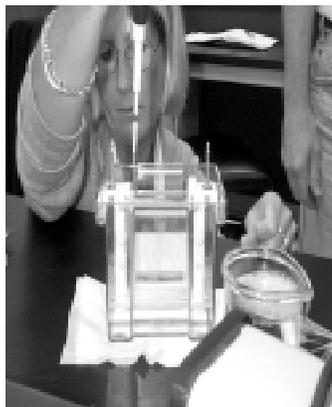


The official newsletter of Bio-Link, The National Advanced Technological Education Center for Biotechnology

City College of San Francisco Hosts 1999 Summer Fellows Forum

Bio-Link's first annual Summer Fellows Forum was hosted by the National Center from June 5th through the 12th at the Clark Kerr Campus conference site in the picturesque setting of Berkeley, California. Thirty-six Fellows from across the nation were selected by the Regional Directors to participate in the week-long forum.



Barbara Hopkin's steady hands

A Dinner Banquet featured guest speaker Dr. Keith Yamamoto from the University of California, San Francisco (UCSF).

The Fellows toured the Genentech facility in South San Francisco, the Animal Facility at the Cancer Center at UCSF and the Lawrence Berkeley National Lab.

The Fellows participated in workshops given by guest lecturers, who donated their time, on bioinformatics, Access Excellence, biotechnology in the high schools and intellectual property. There was a two day wet lab entitled "Ultra Bad Hair Day" led by Dr. Celeste Carter of Foothill College.

The Summer Fellows Forum gave each Fellow the opportunity to share ideas and discuss issues that will continue to build the link between education and industry.

Bio-Link's 2000 Summer Fellows Forum will once again be held at the Clark Kerr Campus conference site in Berkeley, California and is slated for June 3rd through the 9th.

See *Summer Fellows*, page 4.

Regional Feature Highlights from the Heartland

The North Central Region of Bio-Link is off to a running start! We hosted two workshops for teachers this summer: one on genomic biology and one on "shoestring" (inexpensive) biotechnology. Special thanks to our co-sponsors for the workshops: DNA Learning Center at Cold Spring Harbor, National Association of Biology Teachers, Center for Educational Research and Development, University of Wisconsin Biotechnology Center, Wisconsin Teacher Enhancement Program, and the Madison Area Technical College Biotechnology Laboratory Technician Program. Our enthusiastic participants learned about the latest developments in biotechnology and brought back home lots of ready-to-go labs and lesson plans for their students. They also met like-minded teachers from the Midwest and beyond and spent some quality time on the shores of beautiful Lake Mendota.

We are happy to say that we have catalogued and contacted all the biotechnology programs at two-year colleges in our region. The diversity of programs is fascinating: we have programs in our region focusing on everything from agricultural biotechnology to bioprocessing to forensics! There are also a number of programs just starting out (or in the works) from Minnesota to Missouri. We are fortunate to have hosted visitors from several of these institutions in the past few months.

We have taken on the task of updating an older directory of Wisconsin biotechnology companies. We will be sharing what we learn about how to tackle this type of project and how it benefits biotechnology students. Look for more information in this newsletter very soon!

At the Regional Center we are looking forward to meeting other Midwestern biotechnology instructors at our Regional Bio-Link Meeting, tentatively scheduled for February 16 - 18, 2000.

Check the Bio-Link website (bio-link.org) at the beginning of next year for our brand new Clearinghouse, an on-line collection of instructional materials for biotechnology!

For more information about the North Central Regional Center, contact Rebecca Pearlman, Administrative Director, at 608-243-4226 or rpearlman@madison.tec.wi.us

See *Heartland*, page 6.

**Find out more about the National Bio-Link Center
at City College of San Francisco • www.bio-link.org**

**CITY
COLLEGE
OF SAN FRANCISCO**



Dr. Elaine Johnson



It is a pleasure to report that Bio-Link is now in its second year of operation. The first year was one of new beginnings and getting started. The University of California, San Francisco, a major supporter of Bio-Link, donated the National Center's office space and furniture. The office management staff is available for serving the Bio-Link community.

