



THE NEWSLETTER OF THE PASTEUR FOUNDATION DEVOTED TO THE WORLD OF THE INSTITUT PASTEUR

MEET THE FELLOWS: JOE DRAGAVON, PhD

Editor's note: We asked Chelsea Samson, recipient of a Summer 2010 Undergraduate Internship, to interview her research mentor, Dr. Joe Dragavon. Joe is a Florence Gould Scholar in our Postdoctoral Fellowship Program. They spent the summer working under the direction of Dr. Spencer Shorte, who heads the institute's Dynamic Imaging Platform, and who shares Joe's enthusiasm for mentoring young scientists. Chelsea is a senior at Vanderbilt University.

A Mentor Among the Microscopes

by Chelsea Samson

Chelsea Samson: *Your father is a chemistry teacher, and your mother is a lab supervisor. Did your parents ignite and support your interest in the sciences?*

Joe Dragavon: My parents supported all of our interests. They let us choose our own path – my older brother is a nurse, and my younger brother is a professional soccer player and coach – but they always emphasized education. As long as we did our best, they were happy.

C.S.: *Describe your work and how it brought you to Dr. Spencer Shorte's high-tech microscopy unit.*

J.D.: The research for my doctoral thesis was multi-disciplinary. It focused on observing oxygen consumption by single cells using a fluorescent probe, a new imaging technique to monitor the probe, and a new single-cell isolation system. When I applied for this fellowship, Spencer expressed the need to observe oxygen concentrations in living samples using the same imaging modality that I had helped develop. As the head of an imaging platform used by scientists throughout the campus, he also needed someone who could communicate across many fields. I was very fortunate to be awarded the fellowship.

C.S.: *How much of imaging is imagination? Do you always understand what you see through the microscope?*

J.D.: It is important to keep an open mind when you are interpreting your images. Often, you see a pattern. Perhaps this pattern, if it can be identified and reproduced, will open up a new project or new direction

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Our 2010 Award Winners, Pasteurized!

by Caitlin M. Hawke

The theme of pasteurization was apt for our Spring gala that honored Nobelist Muhammad Yunus and French industry leader Franck Riboud for their joint venture, Grameen Danone, a social business conceived to make nutritious, fortified yogurt products available in Bangladesh. Held under the patronage of Bernard Kouchner, Minister of Foreign and European Affairs of the French Republic; Pierre Vimont, Ambassador of France to the United States; and Philippe Lalliot, French Consul General in New York; and chaired by François Sarkozy and Gustavo Valle, the evening raised \$935,000, a near record-setting amount. Particular thanks are due to our corporate partners Sanofi-Pasteur, Danone, The Dannon Company, Publicis Healthcare Communications Group and to our cherished benefactors Anne Cox Chambers, Judith P. Sulzberger, and Kristina and Guy Wildenstein.

We also wish to thank all the gala leaders, including Luc de Clapiers, Jean-Jacques Garaud, Agnès Hibon and Pascal F. Wirz, as well as the many generous donors who supported the May event.

*For additional gala pictures, please visit our website:
www.pasteurfoundation.org/galaphotos.shtml*

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Gala Chairman François Sarkozy, Pasteur Award Winners Muhammad Yunus and Franck Riboud, Institut Pasteur President Alice Dautry, and Gala Chairman Gustavo Valle

