RECIPIENTS OF THE ABRAHAM SPECTOR PRIZE

2006 | Arne Holmgren, PhD
2008 | Steven L. Knight, PhD
2010 | Inder Verma, PhD
2012 | Cynthia Kenyon, PhD
2014 | Clifford Tabin, PhD

THE SIXTH Abraham Spector Prize Lecture

1 p.m. | Thursday, December 1, 2016

Keynote / Guest Speaker

David J. Anderson, PhD
California Institute of Technology, Pasadena, CA

The Roy and Diana Vagelos Education Center
Columbia University Medical Center
THE SIXTH
Abraham Spector Prize Lecture

A 47-year relationship with Columbia University began soon after Abraham Spector, PhD, arrived from Harvard University in 1965. He was promoted to Professor of Ophthalmic Biochemistry in 1973 and served as Research Director of the Department of Ophthalmology for one year in 1989, and later from 1996 until his retirement in 2004. A recipient of the 1996 Malcom P. Aldrich Research Professorship, Dr. Spector became Professor Emeritus in 2004. As a longtime leader in the eye research field, he served the NEI as Chairman of the Board of Scientific Advisors, the National Plan, and the Visual Science Study Section. He was president of ARVO and a visiting professor at universities far and wide.

Dr. Spector’s laboratory was internationally recognized for its work on the lens of the eye. The group’s work covered a number of areas related to the proteins of the lens, aging, transparency, the mechanism of cataract formation, metabolism and cell biology of the lens and more recently, oxidative stress as a major cause of cataract. Other investigations focused on approaches to prevent cataract and other oxidative stress related eye diseases. His research earned him many awards including Guggenheim and Fulbright fellowships, the Proctor Medal of ARVO, honorary doctorates, as well as significant research awards. Dr. Spector passed away in April 2016.

GUEST SPEAKERS
Lisa Stower, PhD
Professor
Department of Molecular and Cellular Neuroscience
The Scripps Research Institute

Thomas R. Clandinin, PhD
Shooter Family Professor and Chair
Department of Neurobiology
Stanford University

C. Daniel Salzman, MD, PhD
Professor
Departments of Psychiatry and Neuroscience
Columbia University

KEYNOTE SPEAKER: David J. Anderson, PhD

Dr. Anderson is the Seymour Benzer Professor of Biology at the California Institute of Technology, and Investigator of the Howard Hughes Medical Institute. He received his AB from Harvard University (Biochemical Sciences, summa cum laude), his PhD in Cell Biology from Rockefeller University where he trained with Nobel Laureate Guenter Blobel, and his postdoctoral training at Columbia University with Nobel Laureate Richard Axel. He has been at the forefront of developing and applying new technologies for neural circuit manipulation, such as optogenetics and pharmacogenetics, to the study of emotional behaviors in both mice and the fruit fly Drosophila melanogaster.