The web site (www.bio-link.org) was established under the able

leadership of the NorthEast Region with Dr. Sonia Wallman as the Regional Director and Tim Dubuque as the Webmaster. The North Central Region is implementing the clearinghouse activities. Every region has participated in the Summer Fellows Forum, conducted regional workshops, provided regional contacts, and has begun to form the strong seamless web of connections that will enhance the quality of biotechnology education at community and technical colleges throughout the nation.

The Summer Fellows Forum, highlighted on pages one and four, was a huge success. I have received numerous inquiries from around the world as a result of the contacts that were made during the Fellows Forum. Deputy Director Dr. Bart Gledhill and I invite community and technical colleges that have biotechnology programs to contact the Regional Directors or the National Center.

Bio-Link National Survey Under way

One way of creating a more unified national presence for biotechnology technicians is the assessment of existing programs. Bio-Link is conducting a national survey to gather baseline data for reporting to the National Science Foundation and for the creation of a national directory of two-year technician programs. We expect to produce a report that will complement some of the existing national reports on the nature of the biotechnology industry.

Bio-Link
*... is committed to
program improvement,
instructor enhancement,
communication,
program assistance,
and supporting
school-to-career
activities in the
biotechnology area.*

From the Director

As we continue our Bio-Link activities, there will be a renewed commitment to the production of products. Our evaluator, Dan Weiler, and our Deputy Director, Dr. Bart Gledhill are providing valuable input into the strategic plan that will serve as a guide as we continue our national efforts. We are also working with our sister ATE centers to support each other and to learn from the more

experienced centers. Part of that sharing takes place at the ATE-PI Conference.

Broadening the Impact

The American Association of Community Colleges (AACC) and NSF host the ATE Principal Investigators Conference, October 21-23, 1999, in Alexandria, Virginia. This year's theme, ATE: Broadening the Impact, gives special attention to dissemination efforts. In addition to the participants, publishers, industry, government agency representatives and community leaders will attend the sessions. Bio-Link is to be featured at a paper session and at the exhibit on Saturday morning.

We are looking forward to an abundant year with the National Visiting Committee (NVC) meeting early next year. Two major events for the upcoming year will be our participation in the BIO 2000 Conference in Boston, Massachusetts and hosting a second Fellows Forum in June in Berkeley, California.

Bio-Link is committed to program improvement, instructor enhancement, communication, program assistance, and supporting school-to-career activities in the biotechnology area.

One final note: Dr. Duncan McBride has returned as Bio-Link's Program Officer following a year's sabbatical. Dr. Gordon Uno will also continue to work with us this year.

NVC Update

Bio-Link's National Visiting Committee (NVC) has been formed with input from the National Science Foundation. The distinguished members are: chairperson, Alfredo de los Santos, Jr., from Maricopa County Community College District (MATEC); Mark Bloom, from Biological Science Curriculum Studies; Doug Crabb, from Genencor, International; Kathy Frame, from National Association of Biology Teachers; Joe Gray, from University of California, San Francisco, Cancer Center; Peter Lasky, from Millipore

Corporation; Michael Lesiecki, from Maricopa County Community College District (MATEC); Valerie Natale, from Clontech Laboratories, Inc.; and Sylvia Spengler, from Ernest Orlando Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory.

The first NVC meeting was held June 9th through the 11th during the 1999 Summer Fellows Forum in Berkeley and San Francisco, California. The NVC members and Doctor Gordon Uno, NSF Program Officer began their visit by meeting with the Fellows aboard the Treasure Island yacht during the Bay

Dinner Cruise. The following morning they met at City College of San Francisco with Chancellor Dr. Philip Day and Provost Frances Lee to discuss Bio-Link's activities and goals. The visit continued with a brief tour of Genentech, Inc. in South San Francisco and later the NVC members met with Bio-Link's Regional Directors. After two executive sessions and a final meeting with Director, Dr. Elaine Johnson, Deputy Director, Dr. Bart Gledhill and Evaluator, Dan Weiler the NVC meeting concluded.

The next NVC meeting is scheduled for the end of January/early February 2000 in San Francisco, California.

