

NEW ENGLAND BIOLABS

Molecular Biology and PCR

Summer Workshops

WHEN:

Session 1: June 1-June 14, 1997 Session 2: June 22-July 5, 1997 Session 3: July 13-July 26, 1997

WHERE:

Clark Science Center Smith College Northampton, MA

FACULTY:

Dr. Steven A. Williams Dept. of Biological Sciences, Smith College, and Molecular and Cellular Biology, University of Massachusetts

Dr. John R. McCarrey Dept. of Genetics, Southwest Foundation for Biomedical Research

Dr. Kathleen Fearon College of Veterinary Medicine Auburn University

Dr. Barton Slatko New England Biolabs, Inc. DNA Sequencing Group

Dr. Alan L. Scott Dept. of Molecular Microbiology and Immunology Johns Hopkins University

TO APPLY:

Please submit a recent C.V.or resume and a one page statement explaining your interest to:

Dr. Steven A. Williams Clark Science Center Smith College Northampton, MA 01063



We are pleased to announce the twelfth annual New England Biolabs Molecular Biology Summer Workshops held at Clark Science Center, Smith College, Northampton, MA, USA. Over 1,000 research scientists have attended this intensive program in the past eleven years.

INTENSIVE BENCH EXPERIENCE: This intensive, two-week course emphasizes hands-on molecular biology laboratory work. About eight hours each day will be spent working at the bench. All of the work is hands-on; there are no demonstrations.

EXPERIMENTS WILL INCLUDE: Construction and screening of genomic and cDNA libraries, PCR, RT-PCR, PCR subcloning, purification of DNA and RNA, restriction enzyme digestion, gel electrophoresis, construction of recombinant DNA molecules, cloning in plasmid and phage vectors, cloning strategies, bacterial transformation, Southern and Northern transfer and hybridization, methods for labeling DNA, DNA sequencing, etc. All of these techniques are woven into a cohesive research project carried out by each participant during the two-week session. Lectures and discussion sessions (at least three hours each day) will deal with all of the above topics and the application of these methods in molecular biology research.

INTENDED FOR BEGINNERS IN MOLECULAR BIOLOGY: No previous experience in molecular biology is required or expected. Forty-eight participants per session will be selected from a variety of disciplines and academic backgrounds. Last year's participants included principal investigators, directors of programs, postdoctoral fellows, graduate students, and research assistants. Their fields of research included medicine, biochemistry, ecology, immunology, microbiology, pharmacology, plant biology, genetics, physiology and others. They came from large universities, small colleges, medical schools, hospitals, industry, and private foundations; 75% came from the USA, and 25% from overseas. With eight instructors, the student to teacher ratio is 6 to 1.

FEE: \$3200 per participant includes lab manual, use of all equipment and supplies, and room and board (all rooms are singles). Fee includes the use of the libraries, computers, and all campus athletic facilities.

APPLICATIONS MUST BE RECEIVED BY March 10, 1997. Notification of acceptance status will be mailed by March 12, 1997. Late applications will be accepted for our wait list. Payment in full will be due by April 10, 1997. Your application should include a brief C.V. and a one page statement explaining your reasons for taking the course. Please specify the session to which you are applying (1, 2, 3) and indicate one of the other sessions as a second choice. Women and minorities are especially encouraged to apply. For additional information, please visit our web site (http://math.smith.edu/~sawlab/neb.html) or contact us at (413) 247-3004.

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NEWS & COMMENT

Smiles and Status Quo at NSF



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BREAKTHROUGH OF THE YEAR

New Hope in HIV Disease

LETTERS

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1980

COVER

The 1996 Breakthrough of the Year is a set of new weapons against human immunodeficiency virus (HIV), which are shown approaching their viral target. Although past weapons based on the CD4 receptors (gold) failed, an array of new drugs (shown as pills) offer hope to

B

Periodical Literature and in several specialized indexes.

those infected, while basic research on the chemokines and their receptors (in blue) may one day be used to help block HIV infection. See the editorial on page 1987 and the Breakthrough of the Year section, beginning on page 1988. [Illustration: Steve Keller]

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THIS WEEK IN SCIENCE

edited by PHIL SZUROMI

Martian update

In an earlier article, McKay *et al.* suggested that the occurrence of PAHs (polyaromatic hydrocarbons) and textural and mineralogical features in the martian meteorite ALH84001



were consistent with the presence of past primitive life on mars. A series of technical comments and responses starting on p. 2118 address whether abiotic processes could have instead produced these features.

