

New editorial board members

JCB's motto has long been “By the scientists, for the scientists,” and we want to take this opportunity to welcome five new scientists who have joined the *JCB* community over the past twelve months. To keep up with the ever-evolving field of cell biology, *JCB* regularly seeks out respected and dedicated members of the community to

join our editorial board so that the fairness, timeliness, and quality of the peer review process is maintained across every area of cell biology, from the traditional to the cutting edge. We thank these new members—and all of our existing board members—for their efforts on behalf of the journal and the cell biology community.



Daniel Colón-Ramos

Synaptic assembly and neural circuit formation

Daniel A. Colón-Ramos is Associate Professor in the Cellular Neuroscience, Neurodegeneration, and Repair Program and the Department of Cell Biology at Yale University. His group studies the cellular and molecular mechanisms that orchestrate neural circuit formation in the *C. elegans* brain. By combining genetic, molecular, biochemical, behavioral, and imaging techniques, they examine the decisions that single neurons make in the living, developing animal as they choose their synaptic partners to form functional circuits in the nematode brain. They also study, *in vivo*, how connections established during development change during behavior and learning. Daniel completed his AB in biology at Harvard University and his PhD at Duke University

with Sally Kornbluth, where he studied the cellular mechanisms that instruct programmed cell death. He then trained at Stanford University under the mentorship of Kang Shen studying synaptic specificity. He is also an adjunct professor in the Institute of Neurobiology at the University of Puerto Rico.

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Daniel Durocher

DNA damage repair and signaling

Daniel Durocher's main interest lies in understanding how cells maintain genome integrity, with a particular emphasis on the detection, signaling, and repair of DNA double-strand breaks in the context of chromatin. After obtaining his PhD from McGill University in Montreal, Canada, he moved to Cambridge (UK) to train as a postdoc with Steve Jackson where he discovered that FHA domains organize DNA damage signaling by recognizing phosphothreonine-containing epitopes. He moved back to Canada in 2001 to set up his own research group at the Lunenfeld-Tanenbaum Research Institute. He is also Professor in the Department of Molecular Genetics at the University of Toronto. He continues to investigate how cells detect, signal, and repair DNA lesions and is interested in understanding how chromatin organizes the repair of DNA lesions.

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Margaret Gardel

Cytoskeletal mechanics and force generation

Margaret Gardel's research focuses on the cytoskeletal machines that regulate cell adhesion, contractility, and migration. She obtained her PhD in physics at Harvard University working with Dave Weitz to study the mechanical response of cross-linked F-actin networks *in vitro*. She then transitioned into cell biology by doing a postdoc with Clare Waterman at The Scripps Research Institute, where she developed a means to measure cell traction forces and actin retrograde flow dynamics to study the molecular clutch of focal adhesions. Margaret is currently Associate Professor in the Department of Physics, the James Franck Institute, and the Institute for Biophysical Dynamics at the University of Chicago. Her current research group has two interrelated thrusts. The first is to understand how the actin cytoskeleton regulates cell adhesion and cellular force generation. The second is to reconstitute dynamic actin networks *in vitro* as a means to understand basic physical principles of the cytoskeleton.

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Sergio Grinstein

Biological membranes and ion transport

Sergio Grinstein completed his PhD in 1976 at the Centro de Investigacion in Mexico City. He then spent two years as a postdoctoral fellow at the Hospital for Sick Children in Toronto, followed by a year in the Department of Biochemistry at the Federal Institute of Technology in Zurich. He currently works at the Hospital for Sick Children in Toronto, where he was Head of the Program in Cell Biology from 1987 to 2007, and he has been Professor of Biochemistry at the University of Toronto since 1988. Sergio's research revolves around two main areas: the regulation of intracellular pH and the molecular mechanisms underlying phagocytosis and bacterial invasion.

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Neil Hunter

Meiosis and homologous recombination

Neil Hunter obtained his PhD from Oxford University where he studied the roles of DNA mismatch correction in regulating homologous recombination and imposing a barrier to recombination between sibling species. His postdoctoral studies at Harvard University led to the identification of novel joint-molecule recombination intermediates during meiosis. Neil is now Professor in the Department of Microbiology & Molecular Genetics at UC Davis and Investigator of the Howard Hughes Medical Institute. Research in his laboratory employs molecular, biochemical, and cytological approaches using budding yeast and mouse systems. Current focuses include understanding the processes that mediate formation and resolution of joint molecules and the regulation of meiotic recombination by post-translational protein modification.

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