

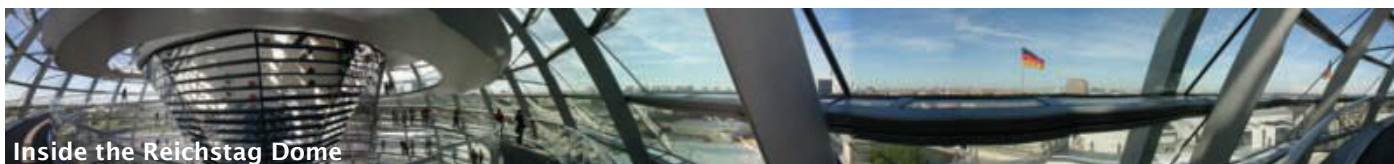
SIROCCO

Silencing RNAs: organizers and coordinators of complexity in eukaryotic organisms

OCT 2007 Newsletter 9

SIROCCO 2007 Berlin

SIROCCO MONTH 10 of 48

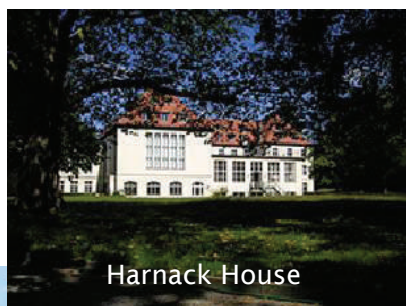


Inside the Reichstag Dome

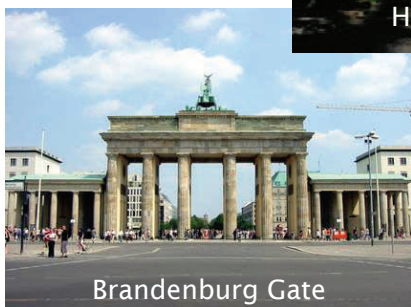
SIROCCO ANNUAL MEETING 19-21 NOV

The venue for the SIROCCO Annual Meeting is Harnack House in the Dahlem area of greater Berlin. Harnack House, which first opened in 1929, is owned and maintained by the Max Planck Society as a meeting place and forum for academic excellence.

Harnack House can be reached by taxi or car taking the Autobahn 115 to the Hüttenweg off-ramp, turning right in the direction of Dahlem to the corner of Clayallee, right again, then turn left into Saargemünder



Harnack House



Brandenburg Gate

Strasse and the Ihnestrasse is shortly after.

Harnack-House is on the corner of Ihnestrasse and Saargemünder Strasse.



Berlin Taxis

Young Scientists Symposium on RNAi Jesus College Cambridge 16-19 April 2008

Jointly organised by SIROCCO and RIGHT

RIGHT—RNA Interference Technology as Human Therapeutic Tool—is an Integrated EU Project with 25 partners focussing on the application of RNAi as therapeutic tool. RIGHT is Coordinated by the Max Planck Institute for Infection Biology (Thomas Meyer and Thomas Rudel)

<http://www.ip-right.org/Right>

The aim of the SIROCCO/RIGHT symposium is to give PhD students and postdocs from both consortia a chance to exchange experiences, gain insights into the work of other partners in RIGHT and SIROCCO and encourage interactions between the two groups. Young scientists will be invited to present their data in talks or on posters in either of two major topics:

- 1) miRNA and RNAi mechanisms
- 2) RNAi therapeutic applications

More details to be announced soon.

<http://conference.jesus.cam.ac.uk/>



RESEARCH SPOTLIGHT



Flowering Time Regulators Required for Chromatin Silencing

Partner 15 Caroline Dean and her colleagues including Coordinator David Baulcombe have shown that the flowering time regulators FCA and FPA are required for small interfering RNA-mediated chromatin silencing. At some target loci FCA and FPA promote asymmetric DNA methylation whereas at others they function in parallel to DNA methylation. [Baurle I, Smith L, Baulcombe DC, Dean C.](#) Widespread role for the flowering-time regulators FCA and FPA in RNA-mediated chromatin silencing. *Science*. 2007 Oct 5;318(5847):109-12

The p122 subunit of Tobacco mosaic virus is a potent silencing suppressor

Partner 2 Jozsef Burgyan and Partner 8 Tamas Dalmay and their co-authors have shown that the 122-kDa replicase subunit (p122) of crucifer-infecting Tobacco mosaic virus (cr-TMV) is a potent silencing-suppressor protein. The p122 protein preferentially binds to double-stranded 21-nucleotide (nt) siRNA and microRNA (miRNA) intermediates with 2-nt 3' overhangs inhibiting the incorporation of siRNA and miRNA into silencing-related complexes [Csorba T, Bovi A, Dalmay T, and Burgyán J.](#) The p122 subunit of Tobacco mosaic virus replicase is a potent silencing suppressor and compromises both siRNA and miRNA mediated pathways *J Virol*. 2007 Aug 22; [Epub ahead of print]

Viral microRNAs dominate during infection

Partner 3 Olivier Voinnet his colleagues has shown that during lytic infection of mouse fibroblasts with murine cytomegalovirus (MCMV) viral microRNAs constitute as much as 60% of the total miRNA pool. [Dolken L, Perot J, Cognat V, Alioua A, John M, Soutschek J, Ruzsics Z, Koszinowski U, Voinnet O, Pfeffer S.](#) Mouse cytomegalovirus microRNAs dominate the cellular small RNAs profile during lytic infection and show features of post-transcriptional regulation *J Virol*. 2007 Oct 17; [Epub ahead of print]

MiR-8 Tunes Atrophin Levels in Drosophila

Partner 9 Stephen Cohen and his colleagues have identified atrophin as a direct target of miR-8 in *Drosophila*. miR-8 mutant phenotypes resulting in elevated or reduced atrophin activity are both detrimental providing evidence for a "tuning target" relationship between atrophin and miR-8. [Karres, J.S., Hilgers, V. Carrera, I. Treisman, J. and S.M. Cohen.](#) The conserved microRNA miR-8 tunes Atrophin levels to prevent neurodegeneration in *Drosophila*. *Cell* 2007 131: 136-145, 05 Oct

miRNAs and Translational Silencing

Partner 6 Gunter Meister has published a review of recent insights into the molecular mechanisms underlying microRNA-guided translational repression. [Meister G.](#) miRNAs Get an Early Start on Translational Silencing. *Cell*, Vol 131: 25-28, 05 Oct

PARTNER MESSAGE BOARD



ANNUAL MEETING DOCUMENTS:

The following documents relating to the annual meeting in Berlin are available on the partner pages of the SIROCCO project website: <http://www.sirocco-project.eu/>

- The list of delegates with contact details
- The meeting programme

Email aileen.hogan@sainsbury-laboratory.ac.uk if you have forgotten your password

Berlin visitor information can be found at <http://www.berlin.de/>

[Google map](#) showing location of [Harnack-Haus](#) and [Tegel](#) and [Schönefeld](#) Airports