



Forum in Focus

SPRING 2010

President's Letter

Dear Forum Members,

Over the past couple of months, I have had the honor of spending a considerable amount of time at SFBR while I have "pitched-in" and assisted in the donor and community affairs programs. The understanding I have gained has given me a far better grasp than I ever had of the people that make this great organization what it is. My commitment as a member of the Forum was reinforced. I saw and heard firsthand the impact of our work and donations.

While at the Foundation, I sat in on a lecture entitled "Overcoming, or Circumventing, the Obstacles to an AIDS Vaccine." Looking around the room, I could see the 100 or so researchers in the audience so intent on what was being said as I sat there thinking "could you repeat that?"

On another day, I went to a meeting with a scientist who presented a report to a donor family on a finding she had made where she looked at the relationship one gene might have on its neighboring gene, and the possible implications this finding could have on many different diseases. As she played down her research finding, her colleague stopped her in mid-sentence and praised her work as "elegant," "very important," and said it could possibly open many doors of discovery.



Terry Gouger

All the while I asked myself "what part could I possibly have in any of this?" Then I remembered a quote I had read some years back, "We are all geniuses in our own way." Not all of us can be molecular biologists, population geneticists, or virologists, but we all have our own strengths. Over the years, I have seen genius in each of our Board members and unparalleled enthusiasm for what this group of women "can" do. I, through my experience over the last two months, can assure you that our work as members of

the Forum directly impacts important programs at SFBR – whether it is seed money through Forum Grants that brings a new potential breakthrough to life or helping to introduce another citizen to our community's true research "gem" – we are all working to improve the health of our global community through innovative biomedical research.

Paola Lloyd, Mary Beth Mosbacker & Kathleen LeFlore (Gala Chair, Co-Chair and Assistant) are the epitome of what the Forum represents. For over a year they have worked with a score of other volunteers to bring us the Forum's annual gala, Esplendores de la Cultura Mexicana, to be held Saturday May 1st. This event will delight the senses with its décor, food and entertainment. These women have worked tirelessly to gather fantastic raffle items including vacations to Puerto Vallarta and Napa Valley and smaller packages that are equally as exciting. If you cannot attend the gala, don't miss out on the opportunity to call one of these packages your own by going on-line to purchase your tickets at www.swff.org.

The purpose of the Southwest Foundation Forum is to support the Southwest Foundation for Biomedical Research through community relations, volunteer service and fundraising.

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THE PRESIDENT'S LETTER

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The Forum continues its community involvement and education through its Lecture Luncheons, Science Education Awards and Student Tours. The March lecture luncheon, spearheaded by Karen Lee Zachry and Julie Zacher, featured Dr. John Blangero, who is world renowned for his work as a statistical geneticist.

As the director of the AT&T Genomics Computing Center at SFBR – the largest cluster in the world dedicated to genomics – Dr. Blangero described his milestone work in the genetics of brain structure and function.

Overseen by Sally Sullivan and Chaney Stuart, and aided by the support of the V. H. McNutt Foundation, the Forum's Science Education Awards gifted \$20,000 to seven high school recipients for their projects in the field of science. The continuing support of the L.D. Ormsby Foundation allowed smaller gifts to go to non-winning schools and all teachers that submitted qualifying applications.

Student Tours of the Foundation were organized by Mary Herff and Jennifer McLiney. These tours allow students an up-close experience of science at its best. The interest spurred at these tours is evidenced by the students thought-provoking questions.

Suzanne Dabbous has been tenacious in streamlining the membership renewal/joining process. This year was the first ever recruitment by e-mail with hopes that in the future this could become a paperless endeavor.

As my tenure as President comes to a close, I am filled with mixed feelings. I am sad this time has flown by so quickly, grateful for all the friends I have made along the way, and excited about the future of the Forum. Next month, Karen Lee Zachry will be coming in as our 41st President – she is a true leader and this has been evidenced by every position she has held while on the Board. I will always hold SWFF close to my heart . . . thank you for this experience.



Terry Gouger
President

SWFF Spring Lecture Luncheon a Success

On Wednesday, March 31st, the members of the Southwest Foundation Forum were treated to an interesting and lively presentation by one of the Southwest Foundation for Biomedical Research's premier scientists, Dr. John Blangero. Over 175 guests were present to hear Dr. Blangero talk on the topic "What Our Genes Tell Us."