Bio-Link Conducts National Survey

Bio-Link is conducting a national survey of all biotechnology programs at community and technical colleges across the United States. The Northern California Biotechnology Center and WestEd, a nonprofit regional education laboratory, developed the survey. Numerous suggestions for the survey were offered by Bio-Link Fellows and Regional Directors at the Summer Fellows National Workshop in June. Data obtained from this survey will contribute to our knowledge of the needs and characteristics of biotechnology programs nationwide. Please be on the lookout for the survey, and contribute to this vital national database by completing the questionnaire and mailing it back to Bio-Link. For further information please call the Bio-Link office at 415-487-2470. Survey results should be available early next year and will be posted on the Bio-Link web site.

RIT Teams with Community College

Setting the stage for biotechnology articulation, the New Hampshire Community Technical College and the Rochester Institute of Technology have signed an agreement. New Hampshire Community Technical College is the North East Regional Center for Bio-Link with Dr. Sonia Wallman as Director. The New Hampshire Community Technical College biotech program is based at Pease Education and Training Center. Students who earn their associate's degree in biotechnology at Pease can transfer to RIT as juniors. One graduate of Wallman's



Professional Profiles: Meet the Bio-Link National Staff

Claudia Riccardi Administrative Analyst

Claudia Riccardi joined the Bio-Link staff in February 1999 to oversee the budget, and monitor the financial performance of the National Center, as well as to track sub-recipient contracts and define accounting and reporting responsibilities with each Regional Center, in compliance with requirements set by the grant's fiscal agent. In addition, Claudia programs and maintains all National Center's databases and is in charge of producing budget and financial reports for the granting agency. A native of Palermo, Italy, and a long-time resident and citizen of the United States, Claudia earned a Master's in International Economics from the Johns Hopkins University in 1987. She subsequently served a 2-year stint as financial analyst at the World Bank in Washington DC. An avid reader and classical music enthusiast, Claudia is also currently studying C programming at UC Berkeley and loving it.



Tim Dubuque Web Master

Tim is the Webmaster for Bio-Link.org. He holds a Masters in Education and is a 1987 graduate of Lesley College in Cambridge, Massachusetts. He has been a web developer for over five years, which dates back to the early days of the World Wide Web. During this time Tim has developed sites for authors, photographers, publishing companies, and businesses both small and large including the 1000 plus page website SeacoastNH.com. The Bio-Link logo appearing on Bio-Link.org was created by Tim – a design intended to depict the global impact of the Biotechnology field.



Lisa Huffman Management Assistant

Joining the Bio-Link office staff in February, Lisa comes to us from the Chancellor's Office at City College of San Francisco after serving for two years as the Confidential Assistant to the Chancellor. Her major responsibilities include: overseeing office operations, making arrangements and creating materials for the annual Summer Fellows Forum and National Visiting Committee Site Visits, assisting in the organization and coordination of projects, and supervising student workers. Lisa earned her Bachelor of Arts degree in Communications from the University of California, Santa Barbara and has held administrative/public relations positions at Solano Community College, Golden Gate University, Marriott Health Care Services and Children's Hospital Oakland. A native of Cleveland, Ohio, she is a huge Browns and Indians fan. Her interests are playing piano, shopping, theatre arts, and traveling.

Summer Fellows Forum Pulling Weeds and Forgetting Links in 21st Century Biology

Speaker



Dr. Keith Yamamoto was the featured guest speaker at the Summer Fellows Forum Dinner Banquet on June 11, 1999. Dr. Yamamoto has been a member of the University of California, San Francisco faculty since 1976, and is Chairman of the Department of Cellular and Molecular Pharmacology. Since 1988, he has also been Director of the Biochemistry and Molecular Biology Graduate Program at UCSF. Dr. Yamamoto was elected to the American Academy of Arts and Sciences in 1989 and to the National Academy of Sciences in 1990.

Dr. Yamamoto's research has focused on the mechanisms of signaling and gene regulation by intracellular receptors, which mediate the actions of several classes of essential hormones. His studies employ genetics, molecular and cell biology, biochemistry and structural biology in vitro and in organisms ranging from yeast to humans.

The following are excerpts from his speech entitled, "Pulling Weeds and Forging Links in 21st Century Biology." The entire version of his speech can be found shortly on the

Bio-Link web page,
www.bio-link.org

21st Century Biotech and Community College Trained Technicians

So where is biotech going to end up, and where are technicians from your program going to end up? A new revolution is beginning – one in which well trained technicians will play an increasingly crucial role. A key element of that revolution reflects the state of the field: biological research in general will move from collecting and cataloging information to organizing, analyzing and understanding information.

