

Neurospora E-News - April 2016

The Neurospora Policy Committee

At the Neurospora Information Conference we elected two new members for the Neurospora Policy Committee. They are **Andre Fleissner**, Technische Universitaet Braunschweig, and **Tom Hammond**, Illinois State University, Normal. Andre and Tom will be in charge of organizing the Neurospora Conference in 2018. **Louise Glass** and **Luis Larrondo** completed their four-year terms. We thank them for their service. **Barry Bowman** and **Jason Stajich** continue for two more years.

Awards



Hanna Johannesson of Uppsala University is the 2016 winner of the Beadle and Tatum Award. Professor Johannesson has used *Neurospora* to investigate the evolutionary significance of meiotic drive elements such as *spore killer*. The award was presented in Paris at the European Fungal Genetics Conference.



Left to right – Luis Larrondo, Brad Bartholomai and Louise Glass

Brad Bartholomai, a graduate student in the Geisel School of Medicine at Dartmouth, was the winner of the Perkins Travel Award. Brad is investigating the role of the *period-1* gene in regulation of circadian rhythms in *Neurospora*.

The 2016 Neurospora Information Conference

On March 10-13, 50 people in the Neurospora community gathered at Asilomar California. The attendance was smaller than in previous years, but the conference was a great success with exciting science and wonderful camaraderie – more on that below. Because the number of participants was significantly below that projected when we signed our contract with Asilomar, we were assessed large “attrition” fees by Asilomar. Our costs exceeded our income by \$7,300. Jay Dunlap and Jennifer Loros generously contributed \$4,000 to the deficit. John Leslie and Kevin McCluskey made up the remaining deficit from funds controlled by the Fungal Genetics Stock Center. We much appreciate the support that Jay, Jennifer, John and Kevin have given us.

From discussions at the meeting it appears that the low attendance was largely attributed to two factors. Our traditional March meeting time now conflicts with the European Fungal Genetics meeting. A summer meeting seemed to conflict with too many other activities. There appeared to be a consensus that October would be a good time. The second factor limiting attendance is cost. Asilomar has become expensive. There was good attendance of lab heads at the conference but significantly fewer students and postdocs. There was general agreement that we

want to bring more students and postdocs, and that we need to look for a venue with lower costs. A group was organized to look at alternative sites – Tom Hammond, Zach Lewis, Bill Belden and Jason Stajich. We are open to suggestions from the community.

The scientific presentations at the meeting were uniformly excellent. One was the presentation by Luis Larrondo, showing that *Neurospora* can function as a photographic projector (If you wonder what this means, well, you had to be there.) In fact, the small size led to a very relaxed atmosphere and great discussions after every talk. Matt Sachs gave a wonderful talk at the banquet with entertaining photos from decades of *Neurospora* meetings. (The best photos were of Matt himself in his early days!) Abstracts of all the talks can be gotten from the FGSC website: <http://www.fgsc.net/asil2016/Neurospora2016Program.pdf>

Fungal Genetics Stock Center

We wish to remind everyone of the importance of supporting the FGSC. When you develop new strains and publish your data make sure you deposit the strains at the FGSC. This allows the whole community to do better science, and it is important to make sure that these strains are not lost. Please remember to acknowledge the FGSC in your publications.

We hope to send this *Neurospora* E-News on a regular schedule. If you have comments or suggestions for the Policy Committee or for the wider *Neurospora* community please contact us.

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