Dr. Blangero is a statistical geneticist who led an SFBR team that developed the software used by more than 3,000 researchers world-wide to identify genes that influence the risk of disease. Using more than 4,000 computer servers – and that number continues to grow every day – Dr. Blangero and his team endeavor to localize and identify genes which influence heart disease, diabetes, obesity, epilepsy, behavioral and psychiatric disorders, cancer,

osteoporosis and cystinosis.

Dr. Blangero helped educate our members about the relative impact of genetic and environmental factors on every-



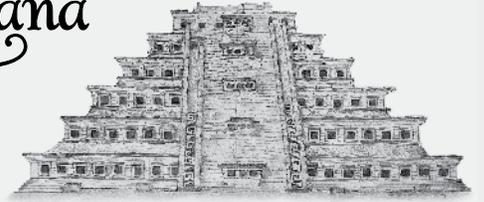
thing from the likelihood of developing a particular disease to a person's IQ. He also educated the group on the practical applications we may come to see from his research, including the possibility for targeted drugs and therapies based on an individual's particular genotype.

Our thanks to Dr. Blangero for his informative and interesting presentation!



Esplendores de la Cultura Mexicana

SWFF Gala 2010



The upcoming Forum event of the spring is the much anticipated gala, Esplendores de la Cultura Mexicana – a celebration of the splendors of the culture of Mexico. This year's event, to be held on May 1st, marks the 40th anniversary of the gala, and over these last forty years there have been hundreds of volunteers who have dedicated thousands of hours of their time to this party. Gala 2010 is dedicated to these ladies and their enduring spirit of volunteerism – they have helped to raise both funds and awareness for the life-changing research being done at the Southwest Foundation for Biomedical Research.

Our team this year is in the process of putting the finishing touches onto what promises to be a night of sophisticated fun inspired by the ancient and modern culture, food, and beauty of Mexico. Thanks to the hard work of the invitations committee, the celebration will begin the day your beautiful invitation arrives. Your evening will be filled with exciting surprises from the moment you enter the grounds of the historic Argyle Club. The logistics, table sales, and favors committees will have your table selected and prepared for you and your guests. The entertainment, food, and decorations committees will amaze you with the experiences they have in store as they immerse you in the cultural splendors of Mexico! The surprise committee (a new addition for this year) will keep you guessing right up until the

final moment what they have in store for us! The after-party will welcome additional friends to enjoy the after-dinner festivities. The highlight of the late evening will be the announcement of the raffle winners. This year's spectacular packages were compiled through the tireless efforts of our acquisition and raffle committees. Gala 2010 would not be possible without the dedication of a tremendous group of women who have volunteered their time over the last year.

Thanks, also, to everyone who has supported the gala with donations to Forum Grants, raffle packages, and the purchase of tables. It is going to be a night to celebrate each of you, as well as the efforts of SWFF and SFBR, as we work together to make our world a better and healthier place for today and tomorrow.

Esplendores de la Cultura Mexicana Raffle Packages

Following is a list of the six raffle packages for this year's gala.

Tickets may be purchased prior to the event, online, and at the gala.

Payment may be made in cash, check, or credit card. You need not be present to win.

All taxes are the responsibility of the winners.

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Esplendores de la Cultura Mexicana

Raffle Packages

\$100 Raffle Ticket

Bienvenidos a Mexico!

\$15,000 value

Up to 10 guests may enjoy a luxurious five-night getaway in the breathtaking Hacienda Palo Maria in Puerto Vallarta, Mexico. This magnificent oceanfront villa, formerly owned by Red McCombs, will offer you and your guests every amenity possible as you escape to paradise. Upon arrival in Puerto Vallarta, you will be picked up by uniformed chauffeurs to take you and your guests to the grand Old Vallarta-style Hacienda. Your stay will include the culinary expertise of two trained chefs, your own major domo, who, for a small fee, can arrange a wide array of spa services in your room or on the beach, a bartender, a professional wait staff, and onsite security. Each of the suites at the Hacienda is luxuriously appointed with cable television and laptops with high-speed internet connection. The Hacienda boasts one of the most scenic locations on the Mexican Riviera, and the meticulously groomed grounds house a bird sanctuary licensed by the Mexican government. Spend your days lounging in one of the two pools or on your own private secluded beach, or have the staff arrange an excursion into town. As a bon voyage gift, the winner will receive a bottle of tequila and a set of monogrammed beach towels to accompany you on your Mexican sojourn!

(This package is non-transferable. Your trip must occur in the months of March, April, May, October, or November.)

