

2003 NSF-RCN Retreat

3rd Annual Development, Evaluation, & Dissemination of Methods for the Analysis of Gene Expression by Microarrays

Sept 13-17, 2003

Dear Colleagues,

We are pleased to announce the 3rd annual meeting of the Microarray Research Co-ordination network meeting "Development, Evaluation, & Dissemination of Methods for the Analysis of Gene Expression by Microarrays." This is an NSF funded grant whose goal is to develop an interdisciplinary inter-institutional *Network* of scientists who share this common interest and can work synergistically to make greater progress. The Network includes computer scientists, mathematicians, geneticists, statisticians, bioinformaticists, measurement theorists, and microarray technology experts.

The *Network* is structured to allow investigators with widely varying backgrounds but a common interest in microarray-based research to come together in settings outside the large, often competitive, hectic meetings where they can communicate openly, contemplatively, and without fear of saying "I don't know, what do you think?" Established scientists as well as postdoctoral fellows and graduate students are encouraged to participate. Importantly, the *Network* includes a number of scientists who are actively applying microarrays in their biological studies so that they may provide feedback to the methodologists about what needs remain unmet. These "applied" participants are also essential to facilitate the dissemination component of this program. They will be a major venue through which the methodologists can transmit their developments to the larger research community. To give a flavor for the meeting an agenda of last year's meeting is attached.

The goal of this meeting is a think tank meeting. In order to have a think tank new ideas and people we leave a few (5-10) open to new individuals. Thus we are issuing this invitation for interested people to apply.

Checklist of What You Need to Do

- Mark you calendars!
- If you would like to attend. Please send Grier Page gpage@uab.edu a letter asking to attend and a copy of your CV. Please Respond by **August 8**
- We will make a decision on applications by **August 15** indicating whether space and/or funds are available for the additional members suggested.
- Once you hear back from us, make your own travel arrangements.
- Email your travel itinerary to rsarver@uab.edu ASAP so that we can make your hotel reservations.
- Keep your eyes peeled for the updated agenda.

Location: The location will be the Mohonk Mountain House. For those of you who have not been before, you have a pleasant treat in store. Mohonk is a truly lovely place with opportunities for rock-climbing, swimming, boating, hiking, golf, fishing, and horseback riding. For more details, see: www.mohonk.com.

Dates: Arrival on Sept 13 with the meeting being Sept 14-17, 2002. We will end with lunch on the 17th.

Website: For a description of last year's retreat, pictures, and network members check out <http://www.soph.uab.edu/statgenetics/Microarray/webnew/mrcnAnnualRetreat.asp>.

Who Can (should) Attend? Individuals who are 1) interested in the use and analysis of microarrays and are 2) interested in a collaborative environment to share ideas and potentially develop collaborations.

Applications: Due to the limited number of spaces there is an application process. Send to Dr. Grier Page gpage@uab.edu a letter requesting to attend the meeting outlining your interest in microarray analysis and a copy of your CV or biosketch. Consideration in review will be on 1) interest in microarray analysis 2) expanding the geographic and institution breadth of the network 3) fitting a gap in the skills of network members.

Cost: If invited, for academic individuals there is no cost to attend the meeting other than the cost of the hotel (see below) and travel to the meeting. However, there are a very limited number of available spaces (5-10) and attendance will be by invitation on (See application process). There will be a modest charge for industrial individuals to attend (please contact us for details).

Travel Arrangements: The nearest airport, 25 miles away, is Stewart International Airport in Newburgh. The NY metro airports (LaGuardia, Newark) are about a 2hour car ride away. The Albany airport is about 70 miles away. From any of these airports you can arrange your own ground transportation or with advance notice, you may arrange with Mohonk for a pick-up (call 845-256-2015 for rate information or to request). The meeting will begin the morning of Sept 14 and end by Sept 17 at 3:00 pm. Please plan on arriving the night of Saturday Sept 13 and departing any time after 3:00 pm on the 15th. Please make your own travel arrangements.

In order to help defray costs we will do our best to help co-ordinate the travel from the various airports. Please tell me when and where you will be

Activities: This retreat is not all work. Scientific sessions are held in the morning and evening. The afternoons are free for swimming, hike, golf, and field trips (last

year we went to FDR's house) to allow time for people to get to know each other in a less scientific environment.

Accommodations: The University of Alabama has reserved a block of rooms for the retreat. Please contact Richard Sarver via e-mail (rsarver@uab.edu) as soon as possible with your travel plans, and she will make your reservation. The cost of a single room is \$294. This includes all meals and access to all activities except golf and horseback riding. The cost of a double room is \$209 *per person*, again including all meals and access to all activities except golf and horseback riding.

Scholarships There *may* be funds to provide scholarships in the amount of \$100-\$1500 for a few individuals to attend the meeting. Preference will be given to post docs and graduate students actively involved in microarray methodological research, but without travel funds. When requesting to attend the meeting including a note explaining your experience and that you are requesting to apply for the scholarships.

Presentations: This is a collaborative network, thus we strongly encourage all participants to make presentation. If you would like to make a presentation on either your research or a topic of interested to the group please contact Grier (205-934-4930 or gpage@ms.soph.uab.edu) or David (dallison@uab.edu).

What you need to do: See checklist above.

Questions: Direct questions regarding administrative matters to Richard Sarver (205-975-9169; rsarver@uab.edu). Direct questions regarding scientific/programmatic matters to Grier Page (205-934-4930; gpage@ms.soph.uab.edu).

We look forward to seeing you soon!

David

David B. Allison, Ph.D.

Grier

Grier P. Page, Ph.D.