

NEWS

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Michael Ashburner Receives GSA's Morgan Medal

The Genetics Society of America is pleased to announce Michael Ashburner, Ph.D., Cambridge University, United Kingdom, as the recipient of the 2008 Thomas Hunt Morgan Medal given for lifetime contributions in the field of genetics. The medal is named after the 1933 Nobel Prize winner who was recognized for his work with *Drosophila* and his "discoveries concerning the role played by the chromosome in heredity."

A long-time member of GSA and the recipient of the 1999 GSA George W. Beadle Award for outstanding contributions to the community of genetic researchers, Dr. Ashburner is a leading scholar in *Drosophila* genetics, both developmental and evolutionary. He was part of the consortium that developed the genomic sequence of *Drosophila melanogaster*. He's been instrumental in setting up computer-based ontologies of *Drosophila* including *FlyBase*, the European *Drosophila* Genome Project and the Genome Ontology project. With the genome sequence known, Dr. Ashburner and his lab are focusing on a "gene-centric" approach to discover the function of all the genes.

Dr. Ashburner will receive the Thomas Hunt Morgan Medal at a GSA-sponsored model organism meeting held later this year.

The Genetics Society of America is a membership society representing nearly 5,000 scientists and educators in the field of genetics. The Society promotes communication of advances in genetics through its journal, *GENETICS* and by sponsoring scientific meetings focused on key organisms widely used in genetic research including *Drosophila*, yeast, *C. elegans*, *Chlamydomonas*, fungal genetics and zebrafish. The Society's newest meeting, Genetic Analysis: Model Organisms to Human Biology enables investigators working on model organisms and those working in human genetics to communicate and exchange ideas in genetic research.

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