***Donated by Mr. and Mrs. Philip W. Stewart,
Memory Lane and Mr. and Mrs. Sean Gunn***



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\$100 Raffle Ticket
One Grape Adventure
\$15,000 value

Indulge your passion for world-class Cabernet Sauvignon as the Palmaz family hosts a Napa Valley Grape Escape. These former San Antonio residents have followed their hearts and relocated to beautiful Napa Valley, where they have revived an historic Napa vineyard and built a state-of-the-art 15-story underground wine cave. The Palmaz Vineyards is truly a magical place. Join the family on their fabulous wine journey as you discover the secrets of producing the finest cult Napa Cabernet. This exclusive wine country getaway is available March thru July 2011 and includes:



Palmaz Vineyards



- Four coach tickets on United Airlines from San Antonio to San Francisco.
- 2-night stay for two couples at the exquisite Meadowood Resort in St. Helena.
- Complimentary round of golf at the Meadowood Resort for four people.
- Private tour and tasting at Palmaz Vineyards led by the family. Get to know this historic pre-prohibition vineyard, explore inside the largest underground winery in the world, and taste from the barrels for a sneak preview of the 2008 vintage.
- Dinner at the historic 1886 Estate home prepared and hosted by Amalia and Julio Palmaz.
- After dinner, Julio Palmaz will be delighted to share with you his private collection of historic racing Porsches. The collection is so prestigious that the Porsche museum in Stuttgart has replicas of 5 of the 13 cars for their museum.
- Two elegantly branded wooden cases each containing six bottles of 2006 Palmaz Estate Cabernet.



Donated by Dr. and Mrs. Julio Palmaz

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Esplendores de la Cultura Mexicana – \$50 Raffle Packages

Start Spreading the News

– \$4500 VALUE –

Fashionista couples rejoice! A fashion-focused getaway to New York City awaits you and your significant other, complements of Julian Gold and JS Satel Custom Clothier.

Begin your journey with two complimentary round-trip airline tickets to and from New York. To ensure that you travel in style, you will receive a gorgeous ladies' designer carry-on bag for the flight and beyond. Enjoy two complimentary nights at a premier New York hotel where, upon your arrival, you will have an in-room champagne welcome. During your stay, receive the ultimate star treatment with a visit to renowned designer Chris Kole's showroom. There, you will receive VIP treatment with a custom made cocktail dress or evening gown just for you . . . all provided by San Antonio's fashion icon – Julian Gold! Joey Satel provides the best in San Antonio gentlemen's custom tailoring, and for the lucky man in this fashion duo package, JS Custom Clothier will custom-make a suit tailored to his specifications.

Donated by Julian Gold and JS Satel Custom Clothier

Elegant Evening at the Argyle

– \$4500 VALUE –

Host a private wine dinner, valued at \$1200, at the Argyle Club. Don't lift a finger as all the details have been taken care of for you! You're Invited Fine Stationery will provide beautiful invitations and Flair Floral of the RK Group will custom design a gorgeous floral centerpiece. In preparation for the party, pamper yourself with a day of beauty at the Saks Fifth Avenue Club with makeup and private wardrobe consultations for four ladies. Be a bejeweled hostess with a stunning black pearl Mariquita Masterson necklace.

Arrive in style at the Argyle in an Infiniti G37 coupe automobile. This weekend rental is courtesy of Gunn Automotive.

Finally, adorn your table for the party with a decorative home décor item from Hanley Wood and a lovely sterling silver and Murano glass bowl and plate from the Lloyd, Augustine, Anderson Group at UBS.

Donated by The Argyle, You're Invited Fine Stationery & Invitations, Flair Floral – a division of The RK Group, Saks Fifth Avenue Club, Gunn Automotive, Mariquita Masterson, Hanley Wood and The Lloyd, Augustine, Anderson Group at UBS

Let's Rodeo San Antonio

– \$4200 VALUE –

Round up your friends for a VIP night at the 2011 San Antonio Stock Show & Rodeo! Your adventure begins with a trip to Bass Pro Shop for a \$1,000 shopping spree for all the western and outdoor gear you might need for the rodeo and beyond. On your big night, Limo Lounge limousine service will provide round-trip transportation for you and your guests to a weeknight rodeo of your choice. Your six Charter Level seats overlook the center of the arena where you will have optimal views of the rodeo and concert. Your tickets include access to the Terrace Club, VIP entrance, and two reserved parking passes. Get outfitted in chic rodeo attire with a gorgeous Dian Malouf large sterling silver Roman Coin ring, as well as a gift certificate to Ranch at the Rim Western Clothing Store (\$500 value). Enjoy a case of beer from Bud Light / Silver Eagle Distributors, L.P. Finally, the rodeo-champion who wins this prize package will take home your very own Longhorn calf so the rodeo never has to end!

