

PASTEUR PERSPECTIVES

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

WILLIAM J. CLINTON RECEIVES PASTEUR FOUNDATION AWARD

by Caitlin Hawke

In light of his humanitarian work through the Clinton Foundation HIV/AIDS Initiative and, in particular, for his considerable efforts to make HIV testing and treatment accessible and affordable to patients in the developing world, the Institut Pasteur and the Pasteur Foundation honored Bill Clinton in April 2005. Under the patronage of Ambassador Jean-David Levitte and Consul General François Delattre, the gala was a tremendous success.

There are only a few individuals who have the ability to affect true change in the realm of AIDS; even fewer have made it a personal priority. Therefore, President Clinton was an ideal recipient of the Pasteur Foundation Award, which recognizes those who share the concern of the mission of the Institut Pasteur: to improve public



Pasteur Foundation American Advisory Board Chairman Elizabeth Fondaras and Ambassador Jean-David Levitte congratulating President Clinton

health for the benefit of mankind. The 2004 recipients, Anne Cox Chambers and Judith P. Sulzberger, assisted in presenting the award – a 1886 print from *Judge* depicting President Cleveland as Louis Pasteur (see page 5 for details). During his remarkable and stirring acceptance speech, President Clinton congratulated the Institut Pasteur for its dedication to research on infectious diseases and encouraged the audience of 450 people to continue their involvement in and support of this mission.

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A NEW PRESIDENT FOR THE INSTITUT PASTEUR

On October 1, 2005, Alice Dautry, Ph.D., became president of the Institut Pasteur. Named in September by the board of trustees chaired by François Ailleret, Dr. Dautry succeeds Dr. Philippe Kourilsky, who stepped down on July 31 after five years in the position and has since been named honorary president.

A doctor of sciences, Dr. Dautry, 55, is a cellular biologist who has worked at the Institut Pasteur since 1977. Prior to being named president, she directed a Pasteur research unit associated with the Centre National de la Recherche Scientifique, where she studied immune-system receptors and infections caused by intracellular bacteria.

Dr. Dautry has had a dual training: she studied solid-state physics in France and molecular biology in the United States. She has made several extended trips to the United States and was a visiting scientist at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. Since the beginning of her career, she has simultaneously been both researcher and educator. She is currently a course director at the Institut Pasteur and a professor at the Ecole Polytechnique. She has also performed research evaluation and scientific council duties at the Institut Pasteur and the CNRS, among other organizations.



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GO EAST, YOUNG BACTERIOLOGIST!

by John Rohde, Ph.D.

Dr. Rohde, the Anne Cox Chambers Scholar of the Pasteur Foundation Fellowship Program, is a bacteriologist who came to the Institut Pasteur from a fellowship at Duke University. When he is not investigating what makes bacteria virulent, one might find him running an ultramarathon or flyfishing for trout. Below is his account of how he came to apply for our program.

When I began closing in on the end of my Ph.D. studies at the University of British Columbia, I started to consider my postdoctoral training and realized that choosing where to go would be a difficult decision. My thesis work at UBC had focused on gene regulation in the budding yeast *Saccharomyces cerevisiae*, and I liked working on yeast. I had earned a master's degree at the University of Idaho in bacteriology, where I'd studied bacterial virulence in *Yersinia*; I liked that too. So I sought advice from many people in hope that the choice between doing a fellowship on yeast or bacterial virulence would become clear. Most of the advice I got was vague and, in fact, not very helpful. "Go to a good place." "Go to a lab that publishes well." One suggestion that I heard more than once was to listen to what Julian E.

Davies might have to tell me. I knew Dr. Davies only by reputation. An emeritus professor at UBC and a past president of the American Society for Microbiology, he had done a lot of very nice science throughout his career, and he was supposed to be a good guy to talk to. I told Dr. Davies about my background and my dilemma. He listened carefully and asked a few questions. "Was I willing to leave North America?" "What did I want to do after my postdoctoral training?" When we finished talking he hit me with the kind of confident and specific advice that I had been seeking: "Well, if I were a young person willing to live anywhere

and interested in bacterial virulence, I would go to the Institut Pasteur."

Gulp!

It was good advice, but I didn't take it right away. Instead, I stayed with yeast and went to Duke Medical Center, where I loved my work on the mechanism of rapamycin, an immunosuppressive drug used to help transplant patients and those recovering from heart surgeries. Rapamycin stops cell growth in yeast the same way that it does in mammalian cells. By using the powerful genetics in yeast, one can get answers faster; in fact, most of what we know about how rapamycin works was elucidated first in yeast.

