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## Message from the President of the American Peptide Society

The 21<sup>st</sup> American Peptide Symposium was the most recent successful addition to the American Peptide Society's series of biennial symposia. An international group of 550 registrants contributed to the high quality scientific program. I congratulate co-chairs Richard DiMarchi and Henry Mosberg along with their staff and the organizing and program committees for a terrific meeting, and I thank them for all of their hard work and dedication.

There were several special events from the Symposium that I would like to highlight. The American Peptide Society's Bruce Merrifield Award, which recognizes outstanding career achievements in peptide science, was presented to Stephen B.H. Kent of the University of Chicago. The Makineni Lecture, which honors long-time peptide science supporter Rao Makineni, was presented by William DeGrado of the University of Pennsylvania. The inaugural Murray Goodman Award was presented to Charles Deber of Hospital for Sick Children and the University of Toronto.

The American Peptide Society is also actively planning for future symposia. The 22<sup>nd</sup> American Peptide Symposium will be held June 25 - 30, 2011 at the Sheraton Hotel and Marina in San Diego, and will be co-chaired by Phil Dawson and Joel Schneider.

My term as President of the Society runs from June, 2009 to June, 2011. During this period, one of my priorities is to increase the membership of the Society and enhance the benefits to members. The Society will be exploring the sponsorship of peptide-focused sessions at national American Chemical Society meetings and at the annual Experimental Biology meetings. The Society will increase the visibility of its Awards. The Society will explore the representation of peptide-based research on specific study sections within the Center for Scientific Review of the NIH. Please contact me if you would like to get involved in any of these activities.

Finally, I wish to thank outgoing Society Officers Tom Lobl (Treasurer), Jane Aldrich (Past President) and Richard Houghton (President). Tom mightily steered the Society's finances, while Jane and Richard's oversight has led to a Society of impressive stability.

In considering Richard's presidency, I noted several commonalities between it and George W. Bush's presidency. Both men's presidencies ended in 2009, and both men were of similar ages upon leaving office (62 for George W. Bush and 63 for Richard). Both men had important business dealings with then Florida Governor Jeb Bush. The presidents who succeeded them were of similar ages (47 for Barack Obama, 49 for myself). However, upon further reflection, there were far more differences between the presidencies of Richard Houghton and George W. Bush than similarities. I list the top ten below:

### Top Ten Differences Between Richard Houghton's APS Presidency and George W. Bush's USA Presidency:

10. When speaking publically, George W. Bush had men throw their shoes at him, whereas Richard had women throw their undergarments at him.
9. When Richard traveled internationally, local residents didn't curse at him.
8. When Richard traveled to New Orleans, see number 9.
7. Richard correctly pronounced the word "nuclear."
6. Richard knew that "Austrians" live in Austria and that "Australians" live in Australia.

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## President's Message

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5. Richard's achievements were further proof that evolution exists.
4. Richard's oversight of the APS did not result in the complete meltdown of all peptide societies around the world.
3. No members of the APS Council were indicted or jailed or went into hiding.
2. All money spent by the APS could be accounted for.
1. When Richard became President, the APS had a monetary surplus. After his Presidency, the APS still had a monetary surplus.

My best wishes for success in your professional and personal endeavors.

—Gregg B. Fields, Ph.D., University of Texas Health Science Center



Richard DiMarchi (above)  
and Henry Mosberg



## APS 21st Symposium Report

The 21st Symposium of the American Peptide Society was held on the Indiana University Bloomington campus on June 7 to 12, 2009. The IU-based meeting theme was “Breaking Away,” embracing the spirit of the scientific and social program. The University setting was reminiscent of the Symposia from earlier years in the formative period of the Peptide Society.

What was unique about this 2009 meeting was the level of participation from pharmaceutical and biotechnology companies that complemented the traditional academic excellence. The unprecedented interest in the use of peptides as drugs separates this period from any other in the history of the Society. It is a direct result of the advances in core peptide chemistry and biology that have been achieved in recent years.

