Gathering at the beautiful and historic Union League of Philadelphia in May, a distinguished group of our region’s healthcare, governmental, and business leaders celebrated the success of the Coriell Personalized Medicine Collaborative research study.

Opening the What’s In Your Genes? event, Coriell’s President and CEO, Dr. Michael Christman and Dr. Howard McLeod presented a captivating and well-received lecture about the incredible advancements that have been made in genetic research, and how they are offering new understandings of human disease and better health outcomes. Following the lecture, attendees were invited to enroll in the CPMC research study. The interest was tremendous, with almost 100 people joining this progressive and award-winning study.

Afterwards, guests perused the many silent auction items that ran the gamut: From watching the Phillies from a luxury box to La bohème box seats. One of the more popular prizes was an evening of bowling with Congressman Jon Runyan at the exquisite Moorestown home of Drs. Calvin and Orsula Knowlton.

Dr. Christman took to the podium later in the evening to present Coriell awards to three very deserving honorees. He described Dr. Howard McLeod, Ms. Linda Rohrer, and Mr. Peter Driscoll as “exceptional models of how innovative, entrepreneurial, and keen thinking can transform novel ideas into tools that are improving human lives today.”

Dr. McLeod was awarded the Coriell Scientific Award for his achievements in advancing genomics in medicine. Dr. McLeod sits on the CPMC Pharmacogenomics Advisory Board, which evaluates medications known to be affected by genetic variation for inclusion in the CPMC research study.

The Coriell Humanitarian Award was presented to Ms. Linda Rohrer in celebration and recognition of her generosity to the Coriell Institute and South Jersey. In her remarks, she fondly recalled her father, Mr. William Rohrer, who instilled in her a genuine commitment to our region.

Long-time trustee Mr. Peter Driscoll received the Coriell Ambassador Award. Serving as the Institute’s Chairman from 2004 to 2011, Mr. Driscoll is a tireless champion for Coriell and was duly recognized for his efforts.

We thank those who made the evening a memorable one, particularly our esteemed Event Committee. The night was our opportunity to showcase Coriell’s research accomplishments to our current philanthropic supporters, and to introduce Coriell to new friends. It is the generosity of our donors that has proven instrumental to pursuing groundbreaking science at the Institute, and we look forward to developing relationships with our new friends to continue this essential support.
What's In Your Genes? 2012 was a resounding success, with more than 200 guests joining us to celebrate personalized medicine. Browse this photo gallery to see who attended, and see many more at www.coriell.org!

1. Michael Christman, PhD, Congressman Jon Runyan
2. Joan Carter, Liesl Henderson, Beth Snider
3. Michael Christman, PhD, Peter Driscoll, Esq., Robert Kiep III
4. Linda Rohrer, Michael Christman, PhD
5. Dottie Giordano, Courtney Kronenthal, PhD
6. Stephanie Stahl, Peter Driscoll, Esq., Michael Christman, PhD
7. Michael Christman, PhD, Howard McLeod, PhD
8. Michael Christman, PhD, Craig Snider
9. Karin Elkis, Lori and Roy Carricker, PhD, Michael Christman, PhD, Eliana Papadakis, Susan Bass Levin
10. Michael Christman, PhD, Frank Giordano
11. Patricia Bantivoglio, Jack Tarditi
Coriell Institute thanks the sponsors of What’s in Your Genes? 2012

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Senator Robert Menendez
Eliana Papadakis
Congressman Jon Runyan
The Snider Family
Newbold Strong
Tru-Fit Frame & Door Corp.
The Wine Room of Cherry Hill

Education:

Science Fair

The same fundamentals that spark scientific discovery – ingenuity, perseverance, innovation – trace their roots back to poster board presentations and award ribbons. On March 17, Coriell Institute’s 31st Annual Science Fair hosted 260 of our region’s brightest young minds, in grades 6 through 12, at Camden County College in Blackwood. The student scientists exhibited projects spanning multiple disciplines, including biochemistry, physics, medicine, and engineering. A panel of 72 judges reviewed the projects and interviewed the students before awarding prizes to standout submissions.

The first of two Lewis L. Coriell Best of Fair Awards was presented to 12th grade homeschool student Alex McBride for his engineering project, Plasmonically Enhancing a Quasi-Solid State Quantum Dot Solar Cell with Silver Nanoparticles. Reeves Balderson, a 12th grade student at William Allen Middle School in Moorestown, received the second Best of Fair Award for his exploration of water collection methods, a topical and pressing area of interest. Additionally, three noteworthy college scholarships and three sponsored prizes for excellence in engineering or chemistry were awarded to signature outstanding participants.

Coriell thanks the following corporate and academic sponsors of the 31st Annual Science Fair: Roche, TD Bank, Camden County College, and Gloucester County College.

If this was just the start for some of these students, brilliant careers certainly await.

In the Public:

Speaking Science

Dr. Christman participated recently on two healthcare panels, providing opportunities to highlight Coriell’s role in advancing personalized medicine through the CPMC research study.

On May 31, the Greater Philadelphia Chamber sponsored Health Technology: Transforming the Business of Healthcare to explore topics such as the adoption of electronic medical records, online portals for healthcare exchanges, and advances in regenerative medicine. Dr. Christman, alongside Jeff Ganiban of Drinker Biddle, Dr. Harry Greenspun of Deloitte, and Dr. Steven Udvarhelyi of Independence Blue Cross, offered perspectives on how these technologies promise improvements in healthcare delivery.

On June 14, Dr. Christman joined fellow CEOs, Martin Bieber of Kennedy Health System, Alexander Hatala of Lourdes Health System, Judith Roman of AmeriHealth New Jersey, and John Sheridan Jr. of Cooper Health System, in a panel discussion titled, Be in the Driver’s Seat of Your Health, moderated by Philadelphia Business Journal Health Care Reporter, John George. Challenges of healthcare delivery in our region and the strategies being undertaken by these CEOs were shared with the audience.
ONLINE:

CORIELL PUBLISHED


April 2012 European Journal of Human Genetics: Michael Christman, PhD, contributed to an article generated from a National Institutes of Health project titled, Managing Incidental Findings and Research Results in Genomic Research Involving Biobanks and Archived Data Sets.


July 2012 Human Mutation: Zhenya Tang, MD, PhD, Norman Gerry, PhD, Christine Beiswanger, PhD, and Dorit Berlin, PhD, along with esteemed colleagues from the Johns Hopkins School of Medicine and the Hugo W. Moser Research Institute at Kennedy Krieger, published, Chromosomal Variation in Lymphoblastoid Cell Lines.

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