After a few years, I began to think again of returning to the study of my "first love," bacterial virulence. The difference was that now I was a yeast zealot. Convinced that all good biological problems could be answered using the genetics of *Saccharomyces*, I decided to use yeast to find the functions of the virulence factors in *Shigella*. *Shigella* causes

dysentery and is responsible for killing about a million people a year. Most of the fatalities are children under the age of five in the developing world, wherever sanitation problems exist. There is currently no effective vaccine to protect against it and, before we can develop strategies to combat *Shigella*, we need a more complete understanding of how it operates. To do my work this time, I knew exactly where I wanted to go.

I contacted Philippe Sansonetti at the Institut Pasteur and explained my goal. Intrigued by the project because of its potential new approach to a difficult problem, he offered to



John Rohde

THE FACTS

NAME: John Rohde
 DATE OF BIRTH: December 11, 1968
 PLACE OF BIRTH: Oregon City, Oregon
 DEGREES, YEARS (INSTITUTIONS):
 B.S. (1991): Bacteriology (University of Idaho, Moscow, Idaho)
 M.S. (1993): Bacteriology (University of Idaho, Moscow, Idaho)
 Ph.D. (2000): Biochemistry (University of British Columbia, Vancouver, British Columbia)
 LAST POSITION: Postdoctoral Fellow
 LAST ADDRESS: Duke University Medical Center (Durham, North Carolina)
 MENTORS: Joe Heitman and Maria Cardenas
 MOST PERSONALLY MEANINGFUL DISCOVERY: improving our understanding of the function of rapamycin (an immunosuppressive drug used in transplantation, preventing complications following heart surgery, and treatment of certain cancers)

THE LIGHTER SIDE

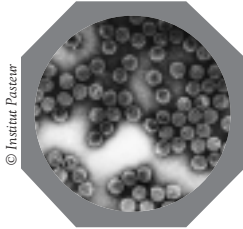
HOME ARRONDISEMENT: 15th
 FAVORITE METRO STATION: PASTEUR
 FAVORITE PARISIAN TOURIST SITE: the Seine on Sundays when the roads are closed
 FAVORITE GUILTY PARISIAN PLEASURE: the charcuterie at Daguerre Poissonnerie
 FAVORITE FILM: a tie between *Razor's Edge* and *Fight Club*
 ARE YOU A FAN OF
 WOODY ALLEN: yes
 JERRY LEWIS: some of his stuff with Dean Martin
 FAVORITE WINE: Château de Beaucastel—a Châteauneuf-du-Pape
 FAVORITE CHEESE: Brin d'Amour
 CURRENT BEDSIDE READING: *Les neiges du Kilimanjaro* (I can follow Hemingway's writing in French) and *The Corrections* by Jonathan Franzen
 MAC OR PC: Mac
 WHAT THE FRENCH DO BETTER THAN AMERICANS: balance work and family
 WHAT AMERICANS DO BETTER THAN THE FRENCH: wait in line properly
 WHAT YOU MISS MOST ABOUT THE U.S.: big clean rivers full of wild trout
 WHAT YOU THINK YOU'LL MISS MOST ABOUT FRANCE: bread!

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MORE TO THE POINT: NEWS IN BRIEF FROM PASTEUR

HOPE FOR WOMEN: A VACCINE AGAINST CANCER

Pasteur scientists have demonstrated the efficacy in animals of a cervical cancer vaccine based on immunotherapy. Targeting the human papillomavirus at the origin of most cervical cancers, the vaccine produced a complete regression of tumors in all subjects after one application. The second most common cancer in women, it is responsible for 230,000 deaths and 500,000 new cases each year. These results, published in *Cancer Research* early this year, pave the way to clinical trials in humans.



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The work is the result of a collaboration among scientists from the Institut Pasteur, INSERM, CNRS and BT Pharma.

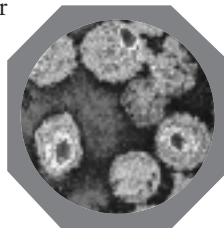
Cervical cancer is caused by certain viruses in the papillomavirus family.

