing has a widespread translational inhibitory component that is genetically separable from endonucleolytic cleavage Brodersen P, Sakvarelidze-Achard L, Bruun-Rasmussen M, Dunoyer P, Yamamoto YY, Sieburth L, Voinnet O. Widespread Translational Inhibition by Plant miRNAs and siRNAs Science. 2008 May 15 [Epub ahead of print]

Partner 6 Detlef Weigel and his lab members have demonstrated that the effects of both miR156-targeted SPL genes and CYP78A5 on organ size are correlated with changes in plastochron length suggesting a potential compensatory mechanism that links the rate at which leaves are produced to final leaf size. Wang JW, Schwab R, Czech B, Mica E, Weigel D. Dual Effects of miR156-Targeted SPL Genes and CYP78A5/KLUH on Plastochron Length and Organ Size in Arabidopsis thaliana. Plant Cell. 2008 May 20. [Epub ahead of print]

Partner 8 Tamas Dalmay has published a review on the current knowledge of microRNAs in cancer focusing on their potential in diagnostics and therapeutics. Dalmay T. MicroRNAs and cancer. J Intern Med. 2008 Apr;263 (4):366-75. [Epub ahead of print]

Partner 10 Irene Bozzoni and her colleagues have published a paper demonstrating the therapeutic benefit of using adeno-associated viral vectors expressing antisense sequences and indicating a possible long-term gene therapy treatment for Duchenne muscular dystrophy Denti MA, Incitti T, Sthandier O, Nicoletti C, De Angelis FG, Rizzuto E, Auricchio A, Musarò A, Bozzoni I. Long-Term Benefit of Adeno-Associated Virus/Antisense-Mediated Exon Skipping in Dystrophic Mice. Human Gene Therapy 2008 May 26. [Epub ahead of print]

MID-TERM REPORTING

Reporting forms will be emailed to partners in the coming month

We will be asking for:

- Scientific progress reports
- Integration activities related to Workpackage 7.3 "*To integrate activities of the consortium*"
- New deliverables and milestones for the next 18 month implementation plan with emphasis on those that involve coordinated working

These reports will form the basis of a draft annual report to be sent to the external evaluator before the next SIROCCO meeting

Deadline for mid-term reporting 30th June 2008

Please note
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details in
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