



Genetics Society of America

## NEWS

Press release for  
IMMEDIATE DISTRIBUTION

9650 Rockville Pike, Bethesda, MD 20814-3998  
Phone: (301) 634 7300 • Fax: (301) 634 7079  
society@genetics-gsa.org  
www.genetics-gsa.org

Contact: Phyllis Edelman  
(301) 634-7302  
pedelman@genetics-gsa.org

### **Genetics Society of America Members Are Nobel Prize Recipients**

Bethesda, MD (October 5, 2009) -- The Genetics Society of America congratulates its members, Elizabeth H. Blackburn and Carol W. Greider winners of the [2009 Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine](#). They share their prize with Jack W. Szostak, a past recipient of the GSA Medal. The three won the Nobel Prize “for the discovery of how chromosomes are protected by telomeres and the enzyme telomerase.”

Greider (Johns Hopkins School of Medicine, Baltimore) is scheduled to be a keynote speaker at the upcoming GSA meeting, “Genetics 2010: Model Organisms to Human Biology” in Boston, Massachusetts, June 12-15, 2010. The meeting will focus on basic research that elucidates problems that occur in higher organisms such as humans. Greider works with yeast and mouse models on telomerase research.

Blackburn (University of California, San Francisco) has a long association with the GSA. She served as a member of the GSA Board of Directors from 2000-2002.

Szostak (Harvard Medical School, Massachusetts General Hospital, HHMI) received the GSA Medal in 2000, which is given for outstanding contributions to the field of genetics for the previous 15 years.

“We are thrilled that the Nobel Prize Committee chose to recognize these scientists and this body of work,” said Sherry Marts, Executive Director of the GSA. “This prize acknowledges the crucial importance of studies done in model organisms such as yeast, tetrahymena, and mice for understanding human biology and disease.”

Blackburn and Greider join a long list of GSA members who have been Nobel Prize winners. Within the last 10 years, current GSA members include Nobel Laureates Martin Chalfie (2008), Mario Capecchi and Oliver Smithies (2007), Andrew Z. Fire (2006), and Sydney Brenner and H. Robert Horvitz (2002).

#### **ABOUT THE GENETICS SOCIETY OF AMERICA**

Founded in 1931, the Genetics Society of America (GSA) is the professional membership organization for geneticists and science educators. Its nearly 4,000 members work to advance knowledge in the basic mechanisms of inheritance, from the molecular to the population level. The GSA is dedicated to promoting research in genetics and to facilitating communication among geneticists worldwide through the Genetics Society of America Conferences including the biennial conference on Model Organisms to Human Biology, an interdisciplinary meeting on current and cutting edge topics in genetics research, and annual and biennial meetings that focus on the genetics of particular organisms. GSA publishes *GENETICS*, the leading journal in the field. For more information about GSA, please visit [www.genetics-gsa.org](http://www.genetics-gsa.org).

####