

MBL SPECIAL LECTURE SERIES

Thursday, July 7, 2011 at 9 AM • Lillie Auditorium



The John J. Cebra Lectureship

Membrane dynamics and phosphoinositide signaling at sites of endocytosis

PIETRO DE CAMILLI, *Yale University*

Dr. Pietro De Camilli is the Eugene Higgins Professor of Cell Biology and Neurobiology and a Howard Hughes Medical Institute Investigator at the Yale University School of Medicine. He earned his M.D. from the University of Milano in 1972 and a postgraduate degree in medical endocrinology from the University of Pavia (Italy). He was a postdoctoral fellow (1978) with Paul Greengard in the Department of Pharmacology at Yale. He became Professor and an HHMI investigator in 1992, chaired the Yale Cell Biology Department from 1997 to 2000 and since 2005 is a founding director of the Yale Program in Cellular Neuroscience, Neurodegeneration and Repair. He was elected to membership in the European Molecular Biology Organization (EMBO) in 1987, the American Academy of Arts and Sciences in 2001, the National Academy of Sciences (USA) in 2001, and the Institute of Medicine (USA) in 2005.

Dr. De Camilli's lab is interested in the cell biology of neuronal synapses. His studies on synaptic vesicle dynamics have contributed to the general fields of exocytosis and endocytosis. More recently, work of his lab has focused primarily on mechanisms in synaptic vesicle endocytosis and recycling.

ABOUT THE JOHN CEBRA LECTURESHIP:

Professor John J. Cebra was trained as an immunochemist and protein chemist during the mid-1950s through the 1960s at The Rockefeller University, St. Mary's Hospital, London, and the Weizmann Institute, Israel. In 1961, he established his own lab in the department of microbiology, University of Florida. During the 1960s he became interested in secretory IgA, and his group established its prevalence as a product of gut plasmablasts and its valid quaternary structure. In the 1970s he and others developed many novel principles concerning the IgA system and its Ab product.

Until his death in 2005, Professor Cebra was a professor of biology at the University of Pennsylvania where his group sought to understand the cellular and molecular mechanisms that led to the development of specific humoral and cellular mucosal immune responses, and the influence of commensal bacteria on mucosal immunity. Professor Cebra directed the MBL Physiology course from 1972 to 1976. He and his wife Ethel traveled abroad extensively to engage students of experimental biology in joint research projects. These visits stimulated continuing collaborative scientific interactions between the Cebra lab and various host laboratories worldwide. Professor Cebra considered his major accomplishment to be assisting in the training of 32 graduate students and many postdoctoral fellows.



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