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To: Colleagues interested in human regulatory systems from an evolutionary perspective.

Re: How to participate in the “Nature of Regulation” conference from a distance

As some of you know from previous conversations, I have organized a conference on human regulatory systems from an evolutionary perspective that will be held on November 13-15 2009. It is uniquely designed to involve colleagues from a distance in addition to the conference participants. This memo describes how you can become involved, starting before the conference and continuing in its aftermath.

To begin with some background, the conference is titled “The Nature of Regulation: How Evolutionary Theory Can Inform the Regulation of Large-scale Human Social Interactions.” It is jointly organized by the Evolution Institute, a new think tank that I co-direct, and the National Evolutionary Synthesis Center (NESCent), NSF’s largest evolution-related center. It will be held at NESCent’s headquarters as one of their “catalysis meetings”, which is limited to approximately 30 participants.

Please visit the Evolution Institute’s website (<http://theevolutioninstitute.org>) to learn more about the EI as a whole and the “Nature of Regulation” as one of its focal topics. Our broad goal is to place the study of human regulatory systems on a firm evolutionary foundation. The conference is envisioned as a *part* of the process, which will begin sooner in the form of discussions on the EI website and will continue after on the basis of recommendations that emerge from the conference. Designing the conference as part of a long-term process enables us to include a larger “Community of Interest (COI)” in addition to the conference participants.

If you are centrally interested in the topic, wish to join the discussion before the conference, and wish to become involved in initiatives that emerge from the conference, then you are welcome to join the COI by contacting Robert Kadar at rkadar1@binghamton.edu. You will be added to the list on the EI website, provided a copy of the preliminary mission statement for the conference, and given a password to join the discussion limited to conference participants and members of the COI. You will also have access to our private library of pdf files and can contribute your own suggestions to the library.

The following deadlines have been set to move the process along in preparation for the conference:

Anytime: Provide your most relevant articles to Robert to include in our pdf library. Please be selective, bearing in mind that your listing on the EI website will include a link to your website, where more of your publications can be accessed.

Anytime: Please suggest the names of colleagues and/or graduate students who might wish to join the COI by sending their contact information to Robert or asking them to contact him directly. There is much to be gained by creating a *large* COI for maximum impact.

October 30: Read and comment on the preliminary mission statement. This step will result in a final mission statement that provides the basis for the next step.

Nov 10 (the earlier the better): Participate in discussion on sections of the mission statement most relevant to your interests.

Nov 13 (start of conference): Conference participants will read the discussion on all sections in preparation for the conference discussions.

Aftermath of conference: The main conference presentations will be videotaped and quickly made available on the EI website (see the workshop on childhood education for an example of how this will look). The conference will result in a series of recommendations for future basic scientific research and rapid applications to real-world regulatory systems. Members of the COI will be well positioned to help shape and implement the recommendations.

Organizing this conference has been a fascinating experience for me. The more I learn, the clearer it becomes that economic theory and public policy needs to be placed on an evolutionary foundation. I feel privileged to be at the right place at the right time, as co-director of the Evolution Institute and organizer of the Nature of Regulation conference. I look forward to your participation as a member of the COI.

Sincerely,

David