

School of Biological Sciences

Spring 2011



THE LECTURE SERIES AND ITS PURPOSE

The R. Omar and Evelyn Rilett Family Life Sciences Lecture Series was established in April 2007. It recognizes Dr. Rilett's vision and leadership, which built a Department of Biological Sciences at Illinois State University that advanced education in the natural sciences, fostered scholarly endeavors, and nurtured the development of research to the benefit of all who chose to teach and learn at this institution. The purpose is to bring outstanding life scientists and lectures to Illinois State University to benefit academic and local communities.

School of Biological Sciences

presents

R. Omar and Evelyn

Rilett Family

Life Sciences Lecture Series

Co-Sponsored by the

School of Biological Sciences, Phi Sigma,
College of Arts and Sciences, Provost Office,
and Research and Sponsored Programs



April 7th, 2011

7:00 P.M.

Prairie Room

Bone Student Center

Illinois State University

LECTURE SERIES PROGRAM

WELCOME

Dr. Craig Gatto

Director, School of Biological Sciences

HISTORY OF LECTURE SERIES

Dr. Herman Brockman

Professor of Genetics, Emeritus

Distinguished Professor

INTRODUCTION OF SPEAKER

Dr. David Rubin

Associate Professor of Biology

School of Biological Sciences

PRESENTATION

“New insights into old evolutionary problems”

Dr. Clifford J. Tabin

Department of Genetics, Chair

Harvard Medical School, Boston, MA



Dr. Tabin has made pioneering contributions to several fields in biology, including retroviruses, oncogenes, developmental biology and evolution. As an independent researcher, Dr. Tabin cloned the first vertebrate hedgehog cognates and showed that sonic hedgehog (Shh) functions as a morphogen in certain developmental contexts, in particular as an organizing activity during limb development. The Tabin lab also discovered a genetic pathway responsible for mediating left-right asymmetry in vertebrates; helped uncover the pathways leading to dorsoventral limb patterning; made contributions to our understanding of skeletal morphogenesis and identified developmental mechanisms that might underpin the diversification of the beak in Darwin's finches. Thus, Dr. Tabin has been at the cutting edge of developmental biology research in the past decade.

Highlights of Dr. Cliff Tabin's Career, thus far:

- 1976, A.B. University of Chicago - Physics and Anthropology
- 1984, Ph.D. Massachusetts Institute of Technology - Biology
Mentor: Dr. Robert Weinberg
Research: Construction of recombinant retroviruses which could be used as eukaryotic vectors and discovered the first human oncogene - Ras.
- 1984-1986, Postdoctoral Fellow, Biochemistry, Harvard University, Mentored by Dr. Doug Melton
- 1987-1989, Independent Fellow, Molecular Biology, Massachusetts General Hospital
- 1989-1994, Assistant Professor, Genetics, Harvard Medical School
- 1995-1997, Associate Professor, Genetics, Harvard Medical School
- 1997– present, Professor, Genetics, Harvard Medical School
- 1997- present, Chairman, Genetics, Harvard Medical School
- Editorial Boards (past and present): Development, Genes and Development, Developmental Cell, Molecular Cell, Developmental Biology, and Science
- During the past 20 years at Harvard Medical School, Dr. Tabin has mentored 27 post-doctoral fellows and 11 graduate students.
- Teaching Duties (past and present): Embryology, Genetics Developmental and Reproductive Biology, Vertebrate Development, Control of Cell Identity, Molecular Biology and Genetics in Modern Medicine
- Research Interests: Dr. Tabin's research interests are developmental genetics and patterning of organ systems and evolutionary methods (“Evo-Devo”).
- Publications: over 125 papers, 46 reviews, and 7 book chapters
- Current Funding: National Institutes of Health - 4 concurrent grants, National Science Foundation - 1
- Honors and Awards: National Academy of Sciences Award in Molecular Biology, Elected to American Academy of Arts and Sciences, Professional Achievement Medal from University of Chicago, NIH MERIT Award, Elected to National Academy of Sciences, March of Dimes Prize for Developmental Biology
- For additional information, please visit Dr. Tabin's website at:
<http://genepath.med.harvard.edu/~tabin/>