

# MBL SPECIAL LECTURE SERIES

Friday, July 8, 2011 at 8:30 AM • Candle House 104-105



## *The Maynard and Suzanne Goldman Lectureship*

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# The Nanoarchaeotes and the Korarchaeotes—exceptionally deep-branching lineages in the tree of life

KARL O. STETTER, *University of Regensburg, Germany*

Dr. Karl O. Stetter is a professor emeritus at the University of Regensburg. He received his Ph.D. in microbiology from the Technical University, Munich (1973) and his habilitation in microbiology and botany from the Ludwig-Maximilians-University, Munich (1977). From 1980 to 2002, he was professor at and head of the Department of Microbiology and of the Archaea Center of the University of Regensburg.

The majority of Professor Stetter's research has focused on sampling, isolating and characterizing archaeal organisms which comprise the third domain of life, particularly undiscovered extremely heat-loving (hyperthermophilic) bacteria and Archaea, also called extremophiles, growing optimally between 80 and 113°C. *Nanoarchaeum equitans*, an archaeal microorganism containing the world's smallest known genome, was discovered by Dr. Stetter in 2002 in a hydrothermal vent off the coast of Iceland. This archaeobacterium was described in the journal *Nature* in May 2002. Among the other extremophiles discovered by Dr Stetter is *Pyrococcus furiosus*, which was found on the Italian island of Vulcano in 1981. This extremophile was the source of Pfu DNA polymerase.

Dr. Stetter is the recipient of many awards, and in 2003 he was honored with the Leeuwenhoek Medal by the Royal Netherlands Academy of Arts and Sciences, an award given every 10 years to the scientist who has made the most outstanding contributions to the advancement of microbiology.

## ABOUT THE MAYNARD AND SUZANNE GOLDMAN LECTURESHIP

Suzanne and Maynard Goldman first came to Woods Hole when Maynard was named to the Council of Visitors in 1998. He served in this capacity and on the MBL's finance committee until 2003. During this time the Goldmans developed a strong affection for the MBL's professional staff and the exciting work being done here. Maynard and Suzanne have both had a particular interest in ongoing research and developments in the environmental sciences. Maynard has worked with a number of non-profits in this area, served as chairman of the Massachusetts Environmental Trust for more than 15 years, and has been a member of the advisory board of the National Whale Conservation Fund. The Goldmans live in Boston and Grantham, NH. They are pleased to be able to sponsor this lectureship to help continue the tradition of excellence at the MBL.