



Newsletter

NEWS

Elissi : Biotech meeting organized by Biopolo, 22 September

Elissi is a Biotechnology meeting organized by Biopolo. The theme of this the third event is 'Biotech and Medtech: where biology meets engineering'. The goal of the meeting is two-fold:

- To create and offer a marketplace to life sciences experts to foster networking activities and business opportunities
- To promote the life sciences sector and to improve local and regional visibility, and in particular to foster growth in this highly dynamic, innovative and competitive sector for human and financial capital.

For more info: www.elissi.org/2006.htm

Up and Running

Jeremy Luban has received approval for his first SNF grant request.

Abstract: Independent genetic screens from our lab and the lab of Joseph Sodroski recently identified TRIM5 as a factor in primate cells that confers innate resistance to retroviral infection.



Jeremy Luban

TRIM5 can be thought of as a cytoplasmic receptor that recognizes the complex retroviral core structure encasing the viral genomic RNA, in a CA-specific manner. Along with Fv1, it establishes a paradigm of innate immunity in which an invading multiprotein complex, rather than double-stranded RNA or lipopolysaccharide, is recognized by a specific receptor. Here, using a combination of complementary

approaches, the mechanism by which TRIM5 inhibits retroviral infection will be deciphered. In the first specific aim the genetic requirements for CA-specific recognition of retroviruses by human TRIM5a will be determined. These studies will exploit novel biochemical assays for specific recognition of mature virion cores by human TRIM5a. In the second specific aim screens for host factors essential to retroviral restriction by TRIM5a will be conducted using cell clones in which TRIM5a is not sufficient for restriction. Finally, in a directed set of experiments the importance for retroviral restriction of ubiquitin and TRIM5-associated E3 ubiquitin ligase activity will be tested. These experiments will extend knowledge concerning the mechanisms of innate immunity to HIV-1. By doing so it is expected that these studies will contribute to the development of novel approaches for preventing HIV-1 infection and for blocking progression to AIDS in those individuals already infected with this lethal virus.

Local representatives to the Federal Government visit IRB

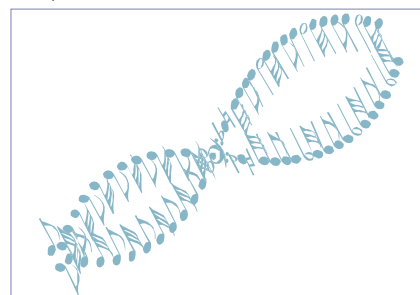
The Ticino delegation to the Federal Government visited the IRB on the 1st of September as part of an ongoing effort to support Ticino research at the federal level. Ticino has two representatives in the Council of States (two per canton) and 8 in the National Council (based on population). Led by the president of the Delegation, Meinrado Robbiani, the members are visiting the principle centers of research in Ticino to make sure that they have the information needed to promote the vital research activities to the Federal Government. The presentation of the IRB and the IOSI was attended by Filippo Lombardi – Council of States, Attilio Bignasca – National Council, Franco Cavalli – National Council, Fulvio Pelli – National Council, Meinrado Robbiani – National Council and Laura Sadis – National Council.

For more Info: www.ti.ch/DTCF/

Date set for "Musica e Molecole – Contemporary"

Friday 17 November at 19:30 the IRB will host the second Musica e Molecole concert in the atrium of the institute. Following the successful first event held in June and focused on Jazz, the second "Musica e Molecole" will feature the contemporary music of Karlheinz Stockhausen, performed by Fabrizio Rosso and Pietro Luca Congedo. The idea of the Musica e Molecole events is to welcome friends and neighbors into the institute and provide them with access to the unique culture of learning and discovery that thrives here. Often science appears overwhelming and complex to the non-scientist, as music does to the non-musician, and yet both endeavors respond to basic human instincts.

The idea of presenting contemporary experimental music for the second event comes from a desire to test the basic idea that an eloquent musician can help us access complex music, much the same way as an eloquent scientist can walk us through complex science.



Logo of the event

Fabrizio Rosso – Electronics and Sound Direction. Fabrizio studies piano, composition and electronic music. He received diplomas from the conservatories of Turin, Zurich and Lugano where he currently teaches. As a student and collaborator of Karlheinz Stockhausen, Fabrizio is an active performer and composer. He is currently studying mathematics at the University of Turin.

Pietro Luca Congedo – Percussion. Born in 1977 in Legnano, Congedo began studying music at the Conservatory

of Trapani. In 2001 he entered the Conservatory of Southern Switzerland where he studied under M. Mircea Ardeleanu. Since 1998 he has participated in the International Ferienkurse in Darmstadt where he was also honored to perform the opening concert in 2004. As a member of the Lugano Percussion Group he has toured Switzerland, Italy, Germany Brasil and Romania. Congedo has collaborated with the Ensemble Ars Ludi e Ready Made Quartet deepening his understanding of minimalist authors. In 2004 he was awarded the first prize, for his execution of Stockhausen's Schlatrio at the summer school in Cologne.

More on the music of Stockhausen in the next issue of IRB news.