Donated by Limo Lounge, Shelton and Zoch families, www.dian-malouf.com, Ranch at the Rim, Bud Light / Silver Eagle Distributors, L.P. and Azar Minerals

Fins and Fans

– \$5500 VALUE –

Football and fishing – could there be a better combination? Sports enthusiasts, you will love this “surf and turf” experience which includes football-watching in Austin and fishing in Port Aransas. Start your adventure in Austin where you will have four tickets and a parking pass to the Texas vs. UCLA game on September 25, 2010. Cheer on the Longhorns from your 20-yard line seats in the Alumni section, and get into true UT spirit with a case of your favorite Silver Eagle distributors beer, a burnt orange guayabera and turquoise & cowhide Jon Hart large tote bag. Receive two rooms for two-night accommodations at the Four Seasons Hotel and dine at three of Austin's most popular and delicious restaurants: Lamberts Downtown Barbeque (\$125 gift certificate), Uchi (\$150 gift certificate) and Perla's (\$100 gift certificate). After the football frenzy, escape to a private offshore fishing excursion for up to five people in Port Aransas.* Sail on the spectacular Aquí No Mas, a 50-foot Hatteras Sport Fisher that will be stocked with food, drinks, and fuel. When you finish your fabulous fishing excursion, enjoy a sunset dinner for two at Beulah's Tarpon Inn Restaurant.

*Charter cannot be scheduled during fishing tournaments (which are scheduled 3-4 weeks out of the summer).

Donated by: Sue and Dudley Snyder, Jon Hart, Reagan Williamson & Hawaiiabera, Lauren and Thomas Moorman, Dr. and Mrs. Lewis Radicke, Lincoln Heights Animal Hospital and Bud Light / Silver Eagle Distributors, L.P.

SFBR Scientists Look for Genes for Psychiatric Disorders

Scientists at SFBR and the U.T. Health Science Center are performing some cutting-edge research on genetics, trying to pinpoint which genes influence the risk of health problems like depression, Alzheimer's, ADHD and schizophrenia. They are using brain scans to determine what is normal, looking at brain formations and functions, showing which areas of the brain light up when certain tasks are performed and when a person is at rest.

Hundreds of scans in San Antonio are being processed at the SFBR, where genetics software and a giant computer system are trying to pin-point specific genes that could eventually give doctors markers for these mysterious psychiatric and neurological illnesses.

The scans are processed at SFBR's AT&T Genomics Computing Center which is overseen by John Blangero, Ph.D. The center houses the world's largest computer cluster for human genetic and genomic research which allows scientists to search for disease-influencing genes at record speed.

Two recent studies published in the Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences offered evidence that genetics play a role in what's called the "default mode" network, the regions of the brain you use when you're day-dreaming or letting your mind wander. Abnormalities in the default mode network can influence interpersonal interactions and decisions and how we cope.

The brain is one of the final frontiers of modern medicine. Using images to help crack the genetic code of inherited tendencies could revolutionize how many diseases are diagnosed and eventually treated.

Llama Proteins and the War on Terror

Andrew Hayhurst, Ph.D. of SFBR and his colleagues have, for the first time, developed a highly sensitive means of detecting the seven types of botulinum neurotoxins (BoNTs) simultaneously. The finding may lead to improved techniques for testing water and food supplies should BoNTs be used as a bio-terrorism weapon.

The BoNT-detecting substances are anti-bodies – proteins made by the body to fight diseases – found in llamas. BoNT are about 100 billion times more toxic than cyanide, and, collectively, they are the only toxins in the federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) "category A" list of potential bioterror threats alongside anthrax, Ebola virus and other infectious agents.

The llama antibodies, called sdAb or "nanobodies," are molecularly flexible, unlike conventional antibodies. "As such, sdAb may allow biosensors to be regenerable and used over and over without loss of activity. Also, for some types of BoNT, conventional antibodies are not generally available and we are filling this biosecurity gap," said Hayhurst. Since some sdAb have been shown to have

inhibitory activity and can block toxin function, they may play a role as part of a future anti-botulism treatment.