The meeting opened with a Sunday social gathering at the center of the Indiana University campus. Monday consisted of a full day focused on advances in chemical biology and receptor signaling. The day concluded with the Merrifield lecture given by Professor Stephen Kent (University of Chicago) and two associated lectures that extended the scope of advances in chemical synthesis. Tuesday's lectures focused predominantly on advances in rational design, analysis and material aspects of peptide chemistry. It concluded with a first-ever session co-sponsored by the American Association of Pharmaceutical Sciences (AAPS) pertaining to technology directed at accelerating the transition of peptides from the lab to the clinic. Wednesday was highlighted by the presentation of the Makineni lecture by Professor William DeGrado (University of Pennsylvania), the first Goodman Award lecture by Professor Charles Deber (University of Toronto), and a set of lectures pertaining to advances in biosynthesis with non-native amino acids.

The Symposium program moved to peptide biology and pharmacology in the last two days of the meeting. A particular emphasis was placed on capturing the unprecedented success currently being experienced in peptide-based therapeutics. Thursday represented an array of several therapeutic areas, most notably neuroscience, infectious diseases and cancer. Metabolic diseases with a particular emphasis on obesity and the related disorders in glucose and lipids were the focus of the last day. At the end of each of the first four days were poster sessions that stimulated communication among all participants and highlighted the importance of young investigator participation.

The social program was abundant and diverse. Whether the primary interest was the arts, athletics, or outdoor activities, there was something to meet all needs. The campus and the Bloomington community with its easily-accessible open spaces and attractive architecture provided a stimulating social environment for multiple activities. A few items of particular note were the Wednesday night social event at the Musical Arts Center, where the renowned Jacobs School of Music staged a performance exclu-

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# APS 21st Symposium Report

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sively for Symposium guests. Additionally, the Thursday night social banquet, themed “*Mix, Mingle & Move, an evening of Martinis, Moonshine and Music!*,” is destined to be one that will be remembered as unlike anything previously experienced at an APS meeting

Despite the unprecedented challenges of economic cutbacks and H1N1 flu that diminished participation, the total attendance was approximately 800 participants with representatives from more than three dozen countries. We are deeply grateful to all of the individuals who helped in the assembly, funding and operations associated with this event. The dedicated University-based conference staff, the APS executive leaders and staff, former APS symposium organizers, numerous volunteers and especially conference director Mary Morgan made seminal contributions to the success of this meeting.

—Richard DiMarchi and Henry Mosberg, *Co-Chairs*

## 2009 Young Investigators’ Poster Competition Winners University of Indiana, Bloomington IN, June 2009

Jessica Anand.....	University of Michigan, Ann Arbor
Leah Cohen.....	College of Staten Island, CUNY
Arnab De.....	Columbia University Medical Center
David Dietrich.....	University of British Columbia
Reena Halai.....	University of Queensland
Sonia Henriques.....	University of Queensland/University of Lisbon
Gary Kemp.....	London School of Pharmacy
John Kulp.....	Naval Research Laboratory
Burkhardt Laufer.....	Technical University of Munich
Piotr Mroz.....	Indiana University
Radhika Nagarkar.....	University of Delaware
David Przybyla.....	Purdue University
Nir Qvit.....	Stanford University
Irene Shu.....	University of Washington
Pauline Tan.....	The Ohio State University
A. Pernille Tofteng.....	University of Copenhagen
Yanyan Zhang.....	The Ohio State University

## Thanks to all Poster Competition Judges:

Paul Alewood  
Maria Bednarek  
Annette Beck-Sickinger  
Ashraf Brik  
Ronald Bowsher  
Gerardo Byk  
Weibo Cai  
Julio Camarero  
Erin Carlson  
Predrag Cudic  
Juan Del Valle  
Ben Dunn  
Sebastian Dziadek

Emanuel Escher  
Nick Fisk  
Joseph Garlich  
Paolo Grieco  
Ryan Holder  
Mark Jarosinski  
Jiri Jiracek  
Satish Joshi  
Ashok Khatri  
Teresa Kubiak  
Kit Lam  
Tom Lobl  
Derek Maclean

## 2009 APS Election Results

Congratulations to the following successful candidates in the 2009 APS election:

President Elect: Ben Dunn

Treasurer: Pravin T.P. Kaumaya

Six new Councilors: Maria Bednarek, Charles Deber, Michal Lebl, John Mayer, Tom Muir and Joel Schneider

Five Nominating Committee Members: David Craik, Richard DiMarchi, Felicia Etzkorn, Lila Gierasch, and Garland Marshall

Congratulations to all of the newly elected officers, councilors and Nominating Committee members, and our heartfelt thanks to all of the candidates who agreed to run for election!

