

SPOTLIGHT

Vilcek Prize Awarded to Zoghbi



HUDA ZOGHBI

HHMI investigator **Huda Y. Zoghbi**, of the Baylor College of Medicine, received the 2009 Vilcek Prize in Biomedical Research. Awarded by the Vilcek Foundation, this honor recognizes outstanding achievements by a foreign-born scientist each year. Zoghbi, born in Beirut, Lebanon, was chosen for her body of work studying the genetics and molecular biology of spinocerebellar ataxia, Rett syndrome, and related autism spectrum disorders.

The National Academy of Engineering elected HHMI investigator **KRISTI S. ANSETH**, of the University of Colorado, Boulder, as one of 65 new members.

CORNELIA I. BARGMANN, an HHMI investigator at Rockefeller University, is the recipient of this year's Richard Lounsbery Award from the National Academy of Sciences. The award recognizes Bargmann's use of genetics to probe the links between nerve cells and behavior in *Caenorhabditis elegans*.

HHMI investigator **STEPHEN P. BELL**, of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, was selected to receive the 2009 National Academy of Sciences Award in Molecular Biology. Bell studies the machinery cells use to maintain the integrity of DNA replication.

MICHAEL J. BEVAN, an HHMI investigator at the University of Washington School of Medicine, is the 2009 recipient of the AAI-Invitrogen Meritorious Career Award for outstanding research contributions to the field of immunology.

HHMI senior scientific officer **MARIAN B. CARLSON** received the 2009 Genetics Society of America Medal, which recognizes outstanding contributions to genetics over the last 15 years. Carlson's Columbia University lab uses yeast to study how signaling pathways activate the genes that cells need to adapt to nutrient deprivation and other forms of environmental stress.

ARUL M. CHINNAIYAN, an HHMI investigator at the University of Michigan Medical School, was elected to the Association of American Physicians. Chinnaiyan, a pathologist, is working to uncover the molecular flaws at the heart of the most common and deadly human cancers.

The 2009 American Society for Microbiology Eli Lilly and Company Research Award was awarded to **JOSEPH L. DERISI**, an HHMI investigator at the University of California, San Francisco. DeRisi was honored for his work in advancing the basic technology and informatics for DNA microarrays and for using these tools to investigate basic biological regulatory mechanisms.

SARAH ELGIN, an HHMI professor at Washington University in St. Louis, was awarded the 2009 Elizabeth W. Jones Award for Excellence in Education. The award, given by the Genetics Society of America, recognizes individuals or groups who have had a significant impact on genetics education at any level and is named in memory of a former HHMI professor.

HHMI professor **JO HANDELSMAN**, of the University of Wisconsin–Madison, received the 2009 Carski Foundation Distinguished Undergraduate Teaching Award from the American Society for Microbiology. The award commended her HHMI-supported work on the Wisconsin Program for Scientific Teaching and her leadership of the HHMI–

National Academy of Sciences Summer Institute, among other achievements. Handelsman, who studies the communication networks of microbial communities, was also recently named a fellow of the Association for Women in Science.

HHMI investigator **S. ANANTH KARUMANCHI**, of Harvard University, won the first annual LaRenon-TANKER Foundation Award from the Tamilnad Kidney Research (TANKER) Foundation in India. The award recognized Karumanchi's work in preeclampsia.

DAVID M. KINGSLEY, an HHMI investigator at the Stanford University School of Medicine, won the 2009 Edwin Grant Conklin Medal from the Society for Developmental Biology. The medal is awarded for distinguished and sustained research in developmental biology.

DOUGLAS E. KOSHLAND, an HHMI investigator at the Carnegie Institution of Washington, and **VALERIE MIZRAHI**, an HHMI international research scholar at the University of the Witwatersrand in South Africa, were named fellows of the American Academy of Microbiology. Koshland studies the structure, integrity, and evolution of chromosomes and Mizrahi's research focuses on *Mycobacterium tuberculosis*, the organism that causes human tuberculosis.

HALLIE KUHN, an HHMI-supported undergraduate at Harvey Mudd College, received a Churchill fellowship to study for a year at the University of Cambridge. At Harvey Mudd, Kuhn worked in the lab of David Asai, now director of precollege and undergraduate science education at HHMI. At Cambridge, she will do research on the human papilloma virus responsible for cervical cancer.

JEREMY NATHANS, an HHMI investigator at the Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine, was awarded the 2009 Edward M. Scolnick Prize in Neuroscience from the McGovern Institute at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. Nathans studies the physiology and development of the retina

and aims to uncover the mechanisms of human retinal diseases.

WILLIAM S. REZNIKOFF, an HHMI pre-college program director at the Marine Biological Laboratory in Woods Hole, Massachusetts, was elected a Fellow of the American Academy of Microbiology.

BERNARDO L. SABATINI, an HHMI investigator at Harvard Medical School, is co-recipient of the 2008 Society for Neuroscience Young Investigator Award, along with Hongjun Song of the Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine. The annual award recognizes outstanding achievements by young neuroscientists. Sabatini uses imaging and electrophysiological technologies to uncover the mechanisms behind synapse regulation in the mammalian brain.

HHMI investigator **RANDY W. SCHEKMAN**, of the University of California, Berkeley, won the 2008 Dickson Prize in Medicine from the University of Pittsburgh. This prize is awarded annually to a leading American investigator who is engaged in innovative biomedical research.

EERO P. SIMONCELLI, an HHMI investigator at New York University, was named a fellow of the Institute of Electrical and

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Bassler Recognized with Wiley Prize



BONNIE BASSLER

Bonnie Bassler, an HHMI investigator at Princeton University, won the Wiley Prize in Biomedical Sciences for 2009. This annual prize, awarded by the Wiley Foundation, recognizes a scientist whose contributions have opened new fields of research or advanced new concepts within biomedicine. Bassler studies how bacteria communicate with one another using a chemical language. This process, called quorum sensing, allows bacteria to count their numbers, determine when they have reached a critical mass, and then change their behavior in unison to carry out processes that require many cells acting together to be effective.

Electronics Engineers for his contributions to statistical models of visual images.

HHMI investigator **BERT VOGELSTEIN**, of the Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine, received the 2009 Science of Oncology Award from the American Society of Clinical Oncology as well as the 2008 Robert J. and Claire Pasarow Foundation Award for Extraordinary Accomplishments in Medical Research. Vogelstein is interested in identifying and characterizing genes that cause cancer and has recently detected a

number of broken, missing, and overactive genes in pancreatic and brain tumors that were previously unknown.

HHMI professor **RICHARD N. ZARE**, of Stanford University, was named an honorary fellow of the Indian Academy of Sciences. Zare's research focuses on nanoscale chemical analysis. His HHMI project includes an undergraduate laboratory course designed to examine light and photosynthesis in an interdisciplinary way.

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Gairdner Awards Go to Losick and Walter



RICHARD LOSICK



PETER WALTER

Richard M. Losick, an HHMI professor at Harvard University, and **Peter Walter**, an HHMI investigator at the University of California, San Francisco, are recipients of the 2009 Gairdner International Awards from the Gairdner Foundation. These prestigious annual awards honor outstanding discoveries and contributions to medical science. Losick studies differentiation, morphogenesis, and multicellularity in the spore-forming bacterium *Bacillus subtilis*. He probes how the morphological features of the developing spore assemble and how they do so at the right time and in the right place. He shares the award with Lucy Shapiro, a developmental biologist at Stanford University. Walter will share his award with Kazutoshi Mori, of Kyoto University, in recognition of "their dissection and elucidation of a key pathway in the unfolded protein response, which regulates protein folding in the cell."