The new work, funded by the Defense Department's Defense Threat Reduction Agency Medical Diagnostics Program, is described in the January 21st issue of the journal PLoS ONE.

"We not only aim to use the antibodies in BoNT detection tests, but also to understand how they bind and inhibit these fascinating molecules," Hayhurst said. "We are also striving to improve our test by making it more sensitive such that one day it may be able to detect much smaller amount of toxins found in patients' blood. Since BoNT also have therapeutic applications with carefully controlled preparations and dosing regimens, there is also an increasing need to monitor BoNT levels in these treatments."

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Foundation Updates

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Contract to Test Vaccines for Bioterror Threats

SFBR has received a contract from the Dutch pharmaceutical firm Crucell to test a vaccine against Ebola and Marburg viruses, which are potential bioterror weapons. The initial contract is for \$456,216 with additional potential subcontracts to be signed worth a further \$2.2 million.

SRBR's Department of Virology and Immunology, chaired by Jean Patterson, Ph.D., will test the immunogenicity and efficacy of a multivalent vaccine against five different strains of the viruses in animal models. SFBR's high-level biocontainment facilities will be used to study the vaccines during the year 2010. The work is part of a \$30 million primary contract awarded to Crucell by the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases of the National Institutes of Health.

Crucell's vaccine is based on inserting genetic material from the disease-causing virus or parasite into a vehicle called a vector, which then delivers the immunogenic material directly to the immune system.

The Ebola and Marburg viruses are capable of causing hemorrhagic fever, a severe, often-fatal disease in

humans characterized by high fever and massive internal bleeding causing death in 50 percent to 80 percent of all cases. Ebola and Marburg outbreaks occur periodically in tropical Africa, affecting both human and great ape populations. Since the Ebola virus was first recognized, approximately 2,200 cases, including over 1,500 deaths, have been reported. To date over 440 cases of Marburg have been reported, with approximately 360 fatalities. Ebola and Marburg usually appear in sporadic outbreaks, and spread within a health-care setting.

Because of the high disease-related mortality rates and lack of any vaccine or therapy, the Ebola and Marburg viruses are on the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention 'category A' list of bioterror agents, (with smallpox and anthrax).

DISCOVERY POND DEDICATION

This fall, 2008-2009 SWFF Science Education Award Co-Chairs, Sally Sullivan and Carol Oliver, along with Valerie Guenther from the V. H. McNutt Memorial Foundation, were thrilled to be invited to a dedication ceremony for the newly completed Water Garden

Project at South San Antonio High School. Science teacher, Pete Alaniz, was awarded \$3500.00 for his 2009 grant proposal titled, "Investigating Pond Environmental Systems." In an effort to beautify their school and enhance their science curriculum, the members of South San Antonio High School Interact Club constructed an attractive water garden called "Discovery Pond" that will serve as an on-campus resource for a variety of scientific investigations. It was wonderful to see how the grant money was put to good use!



2010 SCIENCE EDUCATION AWARDS

This year's Science Education Awards were presented April 14th during the SWFF board meeting. A special luncheon for the winners and judges followed at the Argyle Club.

Chaney Stuart and Sally Sullivan, SWFF Science Education Co-Chairs, met with Valerie Guenther, trustee from the V. H. McNutt Memorial Foundation, along with Joanne Curran, Lorena Havill, and Matt Johnson, all scientists from the Southwest Foundation for Biomedical Research, to determine this year's winners.

It was exciting to read the quality applications that were submitted this year!

1st Place: Michael J. Scully
\$7,000.00

The Purple Martin Research Center
John Jay Science and Engineering Academy

2nd Place: Layne Steinhelper
\$4,500.00

Long-Term Urban Forest Project
Keystone School

3rd Place: Marvin Rudd
\$3,500.00

Water Quality Analysis of the Cibolo
Byron P. Steele High School

Fourth Place: Jason Nydegger – \$2,500.00

CO₂ Incubator for Botanical/Environmental and
Mammalian Tissue Culture Studies

Keystone School

Fifth Place: Greg Schwab & Joe Ingle – \$1,500.00

A Project Based Learning Exercise for the Design and Construction
of Four Rainwater Harvesting, Storage, and Delivery Systems

Pleasanton High School

Honorable Mention: Deborah Baker – \$1,000.00

Technology and Karst Topography Connecting Students and Community with GPS

San Antonio Christian High School

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