Greener chemistry

Two reports focus on ways to minimize the use of environmentally burdensome solvents and reaction by-products (see the news story by Kaiser, p. 2012). Markó et al. (p. 2044) have synthesized a copper-based catalyst for the oxidation of a wide variety of alcohols by oxygen or even air, thus avoiding the use of metal oxides or hydrogen peroxides as the oxidant. McClain et al. (p. 2049) have developed nonionic surfactants that allow supercritical CO_2 to be used as a solvent for organic polymers which will allow this replacement solvent to be used in processing applications that use waxes, heavy oils, and other high molecular weight organic molecules.

Premalignant cells in disguise?

Like other cancers, breast cancer is thought to develop through a series of morphologically distinguishable stages beginning with a benign overgrowth of cells and eventually progressing to invasive cancer. Deng *et al.* (p. 2057) postulated that breast cancers might also arise from cells that appear morphologically normal. They examined normal breast tissue adjacent to invasive tumors and found that in a subset of cases, the normal tissue contained genetic aberrations (loss of heterozygosity) previously detected only in obviously premalignant or malignant tissues. Whether the presence of these genetic changes in normal tissue is predictive of tumor recurrence remains to be investigated.

Caught in films

Lipids and other molecules with polar head groups and long tails can form monolayer (Langmuir) films on a water surface, but making multilayers requires transfer to a solid substrate. Kuzmenko et al. (p. 2046) have made multilayers at an air-water interface by incorporating a small basic molecule to stabilize the interaction between longchain molecules with acidic head groups. Structural studies showed that the type of multilayers formed under compression depended on the relative handedness of the two molecules-if both were right handed, trilayers with a crystalline segment were formed, but if the molecules had different handedness, amorphous bilayers with poor chain packing were formed.

Prion templates

Prion proteins, the suspected causative agent of several inherited and infectious forms of spongiform encephalopathy in animals and humans, are abnormal conformers of host proteins. The normal host form (PrP^{C}) has a high α -helical content, whereas the prion form (PrP^{Sc}) is composed mainly of β sheets and can assume different isoforms that have proteaseresistant fragments of different sizes. Telling et al. (p. 2079; see the news story by Grady, p. 2010) show that extracts from brains of human patients with prion-associated diseases could induce neurodegeneration in transgenic mice that express the human form of PrP. Moreover, the protease-resistant fragments were of the size characteristic for the human disease. These results indicate that the presence of the PrpSc form redirects folding of the PrP protein and may help to explain how different strains of these proteins could arise and propagate.

Kinase meets potassium channel

Potassium channel activity affects processes, such as muscle contraction and neuronal integration, and electrophysiological and biochemical studies suggest that their activity can be modulated by serine-threonine kinases. Holmes et al. (p. 2089) noted that the human Kv1.5 potassium channel contains two repeats of the Src homology 3 (SH3) domain. They show that the native and cloned forms of this channel are associated directly with Src tyrosine kinase in human myocardium. Activation of the kinase with v-Src resulted in tyrosine phosphorylation of the channel and suppression of its current.

Fat cell fates

Differentiation of fat cells is inhibited by cell growth factors such as epidermal or fibroblast growth factors. Hu et al. (p. 2100) show that one of the key components in the transcription control of adipogenesis, peroxisome proliferator-activated receptor γ (PPAR γ), is phosphorylated by mitogenactivated protein (MAP) kinase in cells that were stimulated by different growth factors. Cells expressing a PPARy mutant that could not be phosphorylated were more sensitive to induction of adipogenesis by signals such as insulin.

Class crossover

T cell receptors (TCRs) "see" foreign peptides complexed with either class I or class II major histocompatibility complex (MHC) proteins. Natural killer (NK) cells do not express TCRs but have activating and inhibitory receptors that bind to class I MHC molecules. Mandelboim et al. (p. 2097) studied such T cell clones that express the NK cell activating receptor (NKAR1). These T cells were isolated during NK cell cloning and were restricted to MHC class II responses. Proliferation of these T cells in response to superantigens increased by 300 to 900% in situations where the NKAR1 receptor could bind class I. This costimulation by class I proteins could help T cells initiate immune responses in the presence of limiting amounts of antigen.

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Literature

SPECTRAmax 340 Microplate Reader, Redefined describes a monochromator-based microplate reader that allows selection of any wavelength between 340 and 750 nm without changing filters. Tunable in 1-nm increments, the instrument's bandwidth is only 5 nm. It provides programmable mixing and three-stage temperature control that eliminates lid fogging from ambient 4°C to 45°C. Molecular Devices. For information call 408-747-3591 or circle 146 on the reader service card.

Phenomenex Chromatography 1996 is a 300page catalog filled with new products, technical information, charts, and tables. Phenomenex. For information call 310-212-0555 or circle 147 on the reader service card.

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