



Newsletter #7

August 30th 2006

SystemsX

The Swiss Initiative in Systems Biology

First Staff moved into Center of Biosystems

Basel. thm. After a few nights without sleep and a summer without holiday for technical manager Niels Bürckert, first staff has moved into the carefully renovated Center of Biosystems Science and Engineering of ETH Zurich at Biopark Rosental on August 11th, 2006. The vanguard comprises managing director Dr. Monika Gessler technical manager Niels Bürckert and secretary Heidi Brönnimann, who changed offices from the main building of ETH Zurich to the light flooded rooms on the seventh floor of the building in the Biopark Rosental in Basel. In total about ten people are preparing the move in of founding director Prof. Renato Paro's group on November 1, 2006. Prof. Paro, whose family has already settled in the Basel region, is showing up more frequently every week.



The Center of Biosystems in Basel.

Photo Heidi Brönnimann

Some useful new addresses and numbers at the C-BSSE in Basel:

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Search for new SystemsX Administration

Zurich. thm. Dr. Monika Gessler, managing director, Thomas Müller, communications officer, and Marlies Horvath Engelmann, administrative assistant, will leave the SystemsX coordinating office by end of August 2006. Monika Gessler concentrates on her duties as managing director of the Center of Biosystems Science and Engineering (C-BSSE) of ETH Zurich in Basel, Thomas Müller switches back to (free) journalism, and Marlies Horvath looks out for new challenges outside of SystemsX.

The search for new staff for the SystemsX administration is under way. For the time until the new personnel takes office the contact person for all SystemsX matters is Prof. Ruedi Aebersold.

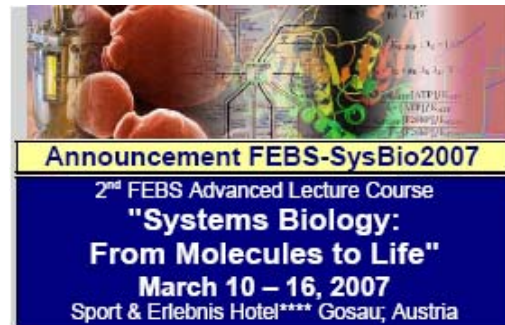
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Learn Systems Biology in Gosau

Basel. thm. Hiraoki Kitano, Hans Westerhoff, Uwe Sauer, and Edda Klipp are just a few of the top speakers who confirmed to lecture at the second Febs Advanced Course on "Systems Biology: From Molecules To Life" on March 10-16, 2007 in Gosau, Austria, EU. The course, which is partially sponsored by SystemsX, follows the very successful first one, but puts extra emphasis on the training components, i.e. much more time for black-board teaching. There is room for 120 PH.D



students and 30 principal investigators. Registration deadline is December 1, 2006. For more information, see <http://www.febssysbio.net/>.

Conference "Synthetic Biology 3.0" at ETH Zurich

Basel. thm. After the successful first Synthetic Biology workshop in February 2006, the ETHZ Synthetic Biology Working Group is organizing the third International Synthetic Biology conference at ETH Zurich. It will take place

from June 24-27, 2007, and will be organized by Martin Fussenegger, Jörg Stelling, Matthias Heinemann, and Sven Panke. For more information see http://www.syntheticbiology.ethz.ch/conf_2007.

Horten Foundation sponsors CC-SPMD

Zurich. CC-SPMD. The Competence Center for Systems Physiology and Metabolic Diseases (CC-SPMD) will soon start a project on the identification of protein markers for the early detection human breast cancer at the Institute for Surgical Pathology, University Hospital Zürich under the supervision of Prof. Dr. med. Holger Moch. The project was enabled by a financial contribution of 210'000 CHF by the Helmut Horten Foundation.

Breast Cancer patients will benefit substantially from an early, precise and effective diagnosis using molecular

indicators that can be monitored non-invasive from readily accessible body fluids such as blood and serum. The early detection of breast cancer has become an increasingly important strategy for intervention and treatment. Identifying malignant tumors before they metastasize greatly enhances the success of treatment, thereby reducing morbidity and costs and preventing mortality. Biomarkers will enable clinicians to accurately subtype tumors to make the right decision for a therapy and may help monitoring the efficacy of the treatment.

Markus Stoffel wins prestigious Diabetes Award

Zurich. thm. Markus Stoffel, new Professor at the Institute of Molecular Systems Biology of ETH Zurich, received the "Outstanding Scientific Achievement Award" of the American Diabetes Association (ADA). Stoffel who took office on the ETH Campus Hönggerberg on July 15, was honoured for his work that "has helped us understand the genetic origins of type 2 diabetes and will someday have a huge impact on clinical care", said Robert A. Rizza,



MD, President Medicine & Science of the American Diabetes Association.

Markus Stoffel

See press release on

<http://www.ccspmd.ethz.ch/>

A (last) Remark from the Editor

Basel. thm. This is the last SystemsX Newsletter edited by me. At this moment it is not clear yet, who will publish the next one. I thank all subscribers for their interest in SystemsX. I will switch back to (free) journalism by September 1, 2006. For those who want to contact me, here are my new coordinates:

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