To accomplish this next stage, biotech is lengthening its reach – developing more tools to supplement its bread and butter, extending increasingly into genomic analyses, biological network analysis, stem cell cultures, drug design and analysis, atomic structure determinations, advanced imaging methods, disease gene analysis, physiologic and pharmacologic studies in whole organisms.

A new role? What do I mean by that? Does "new" imply that your training program must encompass all the newest techniques and all the newest instruments? Well, that would be fine if it's available, but as you know, today's newest method will be obsolete tomorrow. Much more important is that your programs produce trainees who are sharp observers, who think about what you are doing, and who want to move to the next protocol, the next tool, to answer a question –and to interact with others around you, within and especially outside of the science community.

Pulling Weeds

The kind of personal commitment I'm referring to is perhaps placed in sharpest relief by considering how it plays out in extraordinary individuals, and Barbara McClintock was one such individual. Born in 1902, she virtually invented the field of corn cytogenetics. Despite publishing papers that made

her famous as a graduate student, she struggled, as stable jobs for women scientists were almost unheard of at that time. For much of her >50 year career, her cytogenetic studies in corn were considered old fashioned and irrelevant. Only when DNA transposition, an early proposal of McClintock's based on her cytogenetic evidence, was detected at the molecular level was her brilliance again appreciated, and she was awarded the Nobel Prize in 1983, 35 years after she had done the most critical experiments.

In 1978, I hosted Barbara for a lecture series at UCSF, and she visited my lab one afternoon. My technician and students and I crammed into my office with Barbara, then 76 years old, and she proceeded to grill each of us about our projects. When she reached one lab member who was stuck on a *Drosophila* project that we were trying without success to get off the ground, she suddenly stopped him to confirm that



he himself was feeding and transferring the larvae and flies. Barbara then gave him, and us, a mini-lecture that has remained with me:

"I tend my corn plants myself," she said. "This means not just planting and harvesting, but watering and weeding. It's when I'm pulling weeds that I get to know each corn plant, and it's often when I'm pulling weeds that I notice the things that matter most in my experiments." Then she looked at us all, and said, "It's very important that you always pull your own weeds."

Forging Links

To the Technicians

Don't fall for the "just a technician" line that I've heard many technicians use to describe themselves. You are at the very heart of the action. In the lab, you are the point of contact to the data. You will have knowledge that neither your peers nor your supervisors will have. During your career, perhaps most of you will eventually have worked both in academic labs and

industry—you will have a perspective on the overall biotech research endeavor that most of the academics, in particular, don't have and won't have.

To the Educators

We must ensure that students use that knowledge and perspective not only within the lab but also outside of the lab setting. For most community college trained technicians, they alone will be the scientists in their communities – the only scientist they know. I want them to accept and savor and honor that role. Their families and friends will have questions for them—questions about stories that they see in the daily newspapers, about advertisements for drugs, or about a family member's illness. Communities and individual citizens want to understand biology and biotechnology, and increasingly technicians will be called upon to make decisions about it. Your trainees can forge a crucial link that connects industry, academia, and increasingly government, to their communities.

Summer Fellows Forum Attendees

These Regional Directors* and Fellows were selected to attend the first Bio-Link Summer Fellows Forum

Northeast/Southeast Region

Carolyn Benner
Dan Brown
Carolyn Dabirsiaghi
Barbara Hopkins
Ronald Midgett
Cliff Mintz
Sonia Wallman*
Bill Woodruff

North Central Region

Joe Lowndes
Jeanette Mowery
Rebecca Pearlman
Lisa Seidman*

South Central Region

D'Maris Allen

Linnea Fletcher*
Les Hudson
Bob Yates

Northwest Region

Heather Goodfriend
Sandy Porter*

Northern California Biotechnology Center

George Cachianes
Mabel Hom
Philip Jardim
Kate Levine
Robert Manlove*
Denise Poteat
Debra Regan
Shary Rosenbaum
Pat Seawell
Mike Solow

Southwest Region

Judi Heitz
Mary Pat Huxley
Mary Lynne LaMantia
Beth Pitonzo
Dave Singer*
Janice Toyoshima

International

Susan Allen
Falkirk, Scotland

Far left – The Intellectual Property Intensive. Center – Shary Rosenbaum and Pat Seawell receive Bioinformatics Training. Below – Genentech, UCSF Cancer Center and Lawrence Berkeley National Lab outing. Special credit goes to Deputy Director Dr. Bart Gledhill for overseeing the forum.



