RETRO-ACTIVE NEWS

Newsletter of the Center for Retrovirus Research & the Comprehensive Cancer Center RNA Oncogenic Virus Program, The Ohio State University.
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Dr. JOHN COFFIN: 2003 DISTINGISHED RESEARCH CAREER AWARDEE

Dr. Coffin visited the Center for two days in April and received the Center's 4th annual "Distinguished Research Career Award" for his work on retrovirus genetics during the past thirty years. The breadth of Dr. Coffin's contributions spans from the elucidation of retrovirus genetic structure, mechanisms of DNA synthesis, integration and gene expression to retroviral population dynamics. Photos of Dr. Coffin's visit may be viewed at: http://www.vet.ohio-state.edu/docs/retrovirus/award.html

PROGRAM PROJECT GRANT: Retrovirus-Host Interactions

Funding by the National Cancer Institute commenced in April on "*Retrovirus Models of Lymphocyte Transformation and Disease*". An outcome of the long collaborative history of the Center, the PPG is headed by Dr. Michael Lairmore and supports five integrated projects and three cores. The contributions of Center labs of Drs. Lairmore, Green, Boris-Lawrie, Rosol, Ratner, Weilbaecher and Mathes are summarized at the PPG site: http://www.vet.ohio-state.edu/docs/retrovirus/grant.html

SELECTED RECENT PUBLICATIONS

Kim S-J, Ding W, Albrecht B, Green P, and Lairmore. M. 2003. J.Biol.Chem. 278: 15550-15557. **A conserved calcineurin-binding motif in human T lymphotropic virus type 1 p12I functions to modulate NFAT activation.**

Jewell NA, Chen R, Raices R, Mansky LM. 2003. J Antimicrob Chemother. Sep 1 [Epub ahead of print] **Nucleoside reverse transcriptase inhibitors and HIV mutagenesis.**

Ponferrada VG, Mauck BS, Wooley DP. 2003. Arch Virol. 48(4):659-75. **The envelope glycoprotein of human endogenous retrovirus HERV-W induces cellular resistance to spleen necrosis virus.**

Roberts, T. M. and K. Boris-Lawrie. 2003. J Virol. 77 (22). **Primary sequence and secondary structure motifs in spleen necrosis virus RU5 confer translational utilization of unspliced HIV-1 reporter RNA.**

Wang H, Norris KM, Mansky LM. 2003. J Virol. 77(17):9431-8. **Involvement of the matrix and nucleocapsid domains of the bovine leukemia virus Gag polyprotein precursor in viral RNA packaging.**

Ye, J., Xie, L. & Green, P. L. (2003). J Virol 77:7728-7735. **Tax and overlapping Rex sequences do not confer the distinct transformation tropisms of HTLV-1 and HTLV-2.**

Ye J, Silverman L, Lairmore MD, Green PL. 2003. Blood Aug 7 [Epub ahead of print]
HTLV-1 Rex is required for viral spread and persistence in vivo but is dispensable for cellular immortalization in vitro.

UPCOMING MEETINGS OF INTEREST

The 4th International Retroviral NC Symposium (IRNCS 2003), September 14-17, 2003 in Strasbourg (Illkirch), France, Details at http://umr7034.u-strasbg.fr/Congres/index.html

The Tenth West Coast Retrovirus Meeting, October 9 - 11, 2003 at the Hyatt Regency Suites, Palm Springs, CA. Details at: www.cri.bio.uci.edu

SELECTED RECENT MEETING PRESENTATIONS

Lairmore. M. National Cancer Institute, Invited Speaker, Laboratory of Cancer Biology, Bethesda, MD, March 2003. **Mechanisms of T-cell Activation by HTLV-1 p12I.**

Nair A, Michael B, Hiraragi H, Kim S-J, Ding W, and Lairmore M. The 11th International Conference on Human Retrovirology: HTLV and Related Viruses. San Francisco, CA, June 9-12, 2003.
Human T-lymphotropic Virus Type 1 p12I Role in Cell Cycle Progression and Apoptosis in Lymphocytes.

Silverman L, Nisbet J, Phipps A, Ratner L, and Lairmore M. The 11th International Conference on Human Retrovirology: HTLV and Related Viruses. San Francisco, CA, June 9-12, 2003. **Importance of Maintenance of pX ORF II p30II Expression of Human T-lymphotropic Virus-Type 1 for Infectivity in vivo.**

Younis, I and Green, PL. Cold Spring Harbor International Meeting on Retroviruses. May 2003.
Inhibition of human T-cell leukemia virus Tax and Rex by the viral p30II accessory protein.

Alper Yilmaz, A. and Boris-Lawrie, K. Cold Spring Harbor International Meeting on Retroviruses. May 2003. **Employment of spleen necrosis virus post-transcriptional control element to improve retroviral vector gene expression.**

NEWSLETTER INPUT: Additional information about retrovirus research at The Ohio State University can be found at the *Center for Retrovirus Research website: www.vet.ohio-tate.edu/docs/retrovirus/index.html/*
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