

# SIROCCO

Silencing RNAs: organizers and coordinators of complexity in eukaryotic organisms

MARCH 2007 Newsletter 2

SIROCCO MONTH 3 of 48

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## KICK-OFF MEETING 25-26 APRIL



### Meeting Location:

The SIROCCO kick-off meeting will be held at the [University of East Anglia](#)

The talks will be held in the Gurney Room of the Elizabeth Fry Building.

SIROCCO consortium members are converging on Norwich for the kick-off meeting 25th-26th April.

Norwich is an old city and was already well established at the time of the Norman conquest in 1066. By the late 16th century Norwich had received a large number of people from the Netherlands, who had come to work in the burgeoning wool trade.

The city lies to the east of the fens (marshland) and so was geographically isolated from the rest of England. It was easier to get to and from the low Countries in Europe than it was to travel to London.

Some say that is still true today!

<http://www.visitnorwich.co.uk/>

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## AT LONG LAST – AGREEMENT



The SIROCCO Consortium Agreement has been distributed for signature. The CA is the last document that must be submitted to the European Commission—at least until Annual Report time. At the end of each year the Partners submit a two part progress report. The first part is the scientific report which addresses the deliverables

and milestones listed for their institution in the Description of Work. The second part is the financial report detailing what has been spent on the project in that period.

All Partner reports are sent to the Project Manager for collation into one document for the European Commission.



## RESEARCH HIGHLIGHTS


**SIROCCO Partner 5 Hubrecht Lab reports distinct class of secondary siRNAs**

In a recent issue of **Science** Titia Sijen, Florian Steiner, Karen Thijssen and Ronald Plasterk reported a distinct class of secondary siRNAs in *C. elegans*, the result of amplification of silencing-related RNA. These siRNAs are the product of unprimed synthesis by RNA-directed RNA polymerases, and are phased relative to each other progressing along the target mRNA. This helps to explain how the phenomenon of silencing can persist when initiated by small amounts of dsRNA, and how the targeted RNA becomes a source of secondary siRNAs.

[Sijen et al., Science 315, 244 \(2007\)](#)

**SIROCCO Coordinator David Baulcombe's commentary on the discovery entitled "Amplified Silencing" in the same issue**

[DC Baulcombe, Science 315, 199 \(2007\)](#)

**And SIROCCO Partner 11 Eric Miska's News and Views article with Julie Ahringer in Nature Biotechnology "RNA interference has second helpings"**

[Miska EA, Ahringer J Nat Biotechnology 25, 302-303 \(2007\)](#)

*"Of key importance now is to find out how secondary siRNAs contribute to exogenous RNAi-induced silencing and their roles in endogenous gene regulation"*

**KICK-OFF MEETING 25-26<sup>th</sup> APRIL 2007  
Programme**
**Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> April**

09.00 Opening Address  
David Baulcombe,  
Coordinator

**Subproject 1: Catalogues of sRNAs and their expression patterns**

09.20 **Tamas Dalmay** UEA (P8)  
Subproject 1 Leader

09.40 **René Ketting** HL (P5)

10.00 **Xavier Estivill** CRG (P14)

10.20 **Giuseppe Macino** Uniro  
ma1BCE (P10)

**Coffee break**
**Subproject 2: Biosynthesis and regulation of miRNAs**

11.00 **Irene Bozzoni** Uniroma1-  
DGBM (P10)  
Subproject 2 Leader

11.20 **Witold Filipowicz** FMI (P4)

11.40 **Gabriella di Vita** BIOGEM  
(P12)

12.00 **Jorgen Kjems** UAAR (P13)

**LUNCH**
**Subproject 3: The mechanisms of sRNA function**

14.00 **Elisa Izaurralde** MPG-db2  
(P6) Subproject 3 Leader

14.20 **Gunter Meister** MPG-bc  
(P6)

14.40 **Michael Wassenegger**  
AlPlanta (P16)

15.00 **Annick Harel-Bellan**  
CNRS-odt (P3)

**Tea break**
**Subproject 4: Generating and exploiting knowledge of sRNA targeting mechanisms**

15.40 **Detlef Weigel** MPG-db1  
(P6) Subproject 4 Leader

16.00 **Peter Mouritzen** (tbc) or  
Soren Rasmussen Exiqon  
(P17)

16.20 **Stephen Cohen** EMBL (P9)

16.40 **Aileen Hogan** TSL (P1)  
Project Management

18.30 DRINKS RECEPTION AND  
DINNER AT THE SAINSBURY  
CENTRE GARDEN RESTAURANT

**Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> April**
**Subproject 5: sRNAs in viral and bacterial infection**

09.00 **Thomas Rudel** MPG-ib (P6)

09.20 **Olivier Voinnet** (tbc)  
CNRS-ibmp (P3)

09.40 **Jozsef Burgyan** ABC (P2)

**Coffee break**
**Subproject 6: sRNA-based regulation in growth and differentiation**

10.40 **Simon Arthur**

UNIVDUN- mrc (P7)

11.00 **Eric Miska** UCAM-  
WCRUK (P11)

11.20 **Caroline Dean** JIC (P15)

**LUNCH**

14.00-17.00

INTEGRATION ACTIVITIES

MEETING ENDS

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