

**The Eighteenth
Irving L. Schwartz Lectureship**
In
STRUCTURAL & CHEMICAL BIOLOGY

Thomas R. Cech, PhD
Distinguished Professor,
University of Colorado Boulder
Director,
University of Colorado BioFrontiers Institute
Investigator,
Howard Hughes Medical Institute

“Shedding Some Light
on the Dark Matter
of the Genomic Universe”

Thursday, February 22, 2018
2:00 pm


Icahn Medical Institute Building
Goldwurm Auditorium

Reception to follow the lecture



Department of Pharmacological Sciences
Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai
One Gustave L. Levy Place
1425 Madison Avenue
New York, New York 10029
Tel. 212-659-8647

**The Eighteenth
Irving L. Schwartz
Lectureship**
in Structural
and Chemical
Biology





Irving L. Schwartz, MD
(1918 – 2011)

Dr. Schwartz was the first Dean of the Mount Sinai Graduate School of Biological Sciences from 1965 to 1980 when he became Dean Emeritus.

He was also the founding chairman of the Department of Physiology and Biophysics (currently the Department of Pharmacological Sciences) and the Lamport Distinguished Professor until his retirement in 1989.

Under Dr. Schwartz's early leadership, Mount Sinai grew as a center of excellence in translational research. He believed in the "vital interdisciplinary interactions among clinicians, basic scientists, medical students, and graduate students within one institution." Dr. Schwartz's interests in biomedical research and education were far reaching, addressing fundamental problems of body fluid regulation, secretory phenomena and neurophysiology. His work, originally in whole animal and organ physiology, evolved over the years to the cellular level, and ultimately to the molecular level. He had a major interest in the function of neurohypophyseal and other peptides. His studies on peptides ranged from bedside observations, to biochemical mechanisms of action, to the definition of three-dimensional structure of such molecules in solution as well as in the crystalline state. The work of his group on the molecular conformation of hormones in solution pioneered structure-function analysis based on the tertiary structure of molecules.



Thomas R. Cech, PhD

Dr. Cech is a Distinguished Professor, and Director, BioFrontiers Institute at the University of Colorado Boulder, and an Investigator, at Howard Hughes Medical Institute. He was raised

in Iowa, and earned his BA and PhD degrees in chemistry from Grinnell College and the University of California, Berkeley, respectively. He performed his postdoctoral study at the Massachusetts Institute Technology, and joined faculty of the University of Colorado Boulder in 1978. In 2000-2009, Dr. Cech served as the President of the Howard Hughes Medical Institute.

In 1982, Dr. Cech and his research group announced that an RNA molecule from Tetrahymena, a single-celled pond organism, cut and rejoined chemical bonds in the complete absence of proteins. This discovery of self-splicing RNA provided the first exception to the long-held belief that biological reactions are always catalyzed by proteins. In addition, it has been heralded as providing a new, plausible scenario for the origin of life; because RNA can be both an information-carrying molecule and a catalyst, perhaps the first self-reproducing system consisted of RNA alone.

Dr. Cech's work has long been recognized by many national and international awards and prizes, including the Heineken Prize of the Royal Netherlands Academy of Sciences (1988), the Albert Lasker Basic Medical Research Award (1988), the Nobel Prize in Chemistry (1989), and the National Medal of Science (1995). In 1987, Dr. Cech was elected to the U.S. National Academy of Sciences and also awarded a lifetime professorship by the American Cancer Society.

In Honor of

IRVING L. SCHWARTZ

Scientist, scholar, teacher, physician

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- 1993 Albert J. Hudspeth, MD, PhD
University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center
 - 1995 Charles F. Stevens, MD, PhD
The Salk Institute
 - 1998 Wayne L. Hubbell, MD, PhD
University of California at Los Angeles
 - 2000 Richard N. Bergman, PhD
University of Southern California
 - 2005 Stephen C. Harrison, PhD
Harvard Medical School
 - 2006 Roger D. Kornberg, PhD*
Stanford University
* The Nobel Prize in Chemistry 2006
 - 2007 Kurt Wüthrich, PhD*
The ETH Zürich
The Scripps Research Institute
* The Nobel Prize in Chemistry 2002
 - 2008 Stuart L. Schreiber, PhD
Harvard University
The Broad Institute of MIT & Harvard
Howard Hughes Medical Institute
 - 2009 Michael G. Rosenfeld, MD
University of California, San Diego
Howard Hughes Medical Institute
 - 2010 Klaus Schulten, PhD
University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign
 - 2011 Kevan Shokat, PhD
University of California, San Francisco
Howard Hughes Medical Institute
 - 2012 Tony Hunter, PhD
The Salk Institute for Biological Studies
 - 2013 David E. Shaw, PhD
D. E. Shaw Research
Columbia University
 - 2014 Joachim Frank, PhD*
Columbia University
Howard Hughes Medical Institute
* The Nobel Prize in Chemistry 2017
 - 2015 Wayne A. Hendrickson, PhD
Columbia University
 - 2016 Jennifer Doudna, PhD
University of California, Berkeley
Howard Hughes Medical Institute
 - 2017 Stephen W. Fesik, PhD
Vanderbilt University School of Medicine