INAUGURAL
David Pearce, MD
Memorial Lectureship

5 p.m. | Thursday, November 3, 2016

GUEST SPEAKER
Paul A. Sieving, MD, PhD
National Institutes of Health

The Myrna L. Daniels Auditorium
Vivian and Seymour Milstein Family Heart Center
New York-Presbyterian Hospital
David Pearce, MD Memorial Lectureship

The David Pearce, MD Memorial Lectureship was recently established to honor this outstanding and beloved ophthalmologist. Endowment funding was provided by Stephen Ross, a member of Columbia Ophthalmology’s Board of Advisors and a longtime friend of Dr. Pearce, with additional contributions from other friends and colleagues. Dr. Pearce was close to many members of the faculty of Columbia Ophthalmology, but he held an academic appointment at Weill Cornell Ophthalmology. The concept of the program is to support a cross-campus lecture held annually, alternating between the two campuses with attendance from both departments. The Lectureship commemorates the legacy of a wise and compassionate clinician noted for his devoted and outstanding care of his patients.

Dr. Pearce practiced ophthalmology for over 40 years, during which period he was honored with many awards. He received a BA from Union College, an MD degree from New York Medical College, followed by an internship at Beth Israel Medical Center and residency at Downstate Medical Center. He pursued a three-year fellowship in diseases of the cornea at Weill Cornell Medical Center under the tutelage of Stuart Brown, MD. During his career, he was affiliated with three hospitals: New York-Presbyterian/Weill Cornell, Lenox Hill, and Manhattan Eye and Ear.

PROGRAM

“Developing Gene Therapy for a Synaptic Disease: X-Linked Retinoschisis”

4:30–5 p.m.  Resident Case Presentations
The Myrna L. Daniels Auditorium
Vivian and Seymour Milstein Family Heart Center
173 Fort Washington Avenue, New York, NY 10032

5–6 p.m.  Grand Rounds
Guest Speaker’s Presentation
The Myrna L. Daniels Auditorium

6–7 p.m.  Cocktail Reception
The Riverview Terrace
Vivian and Seymour Milstein Family Heart Center

Paul A. Sieving, MD, PhD
Director
National Eye Institute
National Institutes of Health
Bethesda, Maryland

Paul A. Sieving, MD, PhD is Director of the National Eye Institute, NIH. Previously he was the Paul R. Lichter Professor of Ophthalmic Genetics at the University of Michigan (1985-2001). Dr. Sieving studied nuclear physics at Yale Graduate School (1970-73) and attended Yale Law School (1973-74). He received his MD (1978) and PhD (bioengineering, 1981) degrees from the University of Illinois. After an ophthalmology residency at the University of Illinois Eye and Ear Infirmary under Mort Goldberg (1982-85), he did post-doctoral work in retinal physiology with Roy H. Steinberg at the University of California San Francisco (1982-83) and a clinical fellowship in retinal degenerations with Eliot Berson at Harvard Medical School, Massachusetts Eye and Ear Infirmary (1984-85).

He is known for clinical and basic studies of genetic retinal neurodegenerations, including retinitis pigmentosa and macular degeneration. As a clinician, he provides ophthalmic care to patients and their families with Mendelian traits that cause photoreceptor dysfunction and neurodegeneration. He is also a tenured Senior Investigator in the NIH Intramural Research Program. His laboratory focuses on the pathophysiology of photoreceptor disease and synapses to the other retinal neurons as well as glial interactions. His studies of pharmacological approaches to slow degeneration in retinal transgenic animal models led to the first human clinical trial of ciliary neurotrophic factor (CNTF) for retinitis pigmentosa, published in PNAS, 2006. He developed a mouse model of X-linked retinoschisis (XLRS) and treated this successfully using gene therapy which restored retinal function. He initiated the first human XLRS gene therapy trial at NIH in 2015.

Dr. Paul Sieving is an elected member of both the Institute of Medicine, National Academies of Sciences, Engineering and Medicine and the German National Academy of Sciences.