Martine Roussel, Ph.D., honored as 2011 fellow of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences

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Martine Roussel, Ph.D., of St. Jude Children’s Research Hospital, has been named to the 2011 class of new Fellows and Foreign Honorary Members of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences.

Founded in 1780, the American Academy of Arts and Sciences is an independent policy research center that conducts multidisciplinary studies of complex and emerging problems. The academy’s elected members are leaders in the academic disciplines, the arts, business and public affairs with a current membership of 4,000 American Fellows and 600 Foreign Honorary Members.

After a Ph.D. in molecular biology at the University of Lille (France) and a transition to the National Cancer Institute in Washington DC, Martine Roussel started at St. Jude in 1983 as a research associate in the Department of Tumor Cell Biology, in which she is currently a full member and holds the Endowed Chair in Molecular Oncogenesis.

She is also vice president USA for Eurocancer in Paris, France, co-chair of the Cancer Center Signal Transduction Program at St. Jude and full professor in the Department of Molecular Sciences at The University of Tennessee in Memphis. This gave her the opportunity to launch an exchange program with the University Diderot-Paris 7, where she received her master.

Roussel’s research interests are currently focused on understanding how molecular networks required for cerebellum development are disrupted in medulloblastoma, the most common malignant pediatric brain tumor.

Along with being a mentor and supervisor for dozens of graduate students and postdoctoral fellows, Roussel holds two patents; has organized scientific meetings across the globe; serves on several editorial boards, including the Journal of Biomedical Science, Cancer Research and the International Journal of Oncology; and is a reviewer for Cancer Cell, Genes and Development, Blood and Nature Cell Biology.

The 212 new members to join the honorary society will contribute to studies of science and technology policy, global security, social policy and American institutions, the humanities and education. Among the new class are scholars, scientists, writers, artists, civic, corporate and philanthropic leaders; and winners of the Nobel and Pulitzer prizes, the Turing Award, MacArthur and Guggenheim fellowships, Kennedy Center Honors, Grammy, Golden Globe and Academy awards.

The American Academy of Arts and Sciences was founded during the American Revolution by John Adams, James Bowdoin, John Hancock and other leaders who contributed to the establishment of the new nation, its government and the Constitution. The academy’s purpose was to provide a forum for a select group of scholars, members of the learned professions, and government and business leaders to work together on behalf of the democratic interests of the republic. Throughout its existence, the academy has elected leading thinkers and doers, including George Washington, Benjamin Franklin, Daniel Webster, Ralph Waldo Emerson, Albert Einstein and Winston Churchill.

The new class will be inducted at a ceremony October 1, 2011, in Cambridge, Mass.

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