

Chicago Biomedical Consortium

The Chicago Biomedical Consortium (CBC) is pleased to send the inaugural issue of our biannual newsletter to faculty and administrators at the three CBC institutions: Northwestern University, University of Chicago, and University of Illinois at Chicago. Over the last 3.5 years the CBC has awarded more than \$12M to inter-institutional research programs through the generous support of The Searle Funds at The Chicago Community Trust. These funds have facilitated the formation of many new and powerful collaborative research initiatives, assisted in bringing new NIH Centers and other financial support to the Chicago area, and helped PIs publish in some of the top biological/biomedical journals. To date, more than 100 faculty members have participated by receiving funds and sitting on boards, while several hundred have attended CBC symposia and workshops. This newsletter describes some of what has been supported and we hope it will encourage an even greater number of faculty members to take advantage of this unique Chicago-area resource.

The newsletter is sent in a digest form, so please, browse through and explore the issues and topics that are of interest to you. Comments and questions are always welcome. Enjoy!

Gene Webb
CBC Associate Director
g-webb@northwestern.edu

<http://www.chicagobiomedicalconsortium.org/index.php>

Announcements:

Applications to the CBC's largest grant program, the **Catalyst Award**, are due **September 4, 2009**. For details on this \$200K opportunity, please see the Catalyst RFA: <http://chicagobiomedicalconsortium.org/grants/catalyst.php>

The **2009 CBC Annual Symposium** will be held on **October 30, 2009** at the Northwestern University Memorial Hospital Feinberg Pavilion Conference Center from 9:00 a.m. to 6:30 p.m. The symposium, titled "**The Biology of Non-Coding RNAs**", is free but registration is required. For further details, please see symposium materials: http://www.chicagobiomedicalconsortium.org/events/event_detail.php?id=69

The **Chicago Biomedical Consortium Junior Scholars** program for outstanding graduate students will be launched in the coming academic year: <http://chicagobiomedicalconsortium.org/index.php>

We would like to hear your opinion of the CBC and possible future directions for the Consortium! If you have not already done so, please fill out our very brief survey: http://www.surveymonkey.com/s.aspx?sm=tARe0uEC4SDz5QXwMkCPCg_3d_3d

Research:

Catalyst Award program continues to stimulate new collaborations. The winter/spring 2009 grants announced:

http://chicagobiomedicalconsortium.org/grants/past_awards.php

\$5M in CBC Lever Awards helps bring \$24.2M in NIH Center funding to Chicago.

These CBC awards are in the form of \$3M to the Chicago Center for Systems Biology (CCSB) and \$2M to the Chicago Tri-Institutional Center for Chemical Methods and Library Development (CTCMLD):

<http://chicagobiomedicalconsortium.org/news/index.php#Lever>

Spark Award program initiated with the announcement of four \$400K awards in the last year:

http://chicagobiomedicalconsortium.org/grants/past_awards.php

The CBC Catalyst team of **Carthew, Wang, and Wu** publish findings on the evolution of Drosophila microRNAs in **Nature Genetics**:

<http://www.chicagobiomedicalconsortium.org/publications/files/lui.pdf>

A proteomics team headed by **Rick Morimoto** publishes in **Science** on the regulation of HSF1 post-translational modification by SIRT1 thereby establishing a mechanistic connection between proteomic regulation and longevity:

http://www.chicagobiomedicalconsortium.org/publications/files/morimoto_science_09.pdf

The first Recruitment Fund "**CBC Investigator**", **Kevin White** of the University of Chicago, describes a breast cancer battle RAR α in the journal **Cell**:

http://www.chicagobiomedicalconsortium.org/publications/files/white_%20cell_09.pdf

Education:

CBC **Microscopy Forum** attracts attendees from across the city:

<http://chicagobiomedicalconsortium.org/news/index.php#Microscopy>

Provide suggestions for the 2010 CBC Annual Symposium. Do you have a topic and/or a lead on a particularly good keynote speaker? Please contact Emilie Sauvee, CBC Program Manager/UIC, at esauvee@uic.edu

Biotechnology in Chicago:

Northwestern team wins 2009 **CBC Biotech Business Plan Competition** with company to produce next-generation vascular stents:

<http://chicagobiomedicalconsortium.org/news/index.php#Biz%20Comp>