Wednesday April 1

15.00 – 17.00

REGISTRATION

17.00 – 17.15

WELCOME ADDRESS

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IL.1 17.15 – 18.15

HOW DO CELLS MAKE A RANDOM CHOICE?

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Early in mammalian embryogenesis, each female cell chooses one X chromosome for silencing, thus balancing X-linked gene expression between XX females and XY males. This choice is random: the X chromosome inherited from the mother is silenced in 50% of cells and the X chromosome inherited from the father is silenced in the remaining 50% of cells. A sense/antisense pair of non-coding RNAs are necessary for X-inactivation to occur randomly. But little is known about how these RNAs influence random choice. Data suggesting a mechanistic basis for the role of non-coding RNAs in random choice will be presented.