

SPOTLIGHT

## National Academy of Sciences Elects HHMI Scientists



TOP ROW: MICHAEL BEVAN, GAIL MANDEL, DAVID MANGELSDORF, GARY STRUHL  
 BOTTOM ROW: JASPER RINE, MICHAEL BOTCHAN, JANET ROSSANT

A total of four HHMI investigators, one HHMI professor, and two members of HHMI advisory boards were elected to the National Academy of Sciences in April 2008. They were among 72 new members and 18 foreign associates elected in recognition of their distinguished and continuing achievements in original research. In addition to these new members, 120 HHMI investigators are members of the Academy. The investigators are **Michael J. Bevan**, University of Washington School of Medicine; **Gail Mandel**, Oregon Health & Science University; **David J. Mangelsdorf**, University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center at Dallas; and **Gary Struhl**, Columbia University College of Physicians and Surgeons. The HHMI professor is **Jasper Rine**, University of California, Berkeley. **Michael R. Botchan**, a member of the HHMI medical advisory board, and **Janet Rossant**, a member of the HHMI scientific review board, were also elected.

**PHILIP A. BEACHY**, an HHMI investigator at the Stanford University School of Medicine, received the 2008 March of Dimes Prize in Developmental Biology. He shares the award, recognizing original research on how genes regulate organ growth during embryonic and fetal development, with Clifford J. Tabin of Harvard Medical School.

HHMI investigator **MICHAEL J. BEVAN**, an immunologist at the University of Washington, received the 2008 Cancer Research Institute William B. Coley Award for his research on T cells.

Nine HHMI investigators, three HHMI professors, one Trustee, and two members of the Institute’s advisory boards are among the 190 new fellows and 22 foreign honorary

members elected to the American Academy of Arts & Sciences in April 2008. The investigators are **GRAEME I. BELL**, University of Chicago; **LINDA B. BUCK**, Fred Hutchinson Cancer Research Center; **LAWRENCE S. B. GOLDSTEIN**, University of California, San Diego; **JOHN KURIYAN**, University of California, Berkeley; **STEPHEN G. LISBERGER**, University of California, San Francisco; **CRAIG C. MELLO**, University of Massachusetts Medical School; **NORBERT PERRIMON**, Harvard Medical School; **LOUIS J. PTÁČEK**, University of California, San Francisco; and **LEONARD I. ZON**, Children’s Hospital Boston. The professors are **UTPAL BANERJEE**, University of California, Los Angeles; **JASPER RINE**, University of California, Berkeley; and **HUNTINGTON F. WILLARD**, Duke

University. HHMI Trustee **JAMES A. BAKER**, scientific review board member **MARY BECKERLE**, and medical advisory board member **BRUCE W. STILLMAN** were also elected.

The National Marfan Foundation awarded HHMI investigator **HARRY C. DIETZ** of The Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine with a “Hero with a Heart Award” for his commitment to clinical medicine and research on Marfan syndrome.

**JO HANDELSMAN**, an HHMI professor at the University of Wisconsin–Madison, received the 2008 American Society for Microbiology Roche Diagnostics Alice C. Evans Award. The annual award recognizes contributions toward the advancement of

Bevan: Clare McLean; Mandel: C. Bruce Forster; Mangelsdorf: Charles Ford; Struhl: Paul Felters; Rine: George Nikitin / AP; ©HHMI; Botchan: Michael Botchan; Rossant: The Hospital for Sick Children, Research Institute

women in microbiology. Handelsman researches the structure and function of microbial communities and is codirector of the Women in Science and Engineering Leadership Institute at the University of Wisconsin.

HHMI investigator **DAVID HAUSSLER** of the University of California, Santa Cruz, was awarded the 2008 International Society for Computational Biology Senior Scientist Accomplishment Award. The prize recognizes his pioneering use of mathematical computer models for analyzing DNA, RNA, and protein sequences.

HHMI investigator **WAYNE A. HENDRICKSON** of Columbia University received the Kaj Linderstrøm-Lang Prize for 2008 from the Kaj Linderstrøm-Lang Endowment Fund in recognition of his work in the field of structural biology.

**ARTHUR L. HORWICH**, an HHMI investigator at the Yale University School of Medicine, received the 2008 Lewis S. Rosenstiel Award for Distinguished Work in Basic Medical Science from Brandeis University. He shared the annual award with Professor Ulrich Hartl of the Max Planck Institute. Horwich studies how chaperonin helps proteins fold and how protein misfolding causes neurodegenerative disease.

**TYLER JACKS**, an HHMI investigator at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, was named president-elect of the American Association for Cancer Research, the world's oldest and largest cancer research organization.

HHMI investigator **THOMAS M. JESSELL** of Columbia University was a recipient of the first annual Kavli Prize in Neuroscience for his research on how neural cells assemble into circuits. He shares the prize with Pasko Rakic of Yale University.

**RUSLAN M. MEDZHITOV**, an HHMI investigator at the Yale University School of Medicine, received the Howard Taylor

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### Steitz Wins Albany Prize



JOAN STEITZ

HHMI investigator **Joan A. Steitz** of the Yale University School of Medicine and Elizabeth H. Blackburn of the University of California, San Francisco, were the first two women to receive the Albany Medical Center Prize in Medicine and Biomedical Research. The prize, awarded annually since 2001, honors innovative biomedical research. Steitz studies RNA and is best known for discovering and defining the function of small nuclear ribonucleoproteins—complexes of RNA and proteins that are involved in splicing introns from RNA strands.

Ricketts Award from the University of Chicago. The annual award is given in memory of Dr. Ricketts, the scientist for whom the Rickettsia class of microorganisms is named. Medzhitov studies the immune system and how it detects and becomes activated by infection.

HHMI investigator **JACK W. SZOSTAK** was awarded the 2008 Dr. H.P. Heineken Prize for Biochemistry and Biophysics—an international prize given by the Royal Netherlands Academy of Arts and Sciences. Szostak is one of the forefathers of today's genetic research with “knockout mice” and has conducted pioneering research on telomeres. His recent work explores the origin of life.

HHMI investigator **H. SEBASTIAN SEUNG** of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology received the 2008 Ho-Am Prize in Engineering for his mathematical models of neural networks in the brain. The Ho-Am Prize is an annual Korean award for outstanding research.

**ALLAN C. SPRADLING**, an HHMI investigator at the Carnegie Institution of Washington, won the 2008 Gruber Genetics Prize from the Peter and Patricia Gruber

Foundation in recognition of his contributions to fruit fly genomics.

**KAREL SVOBODA**, a group leader at HHMI's Janelia Farm Research Campus, received the 2008 Gill Young Investigator Award from the Linda and Jack Gill Center for Biomolecular Science at Indiana University, Bloomington.

**DEBI THOMAS**, a junior in the HHMI Biology Undergraduate Scholars Program at the University of California, Davis, was one of two recipients of the 2008 Pauletta and Denzel Washington Family Scholar in Neuroscience Award.

HHMI investigator **ARTHUR WEISS** of the University of California, San Francisco, was elected president of the American Association of Immunologists.

The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill named HHMI investigator **HUDA Y. ZOGHBI** of Baylor College of Medicine as the recipient of the 2008 Perl-UNC Neuroscience Prize. The annual prize recognizes a seminal achievement in neuroscience and was awarded to Zoghbi for her 1999 discovery of the gene responsible for Rett syndrome.