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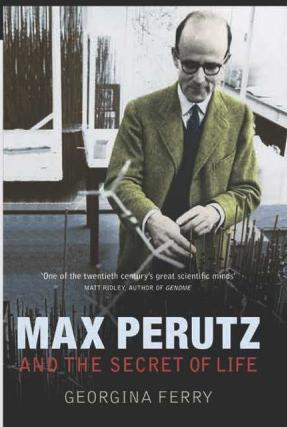
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MAX PERUTZ

AND THE SECRET OF LIFE



"In science, truth always wins."
—Max Perutz

By Georgina Ferry

Few scientists have thought more deeply about the nature of their calling and its impact on humanity than Max Perutz (1914-2002). Born in Vienna, Jewish by descent, lapsed Catholic by religion, he came to Cambridge in 1936, to join the lab of the legendary Communist thinker J.D. Bernal. There he began to explore the structures of the molecules that hold the secret of life. In 1940, he was interned and deported to Canada as an enemy alien, only to be brought back and set to work on a bizarre top secret war project. In 1947, he founded the small research group in which Francis Crick and James Watson discovered the structure of DNA: under his leadership it grew to become the world-famous Laboratory for Molecular Biology. Max himself explored the protein hemoglobin and his work, which won him a Nobel Prize in 1962, launched a new era of medicine, heralding today's astonishing advances in the genetic basis of disease.

Max Perutz's story, wonderfully told by Georgina Ferry, brims with life. It has the zest of an adventure novel and is full of extraordinary characters. Max was demanding, passionate and driven but also humorous, compassionate and loving. Small in stature, he became a fearless mountain climber; drawing on his own experience as a refugee, he argued fearlessly for human rights; he could be ruthless but had a talent for friendship. An articulate and engaging advocate of science, he found new problems to engage his imagination until weeks before he died aged 88.

About the author: Georgina Ferry is a former staff editor on *New Scientist*, and contributor to BBC Radio 4's *Science Now*. Her books include the acclaimed biography *Dorothy Hodgkin: A Life* (1998); *The Common Thread* (2002, with Sir John Sulston) and *A Computer Called LEO* (2003). She lives in Oxford.

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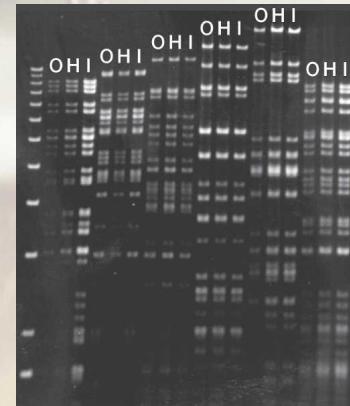
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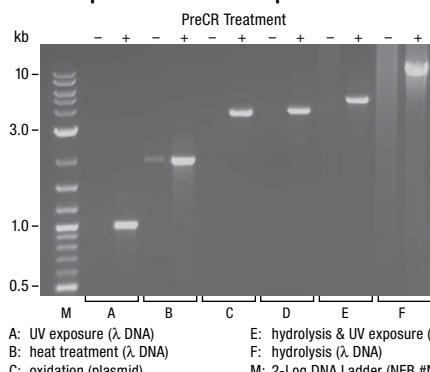
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Harvard University is committed to increasing the representation of women and minorities among its faculty and particularly encourages applications from such candidates.



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The Department of Biology at Temple University is expanding its research programs and anticipates multiple faculty hires over each of the next several years. The Department invites applications for an Associate/Full Professor (tenured/tenure-track) position in the area of Developmental/Cell Biology. We are especially interested in individuals who are using current molecular genetic approaches to study basic mechanisms of developmental pathways and/or cell function. Individuals whose research programs complement and extend the department's strengths in vertebrate development, developmental neuroscience, RNA biology, molecular virology, and cancer biology are especially urged to apply. However, outstanding candidates in other areas also will be given full consideration. Applicants are expected to have a significant track record of funded research, as well as teaching at the graduate and undergraduate levels. Applicants should submit their curriculum vitae, a research program summary, and the names and contact information of three references to: **Dr. Richard Waring, Developmental/Cell Biologist Search Committee Chair, Department of Biology, Temple University, 1900 North 12th Street, Philadelphia, PA 19122. E-mail: waring@temple.edu.** Review of applications will begin immediately and will continue until the position is filled.

