

## Minutes from HVRC steering committee meeting (July 17, 2008)

(pending approval in next HVRC steering committee meeting)

### (Agenda topic 1) Seminars for next year:

- General consensus was that attendance was good at seminars, performance of HVRC also agreed to be good for first year.
- Previous seminar strategy was to rotate through senior PIs working on RNA as speakers, then move on to postdocs, students etc. An idea was discussed that talks rotate between 4 sites as before, but principal investigator (PI) should talk at site other than their own "home" site. Everyone agreed on trying this.
- Scott Tenenbaum suggested inviting Magnus from Nanotech Center (originally from Cornell) who works on nano-encapsulation of bio-materials in viral capsids.
- Marlene Belfort brought up idea of having a 15 min postdoc/student presentation followed by a 45 min PI presentation, Michael Zuker suggested that this format not be applied to outside speakers, there seemed to be general agreement on both points. Marlene Belfort suggested Patrick Maxwell (Joan Curcio lab) as first post-doc speaker.
- Many other seminar possibilities (Larry Gold, Doug Turner etc.) discussed, following tentative schedule was created:

Tentative seminar schedule (confirm with Carla Theimer)

Date	Speaker	Host Site
Sep	Carla Theimer	CMS
Oct	Marlene Belfort	RPI
Nov	Magnus	East Campus
Dec	Gang Liu or Joe Wade	SUNY main campus

### (Agenda topic 2) RNA course:

- Joan Curcio gave an update, plan is for a talks/special topics type course for Spring 2009, followed by a organized Fall 2010 course for 2nd year grad students.
- Fall 2009 avoided because of overlap with Department of Biomedical Sciences (BMS) course offered every two years.
- Cross listing between RPI and SUNY will be investigated by Joan Curcio with help for course syllabus and action plan from Scott Tenenbaum.

### (Agenda topic 3) Fundraising:

Scott Tenenbaum is going to take charge of this with help from Marlene Belfort. Possibilities for funding discussed briefly

**(Agenda topic 4) Other activities sponsored by HVRC:**

Rensselaerville conference possibility discussed, agreed to be not feasible in the immediate future, until we have some funds.

**(Agenda topic 5) Website:**

- Joan Curcio pointed out that website was not visible by searching for HVRC.
- Michael Zuker suggested including meta tag keywords for greater site visibility through search engines
- Niles Banavali will work with Michael Zuker and Scott Tenenbaum to come up with good keywords.
- Image gallery needs to be enhanced, Michael Zuker and Scott Tenenbaum will provide some scientific images.

**(Agenda topic 6) Other matters**

- Some discussion on RNA Institute faculty search at University of Albany, its success, the faculty hire freeze, and prospects for the future.
- Next meeting of steering committee: August (week of 12th or week of 25th)