KICKING THE HABIT: IT'S ALL IN THE BRAIN

Researchers from the Institut Pasteur and CNRS have revealed for the first time how and where nicotine dependence develops in mice. Published in July in *Nature*, the work demonstrates that dependence is linked to the expression of a receptor molecule for nicotine that is also involved in individuals' cognitive abilities. For the first time, therefore, the existence of anatomical and molecular links between nicotine dependence and cognitive abilities has been established. Understanding nicotine's subtle mechanisms should lead to more effective tools in the fight against smokers' addictions.

THE GATES TO VITAL VACCINES The Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation granted \$9 million in June to an international research consortium led by the Institut Pasteur and the German Research Center of Biotechnology for a project to develop vaccines against hepatitis C and HIV. The consortium's proposal unites the various leading researchers in each domain, lending strength to the program to develop such vitally needed vaccines. Indeed, the project tackles one of the most urgent health problems in countries of the developing world, home to the vast majority of the 170 million people infected with the hepatitis C virus (HCV). Those affected often die as a result of liver cirrhosis or cancer of the liver. Additionally, it is estimated that 40 million people are living with HIV globally, 95% of whom are in developing countries. The most efficient way of fighting HCV would be mass vaccinations with an effective and easily used vaccine. Additional participants are Rockefeller University, the German Medical School, the University of Amsterdam and the Necker Hospital.

Human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) is the cause of AIDS. Pictured is HIV-2, isolated at the Institut Pasteur in 1985.



© Institut Pasteur

Source: Institut Pasteur

"PASTEURIENNES" À L'HONNEUR

Two members of the Pasteur Foundation American Advisory Board have recently been named Knights in the Legion of Honor, the highest honor of France, established by Napoleon in 1802. We offer our congratulations and thanks to these advocates of our mission.

∞ Agnès Hibon ∞

A French-American in the truest sense, Agnès Hibon bridges the gap between the countries she calls home with fidelity to both, primarily by way of her laudable charitable work. Raised in Normandy, Mrs. Hibon grew up with an inherent fondness for Americans. Her instinct to help others was perhaps instilled by her father, who was a doctor. We are thankful for both these circumstances, because for eight years Mrs. Hibon has married them in her work as a member of our Advisory Board. Indeed, she has become a driving force of our annual gala. Her enthusiasm for advancing the research to improve public health conducted at the Institut Pasteur has impacted many of her friends and acquaintances, prompting them to support us in our efforts to bring American researchers to Paris.

∞ Judith P. Sulzberger, M.D. ∞

A founding Advisory Board member, Dr. Sulzberger has been a great champion of our activities for over 16 years. Culminating a career dedicated to the practice of medicine with keen emphasis on public health, she played a key role in the establishment of the Columbia University Genome Center. From her involvement in this center, a project to investigate the genetic code of the mosquito that transmits malaria developed between Columbia and the Institut Pasteur. Two of the first U.S. postdoctoral fellows in our program were selected to work on this project with excellent results. We are honored to count her as a friend, benefactor and advisor.

Both of these new *légionnaires* inspire us to remember the words of Epicurus: "It is not so much our friends' help that helps us, as the confidence of their help." We are fortunate to have both their help and confidence.

GO EAST, YOUNG BACTERIOLOGIST!

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take me on in his lab, provided that I could obtain funding. I soon got word that I had been selected as a Pasteur Foundation fellow, which meant that I would be conducting research at the world-renowned Institut Pasteur in a beautiful city in a country that I had visited just once, and where they spoke a language that I didn't understand. Luckily my wife did.

Finally settled in, I cannot believe how quickly time is flying by and how much I am enjoying it. I took two months of intensive French courses; though I am not close to what I'd call fluent, I can now follow what people are saying, have conversations, and get the most out of my time here. And I find myself feeling at home in Paris in a way that I never anticipated.

The Institut Pasteur is truly a wonderful place to do science. Here we have all the facilities that we need to do quality research in an environment with a rich history that one can't help but be inspired by each day. Its emphasis on infectious disease and its many high-caliber labs all with common interests are great assets; there just aren't many comparable places in North America. I have learned many things here that have made me a better scientist and found the experience a great complement to the training that I received in North America. Our results have been well received by colleagues at conferences in Berlin, Bratislava and Atlanta. And, excited with the progress, we are preparing an article to submit to a prestigious journal.

I am very appreciative of the Pasteur Foundation's donors for enabling the creation of this fellowship. With the Pasteur Foundation's help in maintaining connections with North America, I plan to find a faculty position at an American university. In spite of the fact that the time has come for me to think about leaving Paris, I plan to keep pursuing the research that I am doing now. This is my best work yet.