## FASEB Public Affairs Quarterly Report: April-June 2009

### Research Funding

- Legislative alert sent to members of FASEB e-action list urging them to contact their Representatives regarding the Markey-Riechert sign-on letter in support of 7% NIH funding increase (April 1)
- FASEB President Richard Marchase [testified on behalf of NSF](#) funding before House Commerce, Justice, Science Appropriations Subcommittee in coordination with leadership of American Chemical, Physical and Mathematics Societies (April 2)
- Submitted testimony to House and Senate Appropriations Subcommittees on funding for [Department of Energy](#)/Office of Science (April 3)
- FASEB staff were invited to meet with Senator Specter's appropriations staff to discuss funding for biomedical research (April 3)
- Submitted testimony in support of FY2010 funding for [Agriculture and Food Research Initiative](#) (April 16)
- FASEB President Richard Marchase wrote to [Speaker Nancy Pelosi](#) to thank her for her remarks on the role of science in the economy (April 21)
- Submitted testimony in support of FY2010 [funding for VA](#) Medical and Prosthetic Research (April 22)
- FASEB and advocacy partners launched [ResearchMeansHope.org](#), a new initiative to increase public support for NIH (April 23)
- Joined Agriculture and Food Research Initiative (AFRI) Coalition letter and Hill meetings in support of increased USDA research funding (April 28)
- Co-sponsored the 2009 VA Research Forum and Congressional Reception (April 30)
- Submitted [testimony](#) in support of FY2010 funding for NIH to the House Labor/HHS/Education Appropriations Subcommittee (May 1) and Senate Labor/HHS Appropriations Subcommittee (May 25)
- FASEB President-Elect Bill Talman discussed research funding and animal research with Rep. Dave Loebsack, Erik Fatemi of Senator Harkin's staff, Michal Machnowski of Senator Grassley's staff and Jacob Parker of Rep. Latham's staff (May 6)
- Issued a statement on President [Obama's FY2010 budget](#) for research (May 7)
- Cosponsored a briefing with the Ad Hoc Group for Medical Research at which Tony Fauci spoke to more than 40 congressional staff about how NIAID is using ARRA funding (June 1)
- FASEB staff organized "FASEB Capitol [Hill Day](#)" during which Board and SPC members met with members and staff in 34 congressional offices (June 2)
- Richard Marchase and Mark Lively met with directors of NIH Intramural Program, NCI, NIGMS, NINDS, NIDDK, NIAID, NHLBI, NIAMS, NICHD and NIBIB (June 2, 8 and 9)
- FASEB staff conducted 28 meetings with members and staff in the House and Senate
- FASEB staff discussed FY2011 funding for NIH with senior staff at the White House Office of Science and Technology Policy and the Office of Management and Budget (June 9 and 11)
- Issued [e-action alert](#) to scientists in districts of House Appropriations Subcommittee on Labor/HHS/Education members urging them to write in support of NIH funding (June 23)
- FASEB wrote to [Senate Small Business Subcommittee](#) (June 17) and organized a letter from 98 groups to all members of the House opposing an increase in the [SBIR set-aside](#) (June 23), and wrote Presidential Science Advisor John Holdren to thank him for his support (June 30)

### NIH Portfolio Management

- FASEB Science Policy Committee held its annual symposium with Toni Scarpa (CSR), Barbara Alving (NCRR), Linda Kupfer (Fogarty) and budget analyst Stan Collender (May 31)

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## American Peptide Society Member Benefits

- A subscription to *Biopolymers – Peptide Science*.
- Discounted subscription rates for the following journals:
  - *Chemical Biology & Drug Design*
  - *International Journal for Peptide Research & Therapeutics*
  - *Protein and Peptide Letters*
  - *Current Protein & Peptide Science*
  - *Current Proteomics*
- Free professional position and resume posting on the website.
- Membership in the Federation of American Societies for Experimental Biology (FASEB).
- Reduced membership rates for students and postdocs.
- Travel grants to symposia for qualified graduate students and postdocs.

