

**BENZON SYMPOSIUM No. 55**  
**TRANSCRIPTION, CHROMATIN AND DISEASE**  
**AUGUST 18 – 21, 2008, COPENHAGEN, DENMARK**

*Organizing committee:*  
*Kristian Helin (Copenhagen), Jesper Q. Svejstrup (London) & Arne Svejgaard (Copenhagen)*

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**Scientific program - MONDAY, August 18, 2008**

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**Kristian HELIN:** Welcome

*Session I: TRANSCRIPTION AND CHROMATIN MACHINERIES A*

*Chair: Kristian Helin*

**Joan CONAWAY:** Transcriptional Regulatory Complexes

**Robert G. ROEDER:** Insights Into Transcriptional Coactivator Functions through Analysis in Biochemically Defined *in vitro* Systems

**Robert TJIAN:** Switching Core Transcription Machinery: An Unexpected Mechanism for Maintaining Stem Cell Pluripotency and Driving Differentiation

**Amber L. MOSLEY:** Rtr1 Regulates the Transition from Serine 5 to Serine 2 Phosphorylation on the RNA Polymerase II C-terminal Domain during Transcription Elongation (*Oral poster*)

**Brad CAIRNS:** Distinctive Chromatin Structures Reside at the Promoters of Transcription Factors Important for Embryo Development in Human Sperm

*Posters:* Authors present posters Nos. I-1 – I-19

*Session II: TRANSCRIPTION AND CHROMATIN MACHINERIES B*

*Chair: Stefan Björklund*

**Jerry WORKMAN:** The Role of Histone Modifications in Gene Transcription

**Jesper Q. SVEJSTRUP:** Contending with Obstacles to Transcription: Collision and Destruction

**Francisco MALAGON:** Transcription Initiation Events Control Levels of Cytoplasmic Ty1 RNA Bodies (*Oral poster*)

**Karen LOWER:** Allele Specific Expression due to Mutations within the Chromatin-associated Factor ATRX (*Oral poster*)

**Roger KORNBERG:** Chromatin Remodeling for Transcription

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**Scientific program - TUESDAY, August 19, 2008**

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*Session III: CHROMOSOME AND NUCLEAR ORGANIZATION*

*Chair: Asifa Akhtar*

**Genevieve ALMOUZZI:** Chromatin Assembly Factors and the Challenges of DNA Replication and Repair

**Steen HOLMBERG:** A Role for Chromatin Remodeling Complexes and Architectural Factors in mRNA Splicing (*Oral poster*)

**Christian MUCHARDT:** The SWI/SNF Complex Regulates Alternative Splicing (*Oral poster*)

**Wendy BICKMORE:** Polycomb Repressive Complexes are required to Maintain Compact Chromatin Structure at Hox loci

**Robert E. KINGSTON:** Unraveling Occupancy and Organization of the Genome

*Posters:* Authors present posters Nos. II-1 – II-24 & IV-1 – IV-10

*Session IV: ACTIVE AND SILENT CHROMATIN – 1*

*Chair: Peter Verrijzer*

**Asifa AKHTAR:** Dosage Compensation and Chromatin Regulation

**Robert FEIL:** Role and Regulation of Histone Methylation at Mouse Imprinted Gene Loci (*Oral poster*)

**Robert SCHNEIDER:** Characterization of a new Lysine Methylation Site that marks Heterochromatin and is Dynamically Remodeled during Reprogramming and Development (*Oral poster*)

**Tony KOUZARIDES:** Chromatin Modifications and Their Function

**David ALLIS:** Beyond the Double Helix: Writing and Reading the "Histone Code"

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**Scientific program - WEDNESDAY, August 20, 2008**

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*Session V: TRANSCRIPTION, CHROMATIN AND DISEASE A*

*Chair: Yang Shi*

**Claes GUSTAFSSON:** Structural and Functional Analysis of Fission Yeast Mediator

**Jean-Marc EGLY:** Reading the Gene in Company of Some DNA Repair Factors

**Maarten VAN LOHUIZEN:** Polycomb Repressors Controlling Stem Cell Fate: Implications for Cancer and Development

**Efrat SHEMA:** hBRE1/RNF20, the Major E3 Ubiquitin Ligase for Histone H2B, Regulates Transcription in a Gene-specific Manner, Inhibits EGF-induced Migration, and is a Putative Tumor Suppressor (*Oral poster*)

**Kathrin PLATH:** Transcription Factor -Induced Global Epigenetic Remodeling to Pluripotent Stem Cells

*Posters: Authors present posters Nos. III-1 – III-22 & IV-11 – IV-20*

*Session V: TRANSCRIPTION, CHROMATIN AND DISEASE B*

*Chair: Wendy Bickmore*

**Pier Giuseppe PELICCI:** Epigenetics of Acute Promyelocytic Leukemia

**Peter VERRIJZER:** Antagonistic Transcription Control through Histone (De)ubiquitylation

*Session VI: ACTIVE AND SILENT CHROMATIN – 2A*

*Chair: Wendy Bickmore*

**Marco DE GOBBI:** Role of CTCF/Cohesin Binding Sites in Regulation of Gene Expression (*Oral poster*)

**JJ MIRANDA:** Molecular Architecture of Human CTCF and the Insulatorosome (*Oral poster*)

**Michael GRUNSTEIN:** Histone H3 K56 Acetylation Marks the Core Transcriptional Network for Pluripotency in Human Embryonic Stem Cells

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**Scientific program - THURSDAY, August 21, 2008**

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*Session VII: ACTIVE AND SILENT CHROMATIN – 2B*

*Chair: Genevieve Almouzni*

**Thomas JENUWEIN:** Epigenetic Control by Histone Methylation

**Kristian HELIN:** Control of Stem Cell Differentiation and Cancer by Histone Methylation

**Rosemary KIERNAN:** Nuclear Exosome is required for Transcriptional Silencing of the HIV-1 Promoter (*Oral poster*)

*Session VIII: ACTIVE AND SILENT CHROMATIN – 2C*

*Chair: Jesper Svejstrup*

**Thomas Å PEDERSEN:** Genome-wide ChIP-seq Profiling of PPAR $\gamma$ /RXR Target Sites and Gene Program during 3T3-L1 Adipocyte Differentiation (*Oral poster*)

**Yi ZHANG:** Role of Histone Demethylases in Development and Cellular Metabolism

**Yang SHI:** Histone de-Methylation

**Jesper Q. SVEJSTRUP:** Closing comments