

JANUARY 18, 2012

Roger Perlmutter to Deliver Public Talk at Janelia Farm

Roger Perlmutter, Executive Vice President for Research and Development at Amgen, will deliver a public lecture titled “Building Better Medicines: Drug Discovery in the 21st Century” at HHMI’s Janelia Farm Research Campus in Ashburn, VA.

Perlmutter will speak on Wednesday, February 15, 2012, at 7 PM. The lecture, the eleventh in a series called “Dialogues of Discovery at Janelia Farm,” is free and open to the public, but tickets are required for admission. Directions for obtaining tickets are available at www.janelia.org/events. Seating is limited to 250 people.

Perlmutter will provide an insider’s perspective on modern drug discovery and talk about what the future might hold for drug design.

New technologies and an improved understanding of human physiology and pathology are creating opportunities to accelerate the long, costly – and sometimes unsuccessful -- path from research discoveries to safe and effective therapies. Perlmutter, who has overseen the development and clinical application of new medicines at the world’s largest biotechnology company since 2001, will discuss the challenges that make drug discovery complex, expensive, and uncertain, and explain how scientists are harnessing new research technologies, better clinical data, and improved biological knowledge to develop therapeutics that improve the lives of patients.

Perlmutter was a Howard Hughes Medical Institute investigator at the University of Washington from 1984 to 1997, where he studied the development and activation of immune cells. In 1997 he joined Merck and Co. as executive vice president of worldwide basic and preclinical research, and in 2001, he left Merck to lead the worldwide research and development efforts at Amgen, Inc. Perlmutter recently announced that he plans to retire from Amgen in February, 2012.

Past speakers in the Dialogues of Discovery series have included Sean B. Carroll, HHMI vice president for science education; Thomas R. Cech, former president of HHMI and an HHMI investigator at the University of Colorado, Boulder; Roian Egnor, a fellow at Janelia Farm; Ronald M. Evans, an HHMI

investigator at the Salk Institute for Biological Studies; Timothy Harris, director of the Applied Physics and Instrumentation Group at Janelia Farm; Anthony Leonardo, a group leader at Janelia Farm; Gerald M. Rubin, HHMI vice president and executive director of Janelia Farm; Leslie Vosshall, an HHMI investigator at Rockefeller University; Huda Y. Zoghbi, an HHMI investigator at Baylor College of Medicine; Charles S. Zuker, an HHMI investigator at the Columbia University College of Physicians and Surgeons and a senior fellow at Janelia Farm.