

## NEW VOICES FOR A NEW ERA

We are pleased to announce that LICR's newsletter, NewsLink, has undergone a makeover and once again will serve as a vital link to Institute news. It is designed to encompass the shared vision of our entire team—scientific staff and administration. Our aim is for it to be a dynamic accounting of Institute happenings around the world and an avenue to connect and communicate regularly with the Ludwig community. Like the Institute, it will evolve over the coming year, reflecting comments and feedback from you.

Every day, hundreds of voices have a story to tell about what is happening at LICR. Each newsletter will highlight a few such voices. These voices are a reflection of the skill, commitment and diversity of everyone who contributes to our challenging goal—improving the understanding and control of cancer. We invite you to share news about events, recent developments or other important issues that you would like included. In between newsletters, please keep an eye on the website for additional updates. Also be sure to submit an entry for the newsletter naming contest. Details are included at the end of this issue.

Please feel free to contact LICR's new Director of Communications, Rachel Steinhardt, at [rsteinhardt@licr.org](mailto:rsteinhardt@licr.org) with ideas, suggestions for stories or comments.

Sincerely,

Edward A. McDermott, Jr.  
President and CEO

Andrew J. G. Simpson, Ph.D.  
Scientific Director

### *Lloyd J. Old Remembered*

Dr. Lloyd Old, LICR Scientific Director Emeritus, passed away on November 28th. Lauded internationally for his research in the field of tumor immunology, he dedicated his life to understanding and confronting the global challenge of cancer. Dr. Old's unwavering commitment to translate research into novel therapeutics will continue to benefit future generations. The LICR tribute to Dr. Old can be viewed by [clicking here](#).

## LICR@UNIL

### *Celebrating the Inauguration of the Ludwig Center for Cancer Research of the University of Lausanne*

A scientific symposium entitled *Lausanne: Driving Forces in Cancer Research* was held on December 8th to celebrate the inauguration of LICR@UNIL. The new entity, created on January 1, 2011, will continue to combine basic and translational studies in tumor immunology to benefit cancer patients via novel approaches to immunotherapy.

December 8th also marked the inaugural lectures of three senior former Lausanne Branch members who are now newly tenured full professors at the University of Lausanne:

- Professor Werner Held  
*Killer Cells: How to Recognize Cancer?*
- Professor Daniel Speiser  
*Physician Scientists—Key Players for Personalized Medicine in Clinical Oncology*
- Professor Pedro Romero  
*Cancer Immunotherapy: Mobilizing T-Lymphocytes*

The goal of LICR@UNIL is to pursue cutting-edge cancer research with a special emphasis on cancer immunobiology and immunotherapy.

Fundamental research is conducted at the

newly re-organized Center for Immunity and Infection (CIIL) in Épalinges in close collaboration with the UNIL Department of Biochemistry and other immunology groups that will soon be relocated from the Lausanne University Hospital (CHUV).

Translational and clinical research—including clinical trials—at LICR@UNIL are conducted on the CHUV campus.

In this way, LICR@UNIL is able to optimize a broad cancer research program where basic discoveries can be readily translated to the clinic.

## INSIDE

## PEOPLE ON THE MOVE

**ANAMARIA CAMARGO, Ph.D.**

*Taking the Reins  
at New LICR/HSL Research Center*

The Hospital Sírio-Libanês and the Ludwig Institute for Cancer Research have partnered to create a Center for Molecular Oncology. The research unit will be headed by Anamaria Camargo, Senior Scientist at LICR. Funding will be provided by both institutions.

In acknowledging this exciting challenge, Anamaria said, “The Hospital Sírio-Libanês is famous for its pioneering practices and excellent service. Combining the extensive experience of LICR in cancer genetics and the development of new drugs augments the hospital’s cancer treatment capabilities. It’s definitely a win-win for both institutions.”

Anamaria and her Molecular Biology and Genomics group are transferring from the Hospital Alemão Oswaldo Cruz to the Instituto Sírio-Libanês of Education and Research (IEP), in São Paulo.

“Transferring my group to the center creates an alternative operational structure for LICR in São Paulo and the potential to establish a long-term collaborative program in basic translational and clinical cancer research.”

## WHO'S MAKING NEWS

**XIN LU, Ph.D.**

*Elected to EMBO*

Xin Lu, Director of LICR Oxford Branch, was elected to the European Molecular Biology Organization (EMBO), which recognizes life scientists for their proven excellence in research. Xin was recognized along with more than 40 other outstanding scientists from around the world.

