



Newsletter #2  
October 26<sup>th</sup>, 2005

## **SystemsX**

The Swiss Initiative in Systems Biology

### **UBS sponsors Ph.D. positions in SystemsX Scientific Node**

On behalf of one of its clients, the UBS AG, the largest Swiss bank, is funding three Ph.D. positions for young scientists in the Ph.D. program of the Competence Center for Systems Physiology and Metabolic Diseases (CC-SPMD). Thanks to this grant the CC-SPMD is able to offer three additional Ph.D. positions to selected students. The students will perform their research projects in Systems Physiology and Metabolic Diseases in one of the 19 CC-SPMD research groups and follow the courses of the CC-SPMD Ph.D. Program. The CC-SPMD is a Scientific Node of SystemsX, the Swiss Initiative in Systems Biology.

More information: [www.ccsmd.ethz.ch](http://www.ccsmd.ethz.ch)

### **Boris N. Kholodenko comes to the ETH Zentrum**

Boris N. Kholodenko, Professor at Thomas Jefferson University, Philadelphia and Adjunct Professor of Mathematical Cell Biology at Free University, Amsterdam, gives a talk on

#### **Systems Biology of Receptor Tyrosine Kinase Signaling: Can We Navigate Through Molecular Jungles?**

on November 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2005, 11:15 am - ETH Zentrum, CLA E 4

In his talk he will propose a novel strategy of unraveling functional interactions in cellular signaling and gene networks. He demonstrates how dynamic connections leading to a particular module (e.g., an individual gene/protein or a cluster) can be retrieved from experimentally measured network responses to perturbations influencing other modules.

More information: [www.systemsx.ch/news/news\\_1.html](http://www.systemsx.ch/news/news_1.html)

## Freiburg opens new Center for Systems Biology

The Albert-Ludwigs-Universität Freiburg will open its Center for Systems Biology with a Foundation Symposium in Freiburg on November 3<sup>rd</sup>. Speakers among others are Hans W. Westerhoff (Amsterdam), Dino Moras (Strasbourg) and Henry Baltes (C-BSSE ETH Zürich). The meeting is free of charge.

More information: [www.zbsa.uni-freiburg.de/seminar/events.php](http://www.zbsa.uni-freiburg.de/seminar/events.php)

## New Journal in Synthetic and Systems Biology

«Synthetic and Systems Biology» is an Open Access, peer-reviewed, online journal soon to be launched by [BioMed Central](http://www.biomedcentral.com). Editors in chief are Pawan Dhar and Ron Weiss.



will encompass all aspects of Systems Biology and Synthetic Biology. Together, these disciplines aim to gain a fundamental understanding of cellular processes, build predictive models, uncover important regulatory motifs and create new cellular circuits using a combination of experimental, theoretical and computational methods.

The journal will consider the following article types: research, reviews, tools and techniques, and commentaries.

Researchers interested in submitting a manuscript should contact [ssb@princeton.edu](mailto:ssb@princeton.edu).

More information: <http://www.ssbjournal.com/info/update>

## ETH Zurich Systems Biologists provide insight into evolutionary mechanisms

Scientists from the lab of Uwe Sauer at the Institute for Molecular Systems Biology of the Swiss Federal Institute of Technology in Zurich (ETH) have accomplished the so far largest analysis of duplicated genes. Until now, the evolutionary causes for the maintenance of these duplicated genes have remained unclear. Three systems biologists at ETH have now discovered that duplicate genes developed a set of strategies to remain in the genome of an organism. A press release by ETH Zürich was issued.

More information:

[www.eurekalert.org/pub\\_releases/2005-10/cshl-fi092705.php](http://www.eurekalert.org/pub_releases/2005-10/cshl-fi092705.php)

[www.genome.org/cgi/doi/10.1101/gr.3992505](http://www.genome.org/cgi/doi/10.1101/gr.3992505)

[www.ethlife.ethz.ch/articles/tages/doppelgene.html](http://www.ethlife.ethz.ch/articles/tages/doppelgene.html)

<http://www.ethz.ch/news/pressreleases>

## Basel – Silicon Valley of the Life Sciences

The «Doppelpunkt» broadcast «Basel – Siliconvalley der Biowissenschaft» by Swiss Radio DRS is available now as a streaming file. The broadcast was on air on 5<sup>th</sup> July, 2005 and features Ruedi Aebersold, chairman of the executive committee of SystemsX, Joachim Seelig, Chairman of the Biozentrum of the University of Basel, and Olaf Kübler, President of the ETH Zurich.

[Listen to the 50 minutes broadcast by Hanspeter Gschwend](#)

## Venter, Brooks and Kurzweil on genes and machines

Craig Venter (everybody knows him), Rodney Brooks (Director of the MIT Computer Science and Artificial Intelligence Laboratory, starring in Errol Morris' movie "Fast, Cheap and Out of Control" and inventor the first budget robot vacuum cleaner) and Ray Kurzweil (inventor and author) had a interesting discussion on genes, machines and computation in the ezine «The Edge».

Read the story here: <http://edge.org/documents/archive/edge163.html>

## Particulars

Marlies Horvath Engelmann started her work as administrative assistant for SystemsX at our office in the ETH main building in Zürich. Marlies Horvath Engelmann is historian, has got a bachelor of business administration and is skilled in project management. In SystemsX she will be responsible for the legal affairs and the financial accounting. Welcome on board!



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## General Remarks by the Editor

This is the second internal newsletter about SystemsX, the Swiss Initiative in Systems Biology. This newsletter will appear sporadically to inform about what is going on in and around SystemsX. The circle of addressees is kept wide. Do not hesitate to spread the newsletter further. Anyone who wishes to be put on the list of addressees can subscribe by sending an email to [thomas.mueller@systemsx.ch](mailto:thomas.mueller@systemsx.ch). By the same way anyone who does not want to receive this can be put off the list.

The aim of these newsletters is to help building a systems biology research community in Zurich and Basel. Don't hesitate to send me your opinion and suggestions for enhancements on this newsletter.

Please keep me on the track of any open positions in SystemsX.

If you read or hear any news which might be of interest for all SystemsX affiliates, please, let me know.

And don't forget...

...to inform me on any of your upcoming papers in Systems Biology. Thanks.

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