

2005 NSF-RCN Retreat

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

Sept 19 - 23, 2005

Dear Colleagues,

Last year we had a very productive retreat with 43 attendees and about 30 presentations. Pictures, the e-mail list, and last year's agenda are posted at http://www.soph.uab.edu/ssg_content.asp?id=1288#2004. It is time to get ourselves organized for this year's retreat.

Location: The location will again 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 19 with the meeting being Sept 20 - 23, 2005.

Who Can (should) Attend? The Network is divided into groups. Each group is entitled and encouraged to send at least one member to the retreat. The Network will pay for the travel expenses (up to \$1,750) for each of the participating groups to send one participant to the retreat. After each participating group has selected one participant to attend the retreat with expenses paid, additional network participants will be accepted to attend on a first-come, first-served basis until space is exhausted. In addition, if the member institutions do not exhaust the funding allotted for the travel and attendance, the other network participants may be eligible to apply for partial support through the remaining funding. Finally, if there is any space remaining after all network members

Checklist of What You Need to Do

- If you have any colleagues who are not members but might like to attend, refer them to us.
- If you are a group member, talk with your group's leader about whether you wish to come.
- If you are a group leader, email us **by July 15** and indicate who from your group will be the 'first' attendee for whom we will pay and which 'additional' members you would also like to send. We will try to respond within 48 hours indicating whether space and/or funds are available for the additional members suggested.
- Let us know if you are willing to share a room with someone.
- Once you hear back from us, make your own travel arrangements per the guidelines in this letter.
- 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.

who wish to attend are accounted for, non-members can apply to attend. We have quite a few non-members who would like to attend this year so please respond early. Participation is encouraged from scientists at all levels from graduate students to senior scientists. Our goal is to have a total attendance between 30 and 50 individuals from all levels in academia as well as industry.

Travel Arrangements: The nearest airport, 25 miles away, is Stewart International Airport in Newburgh. The NY metro airports (LaGuardia, Newark) are about a 2 hour 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 20 and end by Sept 23 at 3:00 pm. Please plan on arriving the night of Sept 19 and departing any time after 3:00 pm on the 23rd. Please make your own travel arrangements. We will assist in matching people traveling from various locations and/or airports to help defray travel costs/driving time.

Attendance: Our goal is to establish a group of collaborative researchers, thus we strongly encourage all people who attend the retreat to attend the entire retreat. We will permit a maximum of 50 people to attend the retreat.

Accommodations: The University of Alabama at Birmingham has reserved a block of rooms for the retreat. The cost is the same as last year. Please contact Richard Sarver via e-mail (rsarver@uab.edu) as soon as possible with your travel plans, and he will make your reservation. The cost of a single room is \$294+taxes. This includes all meals and all activities except golf and horseback riding. The cost of a double room is \$219+taxes *per person*, again including all meals and all activities except golf and horseback riding. We strongly discourage people from attending only a portion of the retreat.

Agenda: In another file is last year's agenda. Once we hear from you as to who is coming, we will make a more formal agenda and may ask some of you to take on certain assignments (e.g., giving a talk, leading a discussion, *etc.*).

Presentations: If you would like to make a presentation on either your research or a topic of interest to the group please contact Grier (205-934-4930 or gpage@ms.soph.uab.edu) or David (dallison@uab.edu).

Reimbursement: Participants who are approved for reimbursement will be reimbursed to a pre-approved maximum. This maximum usually does not exceed \$1,750 (this includes the cost of the accommodations). Save receipts for coach class airfare, ground transportation, *etc.*, and we will reimburse you after the meeting. If this is a hardship, we may be able to prearrange to pay for accommodations if you inform us ahead of time.

Scholar Exchange: We would like to encourage people to make contacts with other researchers and establish some scholar exchanges. This year we had a good number and are eager to offer more in the upcoming year. We have funds for 6-8 exchanges per year.

If you are interested please apply to Grier Page (205-934-4930 or gpage@ms.soph.uab.edu) or David Allison (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) or David Allison (dallison@uab.edu).

I look forward to seeing you soon!

David

David B. Allison, Ph.D.

Grier

Grier P. Page, Ph.D.