She joins an impressive roster of LICR members in receiving this well-deserved honor. Other EMBO members include Colin Goding (Oxford Branch); LICR Branch Directors Carl-Henrik Heldin (Uppsala Branch) and Thomas Perlmann (Stockholm Branch); former Branch Directors Thierry Boon (Brussels Branch), Michael Waterfield (London Branch) and the late Ralf Pettersson (Stockholm Branch); and former LICR London Branch investigators Anne Ridley and Bart Vanhaesebroeck.

**CHRISTOPHER T. WALSH, Ph.D.**

*New Member of the Scientific Advisory Committee*

Christopher Walsh has been the Hamilton Kuhn Professor of Biological Chemistry and Molecular Pharmacology at Harvard Medical School since 1991 and formerly was President of the Dana-Farber Cancer Institute and Chairman

**SANDRO DE SOUZA, Ph.D.**

*Back in São Paulo  
from a Stint in the Windy City*

Sandro de Souza, Senior Scientist from the São Paulo Branch was a Tinker Visiting Professor at the University of Chicago this fall. He was invited to join the Department of Ecology and Evolution in Latin American and Iberian Studies.

His lecture, *Beyond Reason and Borders: The Evolutionary/Creationism Debate Worldwide*, provided a critical assessment of how the American debates between evolutionism and creationism have impacted the rest of the world. Influenced by American creationist organizations, strategies, trends and resources, Sandro highlighted the global adaptations and ramifications of the debate by focusing on his home country of Brazil.

Tinker Professors enhance academic life by giving University of Chicago faculty and students exposure to different scholarly perspectives, as well as access to current discussions and debates generated at some of Latin America’s top universities and research and cultural centers.



of the Department of Biological Chemistry and Molecular Pharmacology at Harvard Medical School.

He has performed extensive research in enzyme stereochemistry, reaction mechanisms and the mechanisms

of action of anti-infective and immunosuppressive agents. His passions, expertise and unique abilities are a good match with the Scientific Advisory Committee’s (SAC) mission and needs. “I am personally interested in seeing discoveries translated into new therapeutics,” said Walsh, “and LICR has been in the forefront of catalyzing that process with some of its investigators.” He added, “I have been impressed with the purpose and reach of LICR over the years as it seeks out new insights from innovative cancer researchers across the globe. I am pleased to join the dedicated and experienced advisory team on the SAC and add to the scientific dialogue with LICR investigators.”



Walsh serves on a number of boards including the Scientific Advisory Board for Eisai Inc., Epizyme Corporation, LS9, Inc.

and the Bioventures Group of Health Care Ventures LLC. He is also a board member of Achaogen Inc., Proteostasis Therapeutics, Inc. and Ironwood Pharmaceuticals.

Walsh enjoys playing golf “especially on courses in beautiful and inspirational settings. These courses have an impact, not only on your game, but on your spirit.”

The passion to study and practice medicine runs in the Walsh family. Walsh’s daughter is an oncologist on the faculty at Stanford Medical School where she is a breast cancer specialist. Her research focuses on cancer genetics and evaluation of breast cancer risk in patients. His wife, a former President of Wellesley College, is also involved in the health sector as a member of the boards of directors at The Institute for Health Care Improvement, The Kaiser Family Foundation, and The Broad Institute.

Walsh received an A.B. in biology from Harvard University and a Ph.D. in life sciences from The Rockefeller University, New York. He was elected to the National Academy of Sciences and the Institute of Medicine in 1989.

#### **JOSÉ BASELGA, M.D., Ph.D.**

##### *Lead Investigator in Pivotal Study*

José Baselga, Chief of the Division of Hematology/Oncology and Associate Director of the Massachusetts General Hospital (MGH) Cancer Center, and a former member of the Institute’s Scientific Advisory Committee, was the lead investigator in a pivotal Phase 3 study known as BOLERO-2 in patients with advanced breast cancer, which used a combination of everolimus (Afinitor; Novartis) plus exemestane. Results were unveiled at the 2011 European Multidisciplinary Cancer Congress.

It produced “the strongest data ever seen in estrogen-receptor [ER]-positive breast cancer,” said Baselga, adding that “Everolimus represents a paradigm shift in the way we treat breast cancer. The magnitude of the benefit seen in these patients, despite their resistance to previous hormonal therapies, shows that everolimus represents a potential important new treatment approach.”

#### **JEAN-LAURENT CASANOVA, M.D., Ph.D.**

##### *Recipient of the Prestigious InBev-Baillet Latour Health Prize*

Jean-Laurent Casanova, Professor and Head of the St. Giles Laboratory of Human Genetics of Infectious Diseases at The Rockefeller University, won Belgium’s prestigious scientific prize for his pioneering work on the identification of genes that predispose for human infectious disease. The InBev-Baillet Latour Health Prize recognizes the practical application of basic research and has a value of EUR 250,000. Casanova received his M.D. from the University of Paris Descartes in 1987 and his Ph.D. in immunology from the University of Paris Pierre and Marie Curie in 1992 after being trained at the Pasteur Institute in Paris and LICR in Lausanne with Jean-Charles Cerottini, M.D.