A Brief History of One of the Oldest Biotechnology Programs

Twelve years may not seem like a long time to have been around, but for a two-year biotechnology program, it's an eternity! The Fall of 1987 marked the birth of the Biotechnology Laboratory Technician Program at the Madison Area Technical College (MATC). Madison, Wisconsin, where MATC is located, is also home to many "start-up" biotechnology companies and to the

flagship campus of the University of Wisconsin.

To meet the needs of area industry, the curriculum of the program was designed to give students a firm foundation in basic laboratory skills and a broad knowledge of many areas of biotechnology. Graduates work in many diverse companies. For example, the biotechnology industry in the Madison area covers . . .

- breeding of transgenic livestock
- pharmacogenomics
- tools for molecular biology research
- improvement of crop plants
- production of cultures formaking dairy products
- testing for microbiological contamination of food

The Biotechnology program attracts some older, returning students, but also has large numbers of students that come to MATC directly out of high school. All students complete a 200-hour internship at an area company, academic or government laboratory as part of the curriculum. Many of these students are hired to stay on after they graduate.

The Biotechnology program has an extremely high placement rate, and in fact has many more requests for its graduates than it has graduates to offer! Some graduates of the program also elect to continue their education and earn a four-year degree.

The next twelve years of the Biotechnology program at MATC will certainly be years of change, as area industry matures and brings more products to market. The program will look to its advisory committee, composed of alumni and other representatives from industry and academia, to guide it through the exciting years of transition.

The Biotechnology program is also proud to continue its service to the academic

The Biotechnology Laboratory Technician . . .

- is a skilled professional who plays an essential role in the biotechnology industry
- has an impressive set of hands-on laboratory skills
- operates instruments
- maintains biological stocks
- gathers data and reports observations
- uses scientific principles to solve problems
- communicates effectively, thinks critically, and learns independently

community, beginning with National Science Foundation-sponsored projects to create models for biotechnology education and continuing with the present Bio-Link North Central Regional Center.

For more information about the Biotechnology Laboratory Technician Program at the Madison Area Technical College, please see biotech.madison.tec.wi.us or contact Dr. Lisa Seidman, Program Director, at 608-246-6204 or lseidman@madison.tec.wi.us.

Anoka-Ramsey Biomedical Programs Up and Running

Bio-Link Assists New Program in Minnesota

Our three Biomedical programs came into being as a result of a Minnesota Job Skills Partnership with Possis Medical, Inc. which manufactures cardiovascular devices. From there we developed a Biomedical Advisory Committee of 30+ representatives from the local biomedical device industry which has been most enthusiastic about our programs.

A meeting with Director Elaine Johnson connected us with regional Bio-Link center Madison Area Technical College earlier this year. Our President, Associate Dean, an industry representative and myself spent an entire day.

We have 30 people enrolled in the first course of our Biomedical program offerings, Introduction to Biomedical Devices course. We hired an excellent instructor from Possis Medical Inc. to teach the class, which begins this coming Wednesday.

I'm now working on the course details for the spring offerings, and thanks to Elaine, have made a contact with "Dr. Hulk" at San Diego City College for help with mentoring our new industry teachers.

Bio-Link has been an invaluable source of advice, enthusiasm, and support in this endeavor. It is very reassuring to know that help is just a click away! I look forward to meeting more of the Bio-Link network both electronically and at conferences!

Kathie Whelchel
Coordinator of Biomedical Programs
Anoka-Ramsey Community College

Congratulations to Dr. Sonia Wallman

Bio-Link NorthEast Regional Director, Dr. Sonia Wallman, has been elected to the Board of Directors of the Council of Biotechnology Centers for the Biotechnology Industry Organization (CBC/BIO).