For more information, please visit our website at <http://www.AmPepSoc.org>

Please note that our mailing address has changed to:

American Peptide Society  
P.O. Box 13796  
Albuquerque, NM 87192

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## FASEB Public Affairs Quarterly Report

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- Howard Garrison developed a model illustrating what would happen to the NIH research portfolio under various funding scenarios (June 9)

### Biosecurity

- Nuclear Regulatory Commission accepted staff recommendation to continue to allow the use of cesium chloride isotopes, citing the arguments made by FASEB last October in opposition to the proposed Cs-137 Cl ban (April 15)
- Carrie Wolinetz was invited to review a National Academies booklet on biosecurity, "What You Need to Know about Biosecurity: Responsible Science in Today's World" (May 18)

### Clinical Research

- OPA updated [clinical research advocacy](#) tool
- FASEB comments on OHRP request for information on [IRB accountability](#) (June 5)

### Training and Education

- FASEB commented on NSF proposed [responsible conduct of research](#) training policy (April 7)
- Howard Garrison chaired a meeting of the NIGMS Council Working Group on Training and Faculty Development (May 20)
- Carrie Wolinetz spoke about science policy careers at NIH career symposium (May 19)
- Howard Garrison reviewed a manuscript on research training for JAMA (June 6)

### Other Regulatory and Policy Issues

- FASEB wrote DHHS Secretary Kathleen Sebelius opposing its policy limiting travel to scientific meetings by NIH staff (April 30); Dick Marchase spoke with Michael Gottesman, NIH Deputy Director for Intramural Research, (May 29) and met with him (June 2). Travel restrictions were subsequently waived for Endocrine Society meeting
- FASEB commented on NIH draft guidelines on human embryonic [stem cell research](#) (May 26)
- FASEB and AAMC provided joint comments to the U.S. Working Group on Strengthening Biosecurity on its review of the select agent and related [biosecurity regulations](#) (May 29)
- FASEB responded to NIH notice of proposed rules for [conflict of interest](#) (June 15)
- FASEB joined coalition of organizations expressing concern over [visa delays](#) (June 10)

### Communications

- FASEB expanded use of "[social media](#)" in research advocacy (April 23)
- FASEB commemorated [World Asthma Day](#) with statement on research (May 5)
- OPA updated NIH [state PowerPoint](#) presentations
- Jennifer Hobin made a presentation on the FASEB IDP at an ASIP career development seminar during Experimental Biology 2009 (April 20)
- Jennifer Zeitzer wrote about federal research funding for The Protein Society newsletter (April)
- OPA published a special edition of the Washington Update summarizing Obama FY 2010 budget request (May 8)
- Carrie Wolinetz spoke at ACSM annual meeting (May 29)
- Carrie Wolinetz developed a "FASEB Poster" for display at scientific meetings
- Jennifer Zeitzer gave a presentation about 2010 and 2011 NIH funding at the National Health Council Appropriations Issue Team meeting (June 18)
- Carrie Wolinetz wrote about advocacy and social media for AAA and SSR quarterly newsletters (June)

## 2010 Vincent du Vigneaud Award Winners

The American Peptide Society's Vincent du Vigneaud Awards will be presented to Phil Dawson (Scripps Research Institute) and Reza Ghadiri (Scripps Research Institute) in March of 2010 as part of the Gordon Research Conference on the Chemistry and Biology of Peptides, chaired by Samuel H. Gellman (University of Wisconsin) and Mark R. Spaller (Dartmouth Medical School-Norris Cotton Cancer Center). These prestigious awards, generously sponsored by Bachem, recognize outstanding achievements in peptide research.

## An Update from the Society's Journal

This summer at the American Peptide Society meeting in Bloomington, Wiley sponsored a reception to introduce the new Editor-in-Chief of *Biopolymers-Peptide Science* and to thank Lila Gierasch for her past services in this position. Discussions at the reception centered on how to increase the level of APS member participation in the Journal. Involvement can take many forms; the most obvious is to take advantage of the opportunity to submit manuscripts to the Journal. There are many reasons to choose the Society's Journal to disseminate your results. An efficient manuscript review process, free color figures, and no page charges are only a few of the reasons. After the APS meeting, the Journal enjoyed an upswing in the number of submitted manuscripts. We hope to continue this trend with an increased number of submissions from APS members.