PASTEUR PERSPECTIVES

A 501(c)(3) organization, the Pasteur Foundation is the U.S. nonprofit affiliate of the Institut Pasteur. Located in New York City, the foundation works to introduce the research conducted at the Institut Pasteur to the American public, to develop exchanges between Pasteurian and U.S. scientists, and to raise funds for Pasteurian research. For more information, please contact the Pasteur Foundation.

A copy of the latest annual report may be obtained, upon written request, from the Office of the Attorney General, Charities Bureau, 120 Broadway, New York, New York 10271.

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A RARE POLITICAL CARTOON FROM 1886

by Bert Hansen, Ph.D.

Dr. Hansen is a professor of history at Baruch College of The City University of New York, where he teaches the history of science and medicine, among other courses. He is the author of numerous scholarly articles, including a remarkable account¹ of how Louis Pasteur's rabies treatment became "hot news" in the United States thanks to the episode described below. We are delighted that he shares his expertise with our readers.

During his lifetime, Louis Pasteur was best known internationally for discovering the rabies vaccine in 1885 – an event that led to the creation of the Institut Pasteur. This event also opened the door to relations with the United States. Soon after Pasteur treated an Alsatian boy named Joseph Meister in Paris, four American children who were bitten by a dog in Newark were sent to Paris for rabies treatment. This event received massive press coverage and made Pasteur a household name in America. In January 1886, when the healthy children returned via the port of New York, they became national celebrities, and a statue of Pasteur supervising a vaccination soon appeared in a New York City wax museum.

This story was so much on everyone's mind that, in February 1886, the weekly satirical review *Judge* featured Pasteur's famous vaccine at the key scene in its large centerfold (below). Here President Grover

Cleveland is depicted as "Pasteur Cleveland" vaccinating government against corruption. Just as a wax museum is filled with the day's most famous personalities and cultural references, the cartoon is filled with political caricatures of 1886: Joseph Pulitzer as Lady Liberty, the Tiger of Tammany Hall, Topsy from *Uncle Tom's Cabin*, three little maids from the hit show *The Mikado*, and many others.

When this artist used the image of Pasteur's rabies vaccination to indicate his support for the President's promotion of civil service reform, he understood that this powerful image of the new life-saving remedy of immunization would speak loudly to the millions of Americans who were reading and talking about Pasteur's first American patients.

Editor's note:
Would you like to take a stab at identifying the caricatures in this cartoon? Visit <http://www.pasteurfoundation.org/JudgeCenterfold.html> for a key to the figures, and e-mail your answers to PasteurUS@aol.com.

¹ "America's First Medical Breakthrough: How Popular Excitement About a French Rabies Cure in 1885 Raised New Expectations of Medical Progress," *American Historical Review* 103:2 (April 1998), 373-418.



"Judge's Wax Works – The Political Eden Musée"
Chromolithograph by T. Bernhard Gillam published in *Judge*, February 20, 1886

Bert Hansen Collection, New York City

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WILLIAM J. CLINTON RECEIVES PASTEUR FOUNDATION AWARD continued from page 1

The evening's theme was a *dégustation* of French wine graciously donated by vintners Hubert de Boüiard de Laforest and Jean Trimbach. Tying the wine theme to Louis Pasteur, Dr. Bert Hansen discussed his method of pasteurization, which became widely used in Pasteur's day to keep wine batches from spoiling. Citing this innovation at the time, a West Coast winemaker said enthusiastically that Pasteur is "now as popular as the President of the United States" among vintners. The evening ended with an auction of donated fine wines including two special lots: a magnum of champagne produced expressly for President Clinton's first inauguration in 1993 and a VIP visit to the Château Angéhus vineyard with a stopover at two Parisian hotels, the Lancaster and Montalembert. Sotheby's talented Jamie Ritchie ran the auction at lightening speed, helping to bring the grand total raised to over \$770,000.

On behalf of all their fellow 2005 Gala leaders, Elizabeth Fondaras, Agnès Hibon, Antonia Milonas, Luc de Clapiers and Jean-Jacques Garaud send great thanks particularly to underwriter Sanofi Pasteur and Dave Williams as well as to each and every donor.

To view gala photographs, please visit:

www.pasteurfoundation.org

To make a gift or to receive an invitation to the 2006 gala,
please contact the Pasteur Foundation.

Please consult our website for details: www.pasteurfoundation.org

Friday, February 3, 2006.

Postdoctoral Fellowship Program applications are due

Thursday, December 15, 2005.

in two parts beginning on

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