

SECOND CIRCULAR



Montréal, Québec CANADA: Photo by Daniel Raphael Cooper (obtained with permission)

Important Dates

- **February 1, 2012** Conference registration opens
- **April 30, 2012** Deadline for abstract submission
- **May 14, 2012** Deadline for early registration
- **July 15, 2012** Online registration closes
- **Aug 5-9, 2012** XX IRT Conference, downtown Montréal, Canada

Invitation

We are delighted to be hosting the ***XX International Roundtable of Nucleosides, Nucleotides and Nucleic Acids*** for the first time in our beautiful city of [Montréal](#), almost 40 years after the initial IRT conference, held in Montpellier, France in 1974. The previous 19 international roundtables in this series have proved popular with academia and industry alike, and have attracted in excess of 400 attendees in recent years. This independent Roundtable is organised under the auspices of the IS3NA ([International Society of Nucleosides Nucleotides and Nucleic Acids](#)).

The *XX IRT* commences with an evening reception on **Sunday, August 5th** at the Conference venue ([Centre Mont-Royal](#)) and features a memorable evening banquet on **Wednesday, August 8th** at [Le Windsor](#). Both of these events take place in the heart of downtown Montreal. We will also have a strong and varied program of plenary sessions and contributed lectures. As in past International Roundtables (IRTs), poster presentations will form an important part of the scientific program, and will be displayed all week and featured in two early evening sessions (**Monday, August 6th** and **Tuesday Aug 7th**).

We will have a dynamic and engaging program with varied cutting edge research in medicinal chemistry, biochemistry, and molecular biology, as well as synthetic and therapeutic applications of nucleosides and oligonucleotides.

Plenary lectures will be given by internationally recognized scientists, including **Nobel Laureate Jack Szostak** and the **Montgomery and Imbach-Townsend Awardees**.

We are confident that the *XX IRT* will be a stimulating and exciting meeting in the tradition of past IRT conferences. You will find the IRT to be conducive to scientific exchange and the city of Montreal to be an enjoyable, vibrant and stimulating location. Your participation in the conference is essential to the success of the event!

We look forward to seeing you in Montréal in 2012.

[Masad J. Damha](#) (McGill University)

[Christopher J. Wilds](#) (Concordia University)

[Robert H.E. Hudson](#) (University of Western Ontario)

SCIENTIFIC PROGRAMME

Themes

Nucleos(t)ides (medicinal chemistry/mechanisms)
Oligonucleotides (medicinal chemistry/mechanisms)
Structure/Macromolecular Recognition
Biochemistry/Chemical and System Biology/Evolution
Supramolecular/Functional Nucleic Acids
Probes, Methods and Nucleoside/Nucleotide Reagents

Plenary Speakers

Jack Szostak – Boston

Imbach-Townsend Award Lecture
(Supported by Idenix Pharmaceuticals)

John A Montgomery Award Lecture
(Supported by the Center for Drug Design, University of Minnesota)

Invited Speakers

Serge Beaucage - US Food and Drugs Administration, USA
C Frank Bennett - Isis Pharmaceuticals, USA
Tom Brown - University of Southampton, UK
Cynthia Burrows - University of Utah, USA
David Corey - UT Southwestern Medical Center, USA
Martin Egli - Vanderbilt University, USA
Carlos González - Instituto de Química-Física Rocasolano. CSIC, Spain
Matthias Götte - McGill University, Canada
Michal Hocek - Academy of Sciences of the Czech Republic, Czech Republic
Eric T Kool - Stanford University, USA
Emily Leproust - Agilent, USA
Muthiah Manoharan - Alnylam Pharmaceuticals, USA
Chris McGuigan - Welsh School of Pharmacy, UK
Dinshaw J Patel - Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center, USA
Enrique Pedroso - University of Barcelona, Spain
Oliver Seitz - Humboldt-University zu Berlin, Germany
Hanadi Sleiman - McGill University, Canada
Michael Sofia – Gilead Sciences, USA
David N Standing - Idenix Pharmaceuticals Inc, USA
Peter Strazewski - University Claude Bernard Lyon 1, France
Jack Szostak - Howard Hughes Medical Institute, USA

Call for Papers

Participants are invited to submit an abstract by April 30th, 2012 for poster presentation. Authors will be notified after evaluation and approval by the committee. The organizing committee will select 13 of the submitted abstracts and invite the authors to present their research as an **oral presentation**. All abstracts have to be submitted electronically. The abstract template and detailed instructions are available on the [IS3NA website](#) (XX IRT event). The conference will have a single poster session with ample space. All posters will be on view throughout the conference, and featured in two early evening sessions. Food and beverages will be offered during the official poster sessions (see program).

**37 invited and contributed talks are planned
and we anticipate more than 300 posters**

Afternoon poster sessions on Monday Aug 6th and Tuesday Aug 7th

Symposium Schedule

The programme will include 3 plenary/award lectures (PL) of 45 min, 20 invited lectures (IL) of 35 min, and 14 short oral presentations (OP) of 20 min. The posters will be accessible throughout the conference. On Sunday, August 5th, registration will open at 17:00 and will be followed by a welcome reception.