Involvement also means generating new ideas for interesting thematic issues as well as providing visionary ideas that will shape the Journal's future. APS members responded to this call as well. Based on your suggestions, the Journal will soon publish several special issues. These include: a special issue covering peptide-based materials; an issue initiated by Bill Lubell dedicated to the ACS Hirschmann awardee Morten Meldal; and an issue initiated by Phil Dawson dedicated to the APS Merrifield awardee Stephen Kent. In addition several issues covering meetings will appear including the 1<sup>st</sup> International Conference on Circular Proteins organized by David Craik, and the 5<sup>th</sup> Peptide Engineering Meeting organized by Claudio Toniolo and Ernest Giralt. Lastly, Lila Gierasch, Heather Benson and Istvan Toth will be managing a special issue covering the 8<sup>th</sup> Australian Peptide Conference.

The livelihood of the Journal largely depends on the involvement of APS members such as that described above. The Journal thanks those members who have submitted articles and have taken the initiative to arrange special issues. However, we would like to hear from more of you. The Journal invites your involvement!

—Joel Schneider

*Editor-in-Chief, Biopolymers-Peptide Science*

## 31<sup>st</sup> European Peptide Symposium Copenhagen, Denmark, September 5 to 9, 2010

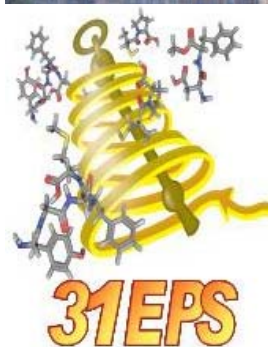
The 31<sup>st</sup> European Peptide Symposium will take place September 5 to 9, 2010 at the Bella Center in Copenhagen, Denmark, and will be chaired by Morten Meldal, Knud J. Jensen and Thomas Hoeg-Jensen. The meeting venue is conveniently located near the charming and cultural Copenhagen city centre.

Please join your colleagues from around the world at this meeting, which will include cutting-edge research and fascinating developments in a broad range of topics presented by leading international experts from both industry and academia. The confirmed invited speakers are presently Bill DeGrado, Stephen Kent, Tom Muir, Herbert Waldmann, Fernando Albericio, Paul Alewood, Annette Beck-Sickinger, Ernest Giralt and Horst Kessler.

The 31EPS will allow you to present your latest results and will provide ample opportunity to meet colleagues with similar or complementary research interests. To accommodate as many high-quality talks as possible, there will be a few parallel sessions in addition to the plenary sessions and a special session for young investigators. The poster sessions will take place in a large hall adjacent to the exhibition area, where the latest research tools and services will be presented by international companies. At 31EPS, an inspiring atmosphere for the exchange of ideas and for building long-lasting collaborations will be established.

Potential exhibitors and sponsors are welcome to contact the conference secretariat: 31EPS, DIS Congress Service, Telephone: +45 44 92 44 92, E-mail: [31eps@discongress.com](mailto:31eps@discongress.com)

Please visit the 31EPS website for more information: [www.31eps.dk](http://www.31eps.dk). Delegate registration will start in December 2009, and abstracts must be submitted before March 1, 2010. See you in Copenhagen!



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# GRC: Chemistry & Biology of Peptides

## Ventura, California

### February 28 to March 5, 2010

The scientific program for the 2010 Gordon Research Conference on the Chemistry & Biology of Peptides is largely complete. We anticipate an exciting meeting with sessions focused on assembly, antimicrobial peptides, medicinal chemistry, synthesis, peptides in membranes, biological applications and peptide engineering. Both academic and industrial viewpoints will be presented at these sessions.

Participants are strongly encouraged to present their most recent findings in poster format. Poster sessions have historically enabled lively exchanges of information and ideas at the Peptides GRC. Ample time for the poster sessions will be available, and a number of posters will be selected for short oral presentations during the conference.

We recommend early application to the Peptides GRC, since attendance is limited. Applications from graduate students and young postdoctoral scientists are particularly welcome. Preference will be given to those who submit a poster abstract to the Chairs.

