

CENTER FOR BIODIVERSITY AND CONSERVATION
SPRING SYMPOSIUM

CONSERVATION GENETICS
IN THE AGE OF GENOMICS

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DAY TWO

PART IV

THE ROLE OF EXPANDING TECHNOLOGY
IN CONSERVING BIODIVERSITY

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RD: ... One of the charges that we gave ourselves as organizers of this conference was articulated quite nicely yesterday by George Amato. If I remember it correctly, we charged ourselves to assess the past legacy of genetics in conservation, and also to look forward to the future of conservation genetics. Both sessions today will attempt to do that looking forward into the future.

This first session today, at first glance, might seem like a hodgepodge. But if you listened closely to Dr. Conway's just wonderful talk yesterday, he articulated the genomics and new genetic technology to bring us vast genetic and reproductive knowledge of organisms that will be the tools of the 21st-century conservation biologists.

And so this session is about some of those tools. Such as genomic databases, and what their impact will be on our way of dealing with conservation. Another set of subjects we will touch upon in this session concerns genetic modification and cloning. And for those of you who did make it in this morning from the poster session last night, you will have noticed that there were a lot of posters on genetic resource banking. And I believe Ollie may touch on that this afternoon.

These are all new things for us, in this field of conservation genetics. And with these new things come new questions new social, ethical and legal questions. And so we've also included in this session a talk by some lawyers. (Laughter) And I'll refrain from my lawyer jokes until I introduce them, okay?

Without further delay, I'd like to introduce our first speaker. This is Judy Blake. I first met Judy last year at an NSF workshop, and I was totally impressed with how calm she is. She said she was nervous just a second ago. But with someone who has to deal with so much data so many data and so big of a problem as annotating genomes, I was just amazed at how calm and organized she was. And I think Judy has made some really great contributions to genomic science, and I think she's one of the few people who actually thinks across genomics to conservation biology.

Judy has written many, many papers that in single papers she has citation indices that outdo total citation indices of many scientists by an order of magnitude, with a single paper. This is how influential her work is, and has been.

Judy is now at The Jackson Laboratory in Bar Harbor, Maine. She runs, or directs, The Mouse Genome Informatics Group there. And her talk today is on "Comparative Genomics and the Conservation of Biodiversity." Judy?

(Applause)