	Mon 6 Aug	Tue 7 Aug	Wed 8 Aug	Thu 9 Aug
Start	08:30	08:30	08:30	08:30
First morning session	Intro	IL7	IL13	PL3
	PL1	OP4	OP9	OP10
	IL1	IL8	IL14	IL16
	IL2		IL15	
Refreshments	10:40	10:05	10:40	10:15
Second morning session	IL3	IL9	PL2	IL17
	OP1	OP5	IS3NA report	OP11
	OP2	OP6	XXI IRT 2014	OP12
Lunch	12:35	12:00	12:30	12:10
First afternoon session	IL4	IL10	Social programme	IL18
	OP3	OP7		IL19
Refreshments	14:50	15:00		14:50
Second afternoon session	IL5	IL11		OP13
	IL6	OP8		OP14
		IL12		IL20
Poster session	16:30	16:35		
Close	19:30	19:30		17:10
18:30			Drinks reception	
19:15			Conference banquet	

Imbach-Townsend Award, and Montgomery Award

The Imbach-Townsend award is supported by **Idenix Pharmaceuticals** and the Montgomery award is supported by the **Center for Drug Design**, University of Minnesota. Please visit [this page](#) of the IS3NA website to obtain information about how to nominate a candidate for the awards. The awardees will be selected by the two corresponding award committees of IS3NA and will be celebrated in a special ceremony on the occasion of the Roundtable.

XX IRT Travel Fund

A very limited number of Travel Awards will be made available through the IS3NA to young participants who have limited resources and wish to participate in the *XX IRT*. With these awards we intend to encourage young investigators to attend and present their work as an oral or a poster presentation. Specifically, the awards will cover registration and part of the cost of travelling to the conference site.

To be eligible for the award, an individual must be a student currently pursuing a doctoral degree or a young researcher in a post-doctoral position. Moreover, the candidate needs to be a member of the IS3NA. Joining the IS3NA can be easily done by visiting the [IS3NA website](#), and applying for travel funding may done via this [link](#).

All interested applicants must contact [Dr. Jean-Jacques Vasseur](#) and provide a detailed description of their situation together with a letter of recommendation from their supervisor. The abstract(s) intended for presentation must also be submitted using the template provided. All documents and copy of the abstract(s) should be sent directly to Dr. Vasseur. The application deadline is April 30th, 2012.

Poster Awards

Thanks to generous support from **Alios BioPharma**, **Current Protocols** (*John Wiley*) and **Nucleic Acids Research** (*Oxford University Press*), several poster cash prizes will be awarded. The awardees will be selected by the Posters and Travel Awards Committee of IS3NA.

REGISTRATION AND GENERAL INFORMATION

Registration Fees

All registration fees are in Canadian Dollars (CAN \$) and include refreshments and lunches.

	Early-bird (by 14 th May)	Standard (from 15 th May)
IS3NA member	625	775
Non-member	775	925
Accompanying person	100	150
Student IS3NA member	325	400
Student non-member	400	475

- Early-bird rates apply for registration fee payments received by 14th May
- The banquet fee is CAN \$65 for all cases.
- Accompanying person (guest) fee is CAN \$100 before 15th May, and includes reception and lunches, but not the banquet or scientific program/sessions.

How to register

There are two registration methods

- [online](#) using your credit or debit card (fees will be collected in Canadian Dollars, via PayPal).
- complete the registration form and return to the secretariat for bank transfer and cheque payments.

NB Any payments not made by card should:

- be received by 14th May to qualify for early-bird rates
- be for the full amount of the invoice, i.e. the sender must meet all bank charges
- be in Canadian Dollars only.

Accommodation

We have reserved blocks of hotel rooms in several of the city's hotels, all *within a 2-5 minute walk* from the conference venue in the *heart* of Montréal. Hotels range from five-star accommodation to student residences, and preferential rates have been secured for conference participants. This information will be posted on our website in March.

Conference Venue

The conference [Centre Mont-Royal](#) can accommodate in excess of 700 delegates, and the state-of-the-art technical facilities are fully integrated into the architect's design. They include symposia theatre, an ultra-modern [amphitheatre](#), pre-function areas with floor-to-ceiling windows, and numerous meeting rooms. Also, the new terrace provides a delightful

outdoor environment for our guests. The Centre offers indoor parking, and is only 25 minutes away from the Dorval International Airport. It has a direct link with the [Montréal Metro system](#) (stations “McGill” or “Peel”) and is within walking distance of shops, restaurants, museums, elegant bars, and hotels.

Local Attractions

There is no place on earth quite like Montreal. If you’re a first-time visitor, come see for yourself – this compact island city is great for walking, and you can easily (and safely) explore its vibrant neighborhoods on foot, at any time of the day or night. Montreal is also multicultural, boasting more than 80 ethnic communities, and enjoys an outstanding reputation worldwide for gourmet dining.

Click [here](#) to see a 2-min video of Montréal. To help you plan your time in this great city, [Tourisme-Montréal](#), the city’s official tourism marketing organization, provides information and assistance.

Conference Banquet

The conference banquet should be a grand occasion. It will be held at the prestigious Le Windsor, a historic landmark in Montreal city centre. [Le Windsor](#) has hosted royalty and many legendary gatherings in its two breathtaking ballrooms: one Victorian-style and one French Renaissance-style, with high gilded ceilings, crystal chandeliers and rich architectural detail. The banquet is an optional extra, competitively priced at CAN \$65 – not to missed.

SPONSORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

Sponsorship Options

We would like to invite you to **become a sponsor of this meeting**. For this your organisation would be prominently acknowledged on the Roundtable website, in delegate packs, and announced formally as a sponsor at the meeting itself. There are many sponsorship opportunities, including the insertion of your organisation’s literature in our delegate packs. *All sponsors are guaranteed one delegate place available up to the early-bird registration deadline of 30th May at standard delegate registration charge.* Exhibition space is limited to 6 or 7 stands, prominently located in areas of general circulation. If interested in becoming a sponsor, please let us know (maggi@maggichurchosevents.co.uk). *Early booking of exhibition space is recommended!*

Confirmed Sponsors

We wish to acknowledge and thank those organisations which have already confirmed sponsorship. Please follow this [link](#) to see the organisations already sponsoring.

SECRETARIAT CONTACT

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