The 2013 George W. Beadle Award

R. Scott Hawley

It is a great pleasure to congratulate R. Scott Hawley on being selected as the Genetics Society of America (GSA)'s 2013 Beadle Award recipient. This award, named for George Beadle, recognizes exemplary service to the community of genetics. Scott has worked tirelessly to keep the genetics community vibrant and engaged, and he has done so in formal and in informal ways, seen and unseen.

Scott has devoted his research career to illuminating major genetic mechanisms such as those that result in proper segregation during meiosis, and his academic career to exemplary teaching at many levels and mentoring of students and postdocs within his research lab. These two areas of excellence are well-detailed in previous paeans to Scott, one recognizing his election to the National Academy of Sciences (Gupta 2012) and the other upon his selection to receive the 2008 Elizabeth Jones Award for Excellence in Education (Sekelsky 2008). But the present award is given for service. Scott has done a prodigious amount, even while also excelling in both of the other areas. And the reason is simple: Scott loves genetics. All of it. And he does his best to promote genetics in every way he can.

Scott has, of course, done all the "normal" service of any respected scientist. He has played important institutional service roles, most recently as the founding dean of the Graduate School of the Stowers Institute for Medical Research. He has also done yeoman's work on study sections for years: at the National Institutes of Health, the American Cancer Society (he is an American Cancer Society professor), and the National Science Foundation; one of us, having served on a study section with Scott, recalls his ability to clearly cut to the nitty gritty of the experimental approach and to vigorously defend good science. He has served on editorial boards, and as article reviewer, for countless articles at many journals. But his service reaches far beyond the norm.

Scott provided major service to the field by establishing conferences at which geneticists can come together to exchange information or workshops where they can learn

how to do genetics. For example, he cofounded, with Nancy Kleckner, the Meiosis Gordon Conference, which continues to be the major meeting in the field, nearly two decades after its inception. And, with Michael Ashburner and later with Casey Bergman, he has co-led an advanced *Drosophila* genetics course that has met in various venues around the world.

Scott has also been a highly active member of GSA, serving in many formal administrative capacities as well as serving as "grey eminence" after the end of his formal terms. He has promoted the organized genetics community by serving on the GSA board as member and, more recently as its president, and remains a consultant to the board because of his long institutional memory and his excellent judgment. Members of that board can recount numerous instances when Scott stepped up to do whatever it took for the board; just a few examples are his co-organizing, with Fred Winston, of GSA's 2010 Model Organisms to Human Biology meeting, his service as GSA's representative on the Federation of American Societies for Experimental Biology board of directors, his editing the GSA webpage for 5 years beginning in 2001, his championing of the DeLill Nasser Award including by serving on its selections committee, and being the first GSA-appointed member of an American Society of Human Genetics committee.

Scott has also devoted much effort to the GSA journals: at *GENETICS* as an associate editor for 14 years, as Highlights editor for 3 years and as a senior editor for two, and, presently, at *G3: Genes/Genomes/Genetics* as a senior editor. Scott was not simply a superintendent of reviewing; rather he worked hard with his authors to help them improve their papers, so that the best science could be published, and articulated in the clearest way. In addition to his editorial service, his writing has livened up the pages of the journal, with research articles, reviews, and articles on teaching.

Scott has been a major mover and advisor of the *Drosophila* community, with service on the *Drosophila* board and its committees, advisory boards for the fly stock centers, chairing the fly nomenclature committee for 6 years, and co-organizing, with Ken Burtis, the 2002 fly meeting.

One wonders if the guy ever sleeps.

But wait. . .there's more!

Beyond the administrative aspects of fostering a major genetics society and journal, and providing important perspective and ideas for the research community, as well as venues for scientific interchange and training, Scott has carried out other important kinds of service.

Scott is an ambassador for popularizing genetics well beyond (as well as within) academia. He gives frequent, entertaining and information-packed talks not just at universities and scientific meetings, but also to lay audiences, such as at high schools, at life-long learning centers, at various community clubs, etc. The genetics community, so dependent on federal funds, needs people like Scott, explaining why what we do is so important, and doing so in a clear and accessible manner, and as a true believer.

Scott is also an enthusiastic champion of young geneticists—all young geneticists, not simply his own graduate students and postdocs. Several junior colleagues commented that Scott's thoughtful and generous counsel was invaluable in helping them secure jobs and in launching their careers. Scott is a highly enthusiastic champion of good genetics, always making sure to convey his excitement about every wonderful young scientist who made an important discovery, and why it was excellent, beautifully done, and important. He highlights the work of these scientists in his many review articles. It has been noted that he often will downplay his own contributions, always putting others first, and that he will go out of his way to promote outstanding

junior scientists—whether or not they have any affiliation with him or his lab.

Scott's curriculum vitae is headed by a quote from his graduate advisor, Larry Sandler, another outstanding *Drosophila* geneticist with a burning interest in meiosis, and in teaching others about genetics. Larry said "*There are three necessary functions of a scholar: to learn, to write, and to teach.*" Scott has done all three elegantly, but he has also done something else, also extremely important. For geneticists to be able "to learn, write, and teach," they need a community with which they can exchange ideas, results, and techniques and from which they can receive the advice, guidance, mentorship, and cheerleading that will foster their careers; a community that will make sure that good science is funded and published, and that will speak to the world about the importance of genetics. Scott has worked tirelessly to lead and promote this community. It is most fitting that this year's Beadle Award recognizes his exemplary efforts and their far-reaching and sustained effects.

Literature Cited

- Gupta, S., 2012 Profile of R. Scott Hawley. *Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. USA* 109(35): 13883–13885.
Sekelsky, J., 2008 The 2008 Genetics Society of America Award for Excellence in Education: R. Scott Hawley. *Genetics* 178(3): 1131–1133.

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