**Darwin Speaker Bios**

**Hopi Hoekstra**: Prof. Hoekstra is currently on the faculty at Harvard University and curator of Mammals at the Museum of Comparative Zoology. In addition, she is the current President of the Society for the Study of Evolution. She was recently elected to the America Academy of Arts and Sciences and the National Academy of Sciences.

Her research involves understanding the genetic basis of complex behaviors. Her early research identified the genetic basis for differences in burrowing behavior between two species of *Peromyscus* mice. One species digs complex burrows (*P. polionotus*) and the other species has shallower burrows (*P. maniculatus*). The species also differ in habitat occupancy. Her work integrates field observations, lab experimentation and novel genomic approaches. As part of this project she identified the gene associated with coat color.

I think Prof Hoekstra is an ideal speaker, because her work exemplifies the mechanisms of evolutionary change. Recent speakers have alluded to Darwin and from a historical perspective. We have the opportunity to invite a speaker whose research expands the reach of Darwin's dangerous idea.

**Frank J. Sulloway:** Frank J. Sulloway is an Adjunct Professor at the University of California, Berkeley.  He has a Ph.D. in the history of science from Harvard University (1978) and is a recipient of a MacArthur Award (1984-1989).  Dr. Sulloway has written about the nature of scientific creativity, and, on this general topic, he has published extensively on the life and theories of Charles Darwin.  Frank and I lived together when undergraduates at Harvard and listened to his planning of a sailing trip to the Galapagos Islands and west coast of South America, reconstructing part of the voyage of Charles Darwin and the Beagle.  One of his many available presentations focuses on this voyage and would be very appropriate for our Darwin Lecture Series.

Darwin's Footsteps: How the Galápagos Islands Revolutionized His Thinking

This lecture tells the untold story about Charles Darwin and his famous Galapagos visit, and how this visit set in motion one of the greatest revolutions in Western thought. The usual account found in biology textbooks is that Darwin arrived in the Galapagos Islands in September 1835 and, soon after seeing the remarkable animals and plants of this volcanic archipelago, was converted to the theory of evolution. This account is a myth and obscures a far more interesting story about the difficulty that even the most brilliant thinkers have in abandoning one way of understanding the world in favor of another. <http://www.sulloway.org/lectures.html>

**Janet Brown:** Janet Browne is a British historian of science,and is currently Aramont Professor of the History of Science at Harvard University. After working as an associate editor on the University of Cambridge Library project to publish the correspondence of Charles Darwin (currently up to 25 volumes, all about 800 pages of small print!), she wrote a two-volume biography of Darwin. The first was *Charles Darwin: Voyaging (1995)*, on Darwin's youth, his years on the Beagle, and the time up to publication of The Origin of Species. The second was *Charles Darwin: The Power of Place (2002)*, and covered the years after publication of The Origin of Species. In 2003, the second volume won the James Tait Black Memorial Prize for Biography, and in 2004 this volume won the History of Science Society's Pfizer Prize, the Society's highest awarded for individual works of scholarship. The well known science writer David Quammen simply describes the two volume set as "magisterial."

I (Shawn Kuchta) nominated Janet Brown to be the Darwin speaker because I read both books recently, and found them to be outstanding. They represent the highest level of scholarship on Charles Darwin and his life, and were engagingly written. I'll certainly read them again. It makes sense for the OCEES Darwin speaker to be a true Darwin scholar, at least on occasion. I also think we should bring in more female speakers.

**Phoebe Cohen** - Williams College  <https://geosciences.williams.edu/profile/pac3/>: Dr. Cohen’s research is focused on understanding the early evolution the earth-life system in the Precambrian, a part of earth history we knew little about only 20 years ago.  However, Phoebe’s work has resulted new discoveries and a vastly improved record of early eukaryotic life including critical development in new understanding about the interval immediately preceding the Cambrian explosion.  Her research has been published in Science, PNAS, Science Advances, and many geology/paleontology journals.  Phoebe was also awarded the Geological Society of America Subaru Outstanding Woman in Science Award in 2012. Her research is funded by the NASA Astrobiology program. She runs an active outreach program and is a force for inclusion of underrepresented groups in STEM.

**Richard Lewontin** - <https://oeb.harvard.edu/people/richard-lewontin>: Richard C. Lewontin is Alexander Agassiz Professor of Zoology and Professor of Biology at Harvard University. He is one of the most important evolutionary biologist, being one of the pioneers of surveying genetic variation in natural populations, advancing the theoretical underpinnings of natural selection and drift and conducting empirical research.