Spring is here and after a long break, we re-start our newsletter!

Simone Reber is appointed W2-professor for Biochemistry at the Beuth Hochschule Berlin

Since October 2018 our junior group leader Simone Reber got promoted to a W2-professorship at the Beuth University of Applied Sciences Berlin. Fortunately for us, she will stay associated with the IRI Life Sciences and the Humboldt-Universität and conduct her research at the IRI.

ERC Starting Grant and new research collaborations

Junior group leader David Garfield received the prestigious ERC Starting Grant for his project "Constraint, Adaptation, and Heterogeneity: Genomic and single-cell approaches to understanding the evolution of developmental gene regulatory networks". For the next five years the Garfield lab aims to build a detailed atlas of sea urchin development and use this atlas to understand how regulatory landscapes change during specification and how they evolve between closely related species.

We successfully applied for two DFG-funded graduate programmes and an EU-ITN:

The International Research Training Group 2403 "Dissecting and Reengineering the Regulatory Genome" headed by IRI member Uwe Ohler is an alliance between Berlin institutions and Duke University to teach the next generation of researchers a quantitative understanding of genome function and gene regulation within the context of biological systems (www.regulatory-genome.org).

IRI professor Nils Blüthgen is heading the Research Training Group 2424 "CompCancer" that focusses on computational aspects of cancer research with the goal to develop and apply computational methods on relevant questions of current cancer research and thereby train the next generation of computational oncologists (www.comp-cancer.de).

IRI professor Leonie Ringrose is coordinating for the next four years an EU H2020 Marie Sklodowska Curie Innovative Training Network. Within the "PEP-NET – Predictive Epigenetics“ – network Leonie and her colleagues will combine quantitative experiments with predictive theoretical models to answer questions of epigenetic function.

A great work combining wet lab and computational expertise is the collaboration of Benedikt Beckmann and Annalisa Marsico (former MPIMG & FU Berlin, now Helmholtz Zentrum Munich): Bressin, Schulte-Sasse, Figini et al., (Nucleic Acids Res. 2019 Mar 29. pii: gkz203) gives insights into the characteristics of RPBs, cross-species features and structural disorder revealed by machine learning.


Upcoming

Scientific events at IRI Life Sciences

On May 9, Stephan Preibisch (BMSB / MDC) will talk about his research on “BigStitcher: Reconstructing high-resolution image datasets of cleared and expanded samples”. In June we start our new series “Machine Learning in Life Sciences”, jointly organised with our new graduate programmes IRTG 2403 and RTG 2424. First speaker will be Quaid Morris from the University of Toronto. The whole program is available on our website iri-lifesciences.de.

Scientific events in Berlin

Genome Editing using CRISPR, Berlin 4-6 September 2019: Annual meeting of the Genetic Society (www.biologie.hu-berlin.de/genome-editing-with-crispr)

Current Calls

Volkswagen Foundation

- Experiment! – In search of bold research ideas, Deadline 10 July 2019
- Freigeist Fellowship – to establish a junior group, Deadline 10 October 2019
- Change of Course – Exploring New Research Territories between the Life Sciences and Science or Engineering, Deadline 15 January 2020
- Symposia and Summer Schools, Deadline 10 September 2019

Einstein Foundation

- Einstein Research Project & Einstein Reserach Fellow, Deadline 23 September 2019 (university-internal deadline)

You are welcome to forward this newsletter to others who might be interested. To unsubscribe from this newsletter, please email stefanie.scharf@iri-lifesciences.de.