She has put together a daylong series of sessions for BIO 2000 entitled, "Creating the Workforce for the New Millennium". She is also working on the Education and Communications Subcommittees for BIO 2000, which will be held in Boston, Massachusetts. BIO represents more than 800 biotechnology companies, academic institutions, state biotechnology centers and other organizations worldwide. The Council of Biotechnology Centers works to provide a venue for learning and information and interaction among academics, corporate, government, and non-profit groups. Activities include economic development, research, education and training, technology transfer, and societal issues. Finally, Dr. Wallman has helped to organize a CBC/BIO supported Biotechnology Faculty Conference (Fly-In) in Aurora, Colorado that will take place January 8, 2000.

Bio-Link Participation at BIO'99

BIO '99 in Seattle drew a record crowd of over 5,700 attendees, the largest contingent ever for the annual conference of the Biotechnology Industry Organization (BIO). Dr. Sandra Porter played a major role in creating teacher workshops. Two sessions featured Community Colleges and the Workforce. Dr. Sonia Wallman, Dr. Joseph Lowndes and Dr. Sandra Porter co-chaired these sessions. Speakers included Bio-Link partners, Dr. Linnea Fletcher, Dr. Leslie Snider, Mabel Hom and Dr. Elaine Johnson. We expect even greater participation at BIO 2000 where Bio-Link will have speakers and an exhibit.

At the Bench, A Laboratory Navigator

by Kathy Barker, 1998. Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory Press, ISBN 0-87969-523-4, New York, 460 pgs., \$47

This handbook for the laboratory novice could be used by a new graduate student, post-doc or a newly hired technician. It has lots of information not available in typical laboratory manuals, and delivers it in a friendly, supportive manner.

The book is organized into three sections. Section 1, "Getting Oriented," includes advice on what to do and what NOT to do the first week, and gives safety rules, diagrams and brief descriptions of common laboratory equipment, and advice on how to get going on experiments.

One important segment could be entitled "lab manners count." It emphasizes the importance of being a good bench neighbor and gives details on what that means.

For example, "The buffers and reagents on people's benches are very precious, and very, very personal...and you should not even take a milliliter without permission from the owner."

To students coming from the shared environment of a college laboratory, this rule may not be obvious.

Section 2 offers practical advice on how to get started as soon as possible, with a good section on the importance and details of keeping a laboratory notebook.

Finally, section 3 has chapters on: Making Reagents and Buffers; Storage and Disposal; Working without Contamination; Eukaryotic Cell Culture; Bacteria; DNA, RNA and Protein; Radioactivity; Centrifugation; Electrophoresis; and the Light Microscope.



You can readily obtain a protocol for a particular experiment, but this book provides the background information you need before you can start the experiment. For example, the neophyte could look up how to cope with a fluorescent microscope or an unfamiliar type of centrifugation or how to store an RNA preparation. There is a good glossary of terms, an index, and a list of common lab abbreviations.

This volume serves as an indoctrination into the "culture of bench science" - not only at the technical level, but just as important, at the personal level.

In summary, this volume serves as an indoctrination into the "culture of bench science" – not only at the technical level, but just as important, at the personal level.

Bio-Link faculty might find this book invaluable for student internships, or might recommend it to graduating students as a resource to take on the job.

I recommend you check it out.

*Charlotte K. Mulvihill
Director of Biotechnology Program
Oklahoma City Community College*

Bio-Link

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BIO-LINK'S UPCOMING CALENDAR

October 21 – 23, 1999	AACC/NSF National ATE Principal Investigators Conference Alexandria, Virginia
January 8, 2000	Biotechnology Faculty Conference Aurora, Colorado
January 14 – 15, 2000	CSUPERB San Diego, California
January/February 2000	National Visiting Committee Visit San Francisco, California
March 26 – 29, 2000	BIO 2000 Boston, Massachusetts
June 3 – 9, 2000	Summer Fellows Forum 2000 Berkeley, California

Be a Part of the Bio-Link Connection

The Bio-Link Connection is the official newsletter of Bio-Link, the Advanced Technological Education Center for Biotechnology, and is produced and published by the National Center Staff.

We hope you've enjoyed the very first edition of *The Bio-Link Connection* and we want to hear from you! Whether it is to suggest topics or information you'd like to see covered, or to report news about biotechnology in your area of the country—we'd like to have your input for future issues.

Questions, comments or articles (as attachments) – submit by e-mail to Lisa Huffman (lhuffman@biolink.ucsf.edu) at the National Center.