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3. Conducting independent research projects (30%): analyzing genomics datasets accumulated in the lab and in the public databases, developing new bioinformatics algorithms, generating new biological hypotheses, publishing papers.
4. Providing bioinformatics training (10%): giving regular presentations on the current bioinformatics tools, teaching students and staff members how to use various bioinformatics tools, teaching students and staff members basic computer programming skills (such as Perl, R, etc.).

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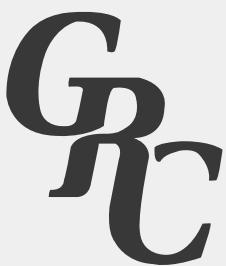


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MOLECULAR EVOLUTION

February 3-8, 2008
Crowne Plaza, Ventura, CA

<http://www.grc.org/programs.aspx?year=2008&program=molecevo>

This biennial Gordon Research Conference on Molecular Evolution draws scientists from a diversity of fields and promotes interactions between evolutionary and population genetics, genomics, computational biology, developmental biology, molecular biology, ecology, microbial physiology, and medical genetics and epidemiology.

The goal of this conference is to bring together representatives from this diversity of research areas to examine the most recent findings on the molecular bases of evolution. Molecular evolution underlies much of comparative genomics, informs models of computational biology, and provides a framework for understanding evolution of development and complex systems. The small size of the conference (restricted to 130 participants) and the location (on the beach in sunny Ventura, CA), coupled with the large blocks of time set aside for informal discussion are all critical features to the ongoing success of this conference. The following sessions and speakers have been confirmed:

Exploring Adaptive Landscapes

Ben Kerr (University of Washington)
Tony Dean (University of Minnesota)
Dan Weinreich (Brown University)

Measuring Evolutionary Timescales with classes of molecular markers

Bret Payseur (University of Wisconsin at Madison)
Asher Cutter (University of Toronto)
Joanna Mountain (Stanford University)

Molecular Basis of Heart Evolution

Doug Crawford (University of Miami)
Brad Davidson (University of Arizona)
Jose Xavier-Neto (Universidade de São Paulo)
Nadia Rosenthal

Positive and Negative Selection on Noncoding DNA

Peter Andolfatto (Univ. of California at San Diego)
Manolis Dermitzakis (The Wellcome Trust, Sanger Institute)

Evolvability

Günter Wagner (Yale University)
Lilach Hadany (University of Iowa)
Suzannah Rutherford (Fred Hutchison Cancer Research Center)
Susan Rosenberg (Baylor College of Medicine)

Molecular Evolution of Body Axes

Mike Levine (University of California at Berkeley)
Elaine Seaver (University of Hawaii)
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Computational and Statistical Advances

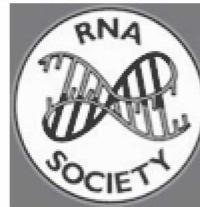
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RNAi and miRNA	RNA:Protein Interactions
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Riboregulation in Development	RNA Regulation in Neurons and Specialized Cells
Noncoding RNA	RNA Turnover & Surveillance
tRNA, snoRNA and rRNA	RNA Transport and Localization
RNA Catalysis	RNA Editing and Modification
RNA Structure and Folding	Splicing Mechanisms & Regulation
Bioinformatics	3' End Formation
RNA & Disease	Ribosomes & Translational Regulation
Viral RNA Mechanisms	Novel Methods in RNA&RNP Research

RNA2008 will start with a keynote address and special session on Monday evening

Keynote Speaker: Dr. Craig Mello

Invited speakers: Dr. Phil Sharp and Dr. David Baulcombe

Organizing Committee: Elena Conti (*EMBL Heidelberg*), Volker Erdmann (*Free University Berlin*), Witek Filipowicz (*Friedrich Miescher Institute*), Reinhard Lührmann (*Max-Planck-Institute for Biophysical Chemistry*), Joan Steitz (*Yale University*), Juan Valcarcel (*Centre de Regulació Genòmica*)

Abstract Deadline: The Organizing Committee invites abstracts on all aspects of RNA structure, function, biology and chemistry. Abstracts for oral presentations will be selected by the Committee and the Session Coordinators. Abstracts that are not selected for oral presentations will be presented as posters.

The deadline for submission of abstracts is **Monday March 24th, 2008**.

Sponsorship Opportunities: If you are interested in sponsorship opportunities, please email the Society at rna@faseb.org.

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