4th Annual Symposium on RNA Science and its Applications
March 17, 2017
Performing Art Center, University at Albany

7:30 – 8:30  Registration (Performing Arts Center – Downstairs Lounge)
Continental Breakfast (Performing Arts Center – Futterer Lounge)
Poster Set-Up (Campus Center Ballroom)
8:30 – 8:40  Opening Remarks, Paul F. Agris, Director, The RNA Institute, University at Albany

Session 1  mRNA Therapeutics: Processing and Targeting
Chair: Erik Sontheimer, Professor, University of Massachusetts, Worcester
8:40-9:20  Keynote: ‘The Promise and Challenges for mRNA Drugs’
Erik Sontheimer on behalf of: Melissa J. Moore, Chief Scientific Officer, mRNA Research Platform, Moderna Therapeutics; Eleanor Eustis Farrington Chair of Cancer Research; Professor, RNA Therapeutics Institute, University of Massachusetts Medical School, Worcester

9:20 – 9:40  ‘Getting Sick of Splicing: An Alternative Splicing and Flu’
Kristen Lynch, Professor of Biochemistry and Biophysics, Perelman School of Medicine, University of Pennsylvania

9:40 – 9:55  ‘Chemical and Structure and Bias in Small Molecule RNA Recognition’
Amanda E. Hargrove, Assistant Professor of Chemistry, Duke University

9:55 – 10:10  ‘Unique Features of tRNA Translocation on the Mammalian Mitochondrial Ribosome’
Manjuli Sharma, Postdoctoral Scholar at Agrawal Laboratory, Wadsworth Center

10:10 – 10:30 Coffee Break (Performing Arts Center – Futterer Lounge)

Session 2  RNA Trafficking, Signaling, and Imaging
Chair: Tom Gingeras, Professor and Head of Functional Genomics, Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory
10:30-11:10  Keynote: ‘Ribosome Heterogeneity in Translating the Genetic Code’
Maria Barna, Assistant Professor, Genetics and Developmental Biology, Stanford University School of Medicine; Rosalind Franklin Young Investigator Awardee; NYSCF Robertson Stem Cell Investigator

11:10-11:30  ‘Cancer Cell Activities Revealed by Imaging in Live Tissue’
Mikala Egeblad, Associate Professor, Cold Spring Harbor Labs; Era of Hope Scholar Awardee

11:30 -11:45  ‘A Widespread Riboswitch Class Regulates Guanidine Metabolism in Bacteria’
Ruben Atilho, Doctoral Candidate at Breaker Laboratory, Yale University

11:45 -12:00  ‘The Transcription Factor ERG Recruits CCR4 – Not to Control mRNA Decay and Mitotic Progression’
Xavier Rambout, Postdoctoral Scholar at Maquat Laboratory, University of Rochester

12:00 – 2:00 Lunch (Campus Center Ballroom)
Poster Sessions I and II

Session 3  IncRNAs and Therapeutic Applications
Chair: Bijan Dey, Principal Investigator, The RNA Institute, University at Albany

2:00 – 2:40  Keynote: ‘RNA as Integral to Chromosome Architecture and Regulation: From XIST to the Repeat Genome’
Jeanne Lawrence, Professor of Cell and Developmental Biology and Pediatrics, University of Massachusetts Medical School, Worcester

3:00 – 3:15  ‘Systematic Mapping of RNA-Chromatin Interaction In Vivo’
Sheng Zhong, Professor of Bioengineering, University of California San Diego

3:15 – 3:30  ‘A IncRNA Reveals a Regulatory Switch Between Macrophage Differentiation and Inflammation’
Sergio Covarrubias, Postdoctoral Scholar at Carpenter Laboratory, University of California Santa Cruz

3:30 – 3:50  Coffee Break (Performing Arts Center – Futterer Lounge)
Session 4  RNA Structure Informs Function
Chair: Marlene Belfort, Distinguished Professor, Interim Director, The RNA Institute, University at Albany

3:50 – 4:30  Keynote: ‘The Structure and Function of the Ribosome Complexes with Various Protein Factors and Antibiotics’
Tom Steitz, Sterling Professor of Molecular Biophysics and Biochemistry Sciences at Yale University; Howard Hughes Medical Institute Investigator; 2009 Nobel Laureate Co-Prize Recipient in Chemistry

4:30 – 4:50  ‘Understanding Human Ribosome Biogenesis and Nucleolar Structure’
Denis L. J. Lafontaine, FRS/ F.N.R.S. Université Libre de Bruxelle

4:50 – 5:05  ‘Widespread Influences of 3’-end Structures on Mammalian mRNA Processing and Stability’
Xuebing Wu*, Postdoctoral Scholar at Bartel Laboratory, Massachusetts Institute of Technology

5:05 – 5:20  ‘RNA Secondary Structure Regulates Translation Control’
Katarina TlucKova*, Postdoctoral Scholar at Rangan Laboratory, University at Albany

5:30 – 7:30  Closing Reception (Campus Center Ballroom)
Cocktails and Hor d’oeuvres, Awards and Survey Raffle Prizes

Organizing Committee: Alan Chen, Joan Curcio, Bijan Dey, Melinda Larsen and Prash Rangan
*Presentation award winners