

# SIROCCO

Silencing RNAs: organizers and coordinators of complexity in eukaryotic organisms

MAY 2007 Newsletter 4

SIROCCO MONTH 5 of 48

## ANNUAL MEETING 20-21 NOVEMBER IN BERLIN



**HARNACK-HOUSE**

**The SIROCCO Annual Meeting is planned for 20-21 November 2007.** Delegates would arrive on the evening of the 19th November and the talks are to be held on Tuesday 20th and Wednesday 21st November, with departures on the evening of the 21st. The intention is to have fewer talks and to allow more free time for discussion.

Berlin is served by Air Berlin and Easyjet, as well as the national airlines.

“The Harnack-House was originally intended as an institutional meeting point for academic guests from Germany and abroad. It wishes now to resume this role, especially in its capacity as a conference venue” Gerhard Ertl, director of the Fritz Haber Institute of the Max Planck Society

<http://www.harnackhaus-berlin.mpg.de/eng-index.htm>



**Remember to send in your two questionnaires**

1. lab protocols
2. scientific advisory board

**Thank you**



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## RESEARCH SPOTLIGHT



## Viral RNA Targeting

Partner 2 József Burgyán of the Agricultural Biotechnology Center and his colleagues have shown that viral genomes are cleaved by RNA-induced silencing effector complex (RISC) programmed by virus-specific small interfering RNAs.

Using *Cymbidium ringspot virus* (CymRSV) to infect *Nicotiana benthamiana*, and using *Agrobacterium tumefaciens*-mediated infiltration of sensor constructs, it was established that viral RNA targeting by virus-induced gene silencing in infected plants involved cleavage of viral genomes and that the RISC-mediated cleavages are not random. There are hot spots for target RNA cleavage, and they are asymmetrically distributed along the positive and negative sense viral RNA strands.

**Pantaleo V, Szittyá G, and Burgyán J**  
Molecular Bases of Viral RNA Targeting by Viral Small Interfering RNA-Programmed RISC *J Virology* April 2007 3797-3806

Partner 3 Olivier Voinnet from CNRS comments in **Bioessays** (with co-author Virginia Ruiz-Ferrer) on a recent study by Zhang et al which shows that the 2b suppressor of *Cucumber mosaic virus* directly interacts with *Arabidopsis* AGO1 and inhibits its activity, suggesting that AGO1 might be a component of the plant antiviral RISC.

“A plant *counter-counter*-defensive strategy would also constitute a potent driving force for the evolution of silencing suppressors, providing yet another illustration of the never ending molecular arms race between hosts and pathogens.”

**Ruiz-Ferrer V Voinnet O** *Bioessays* 2007 Apr:29(4):319-323

**Zhang X et al** 2006 *Genes Dev.* 20:3255-3268

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### SIROCCO Deliverables 6-monthly Progress Report

1. Enter your last name

2. Enter your institution's name

3. Enter deliverable code ( for example: D1.1.1 )

Show description

Deliverable description. Please review the original deliverable below and base your report on it:

During the month of June we will be asking for a 6-monthly SIROCCO progress report. Partners are requested to enter some essential details and comment on the text of the deliverables for which they are responsible.

The idea of these internal reports is to have updates on ongoing work which then form an excellent basis for the annual report. The reporting form can be found on the partner pages of the project website

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

The partner-specific workpackage files can also be found on the partner pages.

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