Special Symposia

Although its annual meeting provides a great opportunity to experience a wide range of exciting science and meet many people, the American Society for Biochemistry and Molecular Biology understands that sometimes science needs a more intimate setting. For that reason, the society established smaller special symposia programs with specific themes every fall. The special symposia provide an excellent means for researchers in underrepresented or emerging scientific fields to discuss the latest science and network. And, although the symposia can be considered small meetings, there is nothing small about the science; the quality of the meeting organizers, presenters and programming is second to none.

This year, the symposia will explore the biochemistry of membrane traffic, the endosomal sorting complex required for transport (ESCRT) system, the detection and evaluation of post-translational modifications and the role of chromatin and RNA polymerase II in transcriptional regulation. The symposia will be held between Sept. 30 and Oct. 31 in Lake Tahoe, Calif., or Snowbird, Utah. More details on each meeting are presented below. We also will be producing a journal compendium to go with each symposium, so be on the lookout for those in the fall.

Transcriptional Regulation by Chromatin and RNA Polymerase II

BY ALI SHILATIFARD

Eukaryotic DNA is several meters long and must be packaged into chromatin in a way that enables the RNA polymerase II machinery to access the genes.

Despite the fact that the process underlies all gene expression, which is fundamental to development and differentiation, we still possess only rudimentary knowledge about genome packaging and how the transcriptional machinery and its regulatory factors interact with the gene-coding sequences.

Eukaryotic RNA polymerase II chromatin plays a pivotal role in regulating gene expression. A central challenge to current research is to determine how RNA polymerase II coordinates the synthesis of messenger RNA, resulting in proper development and cellular regulation. Given the implications of defining the molecular mechanisms of gene expression by chromatin and RNA polymerase II, and its impact on our understanding of cellular development and disease pathogenesis, ASBMB is bringing together investigators from a variety of research areas for a focused meeting on transcriptional regulation.

The meeting will feature keynote speaker Robert E. Kingston of Harvard Medical School, who will discuss his recent findings regarding the molecular machinery required for proper transcriptional silencing by the ATP-dependent remodeling complexes and by complexes in the Polycomb-group of proteins.

The sessions will cover findings in transcriptional initiation, elongation and termination and the role of RNA polymerase II, its C-terminal domain and the associated factors in this process. The roles of chromatin and chromosomes, their interacting proteins and post-translational modifications, their numerous transcriptional properties and their role in development also will be addressed.

Several talks also will be chosen from submitted abstracts. The applications accepted for poster presentations also will compete for two $1,000 awards.

Due to space limitations, we anticipate an oversubscription for this meeting. If that happens, we will make a concerted effort to ensure that each research group wishing to participate is represented. The status of all submitted abstracts will be posted on the ASBMB Web site by mid-September.

See you in Tahoe! ☼ ☼ ☼

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Transcriptional Regulation by Chromatin and RNA Polymerase II

Sept. 30 – Oct. 4, 2010
Granlibakken, Lake Tahoe, Calif.
Abstract and registration deadline: Aug. 1, 2010
For more information, visit: www.asbmb.org/TranscriptionalRegulation2010