

eye, suggesting that the loss of eyesight is an adaptation to life in the dark.

Michael Richardson, PhD, of the Leiden University Institute of Biology, discussed heterochrony—a shift in developmental timing—and how timing of early developmental events varies among vertebrate species. He compared the development of the dolphin flipper (made of many-fingered bones) with ancestral forelimbs and reviewed research on Sox9 expression in the chick limb.

Yale University's **Paul Turner**, PhD, spoke on his hypothesis that viruses experience weakened selection for robustness. He presented data revealing that RNA viruses that have evolved under high co-infection “show relatively greater mean magnitude in variance in the fitness changes generated by addition of random mutations.” His research also shows that co-infection of host cells may provide only short-term advantage to RNA viruses and that more robust viruses mutate more often, indicating that the evolution of robustness might foster less-accurate replication in RNA viruses.

Sean Carroll, PhD, of the Howard Hughes Medical Center at the University of Wisconsin-Madison, presented research on *cis*-regulatory evolution (the regulatory sequence that's on the same strand of DNA as the genetic material it regulates) and the origins of novelty. In his study of a drosophila clade, he discovered that male wing-pigmentation patterns involved in courtship displays are gained and lost multiple times. The research uncovered that two independent gains of wing spots resulted from the co-option of distinct *cis*-regulatory elements, which he said, “demonstrates how the functional diversification of the modular *cis*-regulatory elements of pleiotropic genes contributes to evolutionary novelty and the independent evolution of morphological similarities.”

—Susan Soric

NOTEWORTHY

Edward Garrity Jr., MD, professor of medicine and vice chairman of clinical operations; **Wickii Vigneswaran**, MD, professor of surgery, associate chief of cardiac and thoracic surgery, and director of lung transplantation; and **Sangeeta Bhorade**, MD, associate professor of medicine, and medical director of lung transplantation, recently joined the University of Chicago. The three were part of Loyola University's lung transplant team and have now formed Chicago's new program.

Elliot S. Gershon, MD, Foundations Fund Professor of Psychiatry and Human Genetics, received the prestigious Anna-Monika Prize—awarded once every two years by the Anna-Monika Foundation, based in Berlin, Germany—for his research on the role of genetics in bipolar disorder.

Eugene Goldwasser, PhD, the Alice Hogge and Arthur A. Baer professor emeritus of biochemistry, received the Prince Mahidol Award 2005, given for “outstanding performance and/or research in the field of medicine for the benefit of mankind.”

Christopher Gomez, AB '77, PhD '81, MD '83, has been appointed chairman and professor of the Department of Neurology. Prior to joining Chicago, Gomez served as professor and director of the Laboratory of Ion Channel Disorders and Neuro-degeneration, and associate head for research affairs in the Department of Neurology at the University of Minnesota.

Dorothy Hanck, MD, professor of medicine, and **Stephen Meredith**, MD, PhD, associate professor of pathology, are the recipients of the Lewellyn John and Harriet Manchester Quantrell Award for Excellence in Undergraduate Teaching.

Joseph B. Kirsner, MD, PhD, the Louis Block Professor of Medicine, received the Dean's Medal from Tufts University

School of Medicine in honor of his distinguished career, which exemplifies “the value and attributes we strive to instill in medical students.”

Dario Maestriperi, PhD, associate professor in the Committee on Evolutionary Biology, **Milan Mrksich**, PhD, professor in the Institute for Biophysical Dynamics and a Howard Hughes Medical Institute investigator, and **Bernard Strauss**, PhD, professor emeritus of molecular genetics and cell biology, were elected fellows to the American Association for the Advancement of Science.

Michelle Obama was appointed vice president for community and external affairs for UCH. Obama, previously the executive director for community affairs, is responsible for all programs and initiatives that involve the relationship between UCH and the community.

Funmi Olopade, MD, professor of medicine and human genetics, and director of the Cancer Risk Clinic, has been named a MacArthur Fellow for 2005. She will receive \$500,000 in “no-strings-attached” support over the next five years under terms of the award from the John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation. Olopade also was featured in the December issue of *Chicago* magazine as one of eight top Chicago doctors.

Jorge A. Solis was elected to the UCH board of trustees at their winter meeting. Solis is senior vice president and division head of middle marketing commercial banking at LaSalle Bank for North America.

Carrie Wicks, PhD, fetal and infant mortality review coordinator for UCH, was featured in the December issue of *Chicago* magazine as one of the city's most valuable people. She received the recognition for her extensive volunteer work.