**Iris**  
2002;  
70 x 100 cm

#### **Did you know ...**

... That in addition to being LICR Risk and Compliance Officer at the Zürich Office, Alex Borissov, MA, MBA, ACMA, is also a talented painter and member of the Fine Art Trade Guild who has had an impressive number of exhibits in London over the past decade?

He produced a series of stunning works that evoke the style and traditions of impressionist oil paintings—cityscapes and themes from nature which are light, lyrical, warm and colorful. A beautiful example from 2002 is a canvas entitled *Iris*. You can check out more of Alex’s work by [clicking here](#).

## MEETING NOTES

### *Technology Development Meeting, New York City*

Held on September 7th in New York, the meeting brought together LICR investigators and collaborators, as well as the members of the Institute’s SAC for a day of presentations and discussions highlighting the Institute’s broad interest in monoclonal antibodies, cancer vaccines/immune modulation and small molecule inhibitors with potential applications in oncology.

One of the presenters, Bert Vogelstein, M.D., Director of the Ludwig Center for Cancer Genetics & Therapeutics, deemed the meeting a success in opening avenues to new opportunities for collaboration between branch and center investigators, as well as other collaborators involved in Institute science.

The meeting brought together some of the world’s top



investigators in disciplines ranging from cancer immunology to targeted drug development to genetics. “This kind of conference has the capacity to foster creativity that cannot come from within any single field,” Vogelstein said. “Accordingly, it resulted in several cross-disciplinary project proposals that are already being implemented.”

### *Cancer Biology Meeting, Oxford*

“Great science should be fun, and fun makes for great science.”  
—Colin Goding, Ph.D., Member, Oxford Branch

The Oxford Branch hosted a three-day Cancer Biology Meeting in September. The meeting was designed to bring together a group of Ludwig scientists who study various aspects of cancer biology, such as molecular mechanisms driving cellular heterogeneity and transitional states.

Colin summed up the ultimate success of the meeting. “Take a

bunch of world-class scientists, lock them up for a few days in an isolated country house in England, and give them a lot of time to interact over coffee, dinner, and in the bar. It’s a great recipe for the Ludwig Institute to be much more than just the sum of its parts.”

“The meeting was a forum for sharing research interests and facilitating collaborations,” said Colin. “Science progresses as much through personal interactions as it does through hard work and inspiration. Promoting face-to-face interactions among individuals that get on well together and freely share ideas leads to collaboration and synergies that cannot be established through other means. We all have a much greater sense of what LICR is about and what we can achieve together than we did before. We came away with a sense of belonging to something greater than just our own branches.”

A highlight of the meeting was the visit to Blenheim Palace, birthplace of Sir Winston Churchill.

## REQUIRED READING

### **Lausanne**

*Nature Genetics* 2011 Dec 25.

doi: 10.1038/ng.1026.

[Epub ahead of print]

*Exome sequencing identifies recurrent somatic MAP2K1 and MAP2K2 mutations in melanoma.*

Nikolaev SI, Rimoldi D, Iseli C, Valsesia A, Robyr D, Gehrig C, Harshman K, Guipponi M, Bukach O, Zoete V, Michielin O, Muehlethaler K, Speiser D, Beckmann JS, Xenarios I, Halazonetis TD, Jongeneel CV, Stevenson BJ, Antonarakis SE.

### **San Diego**

*Science* 2011 Dec

23;334(6063):1713-6.

*Mismatch repair, but not heteroduplex rejection, is temporally coupled to DNA Replication.*

Hombauer H, Srivatsan A, Putnam CD, Kolodner RD.

### **Stockholm**

*Genes & Development* 2011 Dec

1;25(23):2453-64.

*Sequentially acting Sox transcription factors in neural lineage development.*

Bergsland M, Ramsköld D, Zaouter C, Klum S, Sandberg R, Muhr J.



# NewsLink

## ... needs a new name

What’s in a name? In this case, it could be a gift certificate from Amazon worth \$100. We are looking for a dynamic new name for the LICR newsletter. If you’re a winner, you’ll receive one of the following Amazon gift certificates: *Grand Prize*, \$100; *Runner-up*, \$50; *Third Prize*, \$25

The deadline for entries is February 17. So put on your creative hats and send your suggestions to [rsteinhardt@licr.org](mailto:rsteinhardt@licr.org). Good luck!

*Stay tuned for the next issue of the newsletter, which will feature profiles of two LICR staff members!*