UK and CH Embassies visit the IRB

Dr. Margaret Parton, Life Sciences Representative of the UK Embassy in Bern, will visit the IRB on the 22nd of September. The meeting, organized with the Swiss Embassy in London, will highlight the collaborative projects already underway between the IRB and UK institutes. Dr. Parton will be accompanied by Swiss and UK researchers. The objective of the meeting is to discuss ways in which collaborative research projects, symposia, student exchanges, and industry links and can be facilitated.

Changing of the guard at Biopolo Ticino



Biopolo Ticino has a new Director, Joerg Staeheli, former Head of External Affairs at Novartis. He replaces Luca Bolliger, who has been the Director of Biopolo since its beginning, and has joined Actelion AG in Allschwil. Under the direction of Bolliger the Biopolo began its activities as a lean and virtual organisation with a clear focus on establishing international visibility for Ticino in the field of life sciences. With 24 members Biopolo has achieved its initial goals of establishing this network and has in turn become a member of the highly visible SwissBiotech. Joerg Staeheli will build on this foundation and will "... focus on supporting the integration process of life sciences in Ticino, on fostering business deals, and on promoting the evolving Ticino life sciences cluster beyond the region."

After reaching the age of 65 Joerg Staeheli retired as Head External Affairs of Novartis BioMarker Development (Novartis Pharma AG). This job comprised business and technology planning, screening of technologies offered and presented by external companies/institutes, facilitating assessments of these technologies,



Joerg Staeheli

contract negotiations with collaboration partners, and coaching of scientists.

Prior to this, Joerg lead the internal consultancy department Technology Planning & Transfer, and later the Corporate Knowledge Networking initiative. At the same time, Joerg served as Executive Secretary of the Novartis Technology Advisory Board, the Novartis Liaison Officer in the Industrial Liaison Program with the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT), and completed the INSEAD Advanced Management Program.

for more info: www.biopolo.ch

2006-2007 PhD Program Poster Available

Institute for Research in Biomedicine
International PhD Program in Immunology, Cell Biology and Biochemistry
2006-2007 Lecture course

2006	November, 8	Bernard Malissen (F) T cell development and activation
	November, 13	Arjana Rao (USA) Transcriptional regulation of lymphocyte differentiation
	November, 28	Jaś Mellman (USA) Biology of antigen processing
	December, 4	Rolf Zinkernagel (CH) Immunological memory
2007	January, 18	Hilde Cheroutre (USA) Non-classical T cells
	February, 12	Klaus Ley (USA) Cell recruitment in inflammation
	March, 1	Mette Rosenkilde (DE) Pharmacology of 7TMR antagonists
	March, 13	William Kiehl (CH) Signaling networks in human diseases
	March, 23	Charles M. Rice (USA) Hepatitis C virus
	April, 10	Michael J. Bevan (USA) T cell immunity
	April, 23	Radek Skoda (CH) Mycoproliferative diseases
	May, 10	Ralph M. Steinman (USA) Dendritic cells in immunotherapy
	May, 24	Ton N. Schumacher (NL) Adaptive immunotherapy of cancer

Lectures will be followed by a scientific seminar
For details and updates please consult our website at: <http://www.irb.unisi.ch>

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The IRB provides high level scientific education both for undergraduate students in the form of short stages and experimental diploma thesis, as well as for graduate students. The PhD program is carried out in collaboration with Swiss and foreign universities. The experimental work is carried out at IRB under the direct supervision of a Group Leader. The program includes

seminars, lessons, summer courses and an annual retreat with PhD students affiliated to all major Swiss universities.

Candidates from any country can apply by directly contacting a Group Leader or by sending a complete CV and a list of referees to admin@irb.unisi.ch

PhD lectures

PhD lectures are given by visiting experts with international reputations in a particular topic related to Immunology, Cell Biology and Biochemistry. For each subject presented the students are assigned two original papers. The invited speakers give a general introduction to the students, attend a Journal club session and contribute to the discussion. In addition, the speakers also give a regular scientific seminar.

Currently the IRB has 25 students. Since the beginning of the program 15 PhD thesis have been successfully defended.

Collaborating Universities

- University of Bern, Switzerland
- Federal Institute of Technology Zurich
- University of Basel, Switzerland
- University of Fribourg, Switzerland
- University of Southern Switzerland
- Vita-Salute San Raffaele University
- University of Milan, Italy
- University of Bologna
- University of Siena
- University of Prague
- Columbia University in the City of New York

EVENT CALENDAR

Tuesday, September 12th, 2006

Claudia Lengerke, MD

Postdoctoral fellow G. Daley Lab, Children's Hospital Boston

At 12:00 Patterning hematopoiesis in embryonic stem cells.

Host: Markus Manz, MD

Friday, September 22th, 2006

ELLISS: "Biotech and Medtech: where biology meets engineering"

Palazzo UBS /Suglio in Manno

Meeting organized by Biopolo Ticino.

2nd - 4th of October, 2006

INNOCHEM meeting

IRB, Institute for Research in Biomedicine

Friday, November 17th, 2006

Musica e Molecole - Contemporary

19:30 IRB Atrium



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