For more information, please see:

<http://www.grc.org/programs.aspx?year=2010&program=peptides>

—*Conference Chairs: Mark Spaller and Sam Gellman*

*Co-Chairs: Maria Bednarek and Fred Naider*

## Worldwide Events

Experimental approaches to protein: protein interactions

A Biochemical Society Focused Meeting

January 11 to 12, 2010

University of Sheffield, UK

For more information:

[http://www.biochemistry.org/meetings/programme.cfm?Meeting\\_No=SA094](http://www.biochemistry.org/meetings/programme.cfm?Meeting_No=SA094)

Biophysical Society 54th Annual Meeting

February 20 to 24, 2010

The Moscone Center, San Francisco, California

For more information: <http://www.biophysics.org/2010meeting>

24th Annual Symposium of The Protein Society

August 1 to 5, 2010

Manchester Grand Hyatt, San Diego, California

For more information: <http://www.proteinsociety.org>

31st European Peptide Symposium

September 5 to 9, 2010

Bella Center, Center Boulevard 5, 2300 Copenhagen S, Denmark

For more information: <http://www.31eps.dk/>

4th Pharmaceutical Sciences World Congress (PSWC)

November 14 to 18, 2010

New Orleans, Louisiana

For more information: <http://www.aapspharmaceutica.com>

5th International Peptide Symposium

December 4 to 9, 2010

Kyoto International Conference Center, Kyoto, Japan

For more information: <http://www.5ips.jp/>

## American Peptide Society Newsletter

Published quarterly by the American Peptide Society, <http://www.americanpeptidesociety.org>.

President .....Dr. Gregg B. Fields  
President-elect.....Dr. Ben M. Dunn  
Treasurer .....Dr. Pravin T.P. Kaumaya  
Secretary .....Dr. Robin E. Offord  
Immediate Past President.....  
.....Dr. Richard A. Houghten  
Editor-in-Chief.....Dr. Predrag Cudic  
Editor ..... Ellen T. Brenner

We are always seeking items for your society's newsletter – either scientific or personal, as long as they are relevant to the field of peptide science, the Society, and its members. Please email your news items, along with any photos or graphics, to Newsletter Editor Ellen Brenner at [apsnewsletter@americanpeptidesociety.org](mailto:apsnewsletter@americanpeptidesociety.org). Items should be either Microsoft Word document attachments, or plain text included in the body of the email. Photos should preferably be in either JPEG or EPS format, and not embedded in a

## NIH Welcomes Proposals for 2010 NIH Director's Transformative Research Projects Program

A major goal of the NIH is to foster bold and creative investigator-initiated research. In pursuit of this goal, the Transformative Research Projects Program has been created under the auspices of the NIH Roadmap for Medical Research to enhance submission and support of exceptionally innovative, high risk, original and/or unconventional research that has the potential to have a profound impact in clinical, basic, and/or behavioral/social science arenas.

NIH Roadmap Transformative Research Awards provide up to \$25 million total costs per year for a single project. The NIH encourages applications for the Transformative Research Projects Program from scientists representing all disciplines relevant to the NIH mission, including the biological, behavioral, clinical, social, physical, chemical, computational, engineering, and mathematical sciences. Interdisciplinary teams as well as individual investigators with bold ideas are encouraged to apply.

The deadline for submitting Transformative Research Project applications is January 22, 2010 with Letters of Intent due by December 22, 2009. See the instructions in the RFA, available at <http://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/rfa-files/RFA-RM-09-022.html> (RFA-RM-09-022). Additional information, including Frequently Asked Questions about the Transformative Research Projects Program is available at: <http://nihroadmap.nih.gov/T-R01/>. Send questions to [T\\_R01@mail.nih.gov](mailto:T_R01@mail.nih.gov).

The NIH Roadmap for Medical Research, launched in 2004, is a series of initiatives designed to address fundamental knowledge gaps, develop transformative tools and technologies, and/or foster innovative approaches to complex problems. Funded through the NIH Common Fund, these programs cut across the missions of individual NIH Institutes and Centers (ICs) and are intended to accelerate the translation of research to improvements in public health. In collaboration with all NIH ICs, oversees programs funded by the Common Fund. Additional information about the NIH Roadmap and Common Fund can be found at <http://www.nihroadmap.nih.gov/>.

The National Institutes of Health (NIH), "The Nation's Medical Research Agency," includes 27 Institutes and Centers and is a component of the U. S. Department of Health and Human Services. It is the primary federal agency for conducting and supporting basic, clinical and translational medical research, and it investigates the causes, treatments and cures for both common and rare diseases. For more information about NIH and its programs, visit <http://www.nih.gov/>.

### Thanks to Our Sponsor:

