Ada Doisy Lecturers

1970-71 Charles Huggins* and Elwood V. Jensen
1972-73 Paul Berg* and Walter Gilbert*
1973-74 Saul Roseman and Bruce Ames
1974-75 Arthur Kornberg* and Osamu Hayaishi
1976-77 Luis F. Leloir*
1977-78 Albert L. Lehninger and Efraim Racker
1978-79 Donald D. Brown and Herbert Boyer
1979-80 Charles Yanofsky
1980-81 Leroy E. Hood
1983-84 Joseph L. Goldstein* and Michael S. Brown*
1984-85 Joan Steitz and Phillip Sharp*
1985-86 Stephen J. Benkovic and Jeremy R. Knowles
1986-87 Tom Maniatis and Mark Ptashne
1988-89 J. Michael Bishop* and Harold E. Varmus*
1989-90 Kurt Wüthrich*
1990-91 Edmond H. Fischer* and Edwin G. Krebs*
1993-94 Earl W. Davie and John W. Suttie
1995-96 Richard J. Roberts*
1996-97 Ronald M. Evans
1998-99 Elizabeth H. Blackburn
1999-2000 Carl R. Woese† and Norman R. Pace
2000-01 Willem P. C. Stemmer and Ronald W. Davis
2001-02 Janos K. Lanyi and Sir John E. Walker*
2002-03 Peter B. Moore and Harry F. Noller
2003-04 Elizabeth A. Craig and Dr. Susan L. Lindquist
2004-05 Peter C. Agre* and Douglas C. Rees

* Nobel Laureate
† Crafoord Prize
The Ada Doisy Lectures in Biochemistry were established by the late Dr. Edward A. Doisy in honor of his mother Ada Doisy, whom he credited with instilling his love and reverence for learning and inquiry. Dr. Doisy received his Bachelor’s degree in 1914 and his Master’s degree in 1916 from the University of Illinois; he received his Ph.D. from Harvard University in 1920. Dr. Doisy was on the faculty at Washington University School of Medicine from 1920 to 1924. In 1924 he moved to the St. Louis University School of Medicine, where he headed the Department of Biochemistry until his retirement in 1965. Among many contributions to natural products and nutritional chemistry, Dr. Doisy isolated and synthesized vitamin K, and for this work he received the Nobel Prize in Physiology and Medicine in 1943. Dr. Doisy was awarded the Illinois Achievement Award by the University of Illinois Alumni Association in 1958, and received an honorary degree from the University of Illinois in 1960.

The Ada Doisy Lectures are the most distinguished lectureship in the Department of Biochemistry. Of the sixteen Doisy lecturers who are Nobel laureates, ten received their Prize after serving as Doisy Lecturers and one was awarded the Crafoord Prize, an equivalent to the Nobel Prize for areas not covered by it.

The 2005-06 Doisy Lecturers

Professors Lefkowitz and Kobilka are widely recognized for their significant contributions to our understanding of the very large and diverse family of G-protein coupled receptors (GPCRs). These include the adrenergic receptors, the visual light receptor rhodopsin, the “smell receptors” in the nose, the taste receptors, opiate receptors, and hundreds of others. They are evolutionarily related and, although their amino acid sequences are very different, their 3-dimensional structures are similar to each other - a polypeptide chain that weaves back and forth across the plasma membrane seven times (“7-transmembrane spanning receptors”).

Professor Robert J. Lefkowitz attended Columbia University as an undergraduate, majoring in chemistry, received his M. D. from Columbia University College of Physicians and Surgeons in 1966, and did his residency at Columbia-Presbyterian Medical Center, all in New York. In 1968, he took a joint clinical and research position in the NIH laboratory of Drs. Jesse Roth and Ira Pastan, where he began his life-long research interest in hormone receptor signaling and biochemistry. In 1970 he moved to the Massachusetts General Hospital, where he completed his medical residency and clinical training in cardiovascular disease, continued his research on adrenergic receptors in cardiac function in the laboratory of Dr. Edgar Haber, and was a teaching fellow at Harvard Medical School. In 1973, Dr. Lefkowitz joined the faculties of Medicine and Biochemistry at Duke University Medical Center, and was appointed James B. Duke Professor of Medicine in 1982. He has been the recipient of very many national and international awards. He was elected to the National Academy of Sciences in 1988, and to the Institute of Medicine in 1994, and has been an Investigator of the Howard Hughes Medical Institute since 1976. From his early work at Harvard, on cardiac β-adrenergic receptors, he has been at the leading edge of research on the molecular properties and regulatory mechanisms that control the function of plasma membrane receptors for hormones and drugs under normal and pathological circumstances.

Professor Brian K. Kobilka received a bachelor’s degree in biology and chemistry from the University of Minnesota, in Duluth, in 1977. He then studied medicine at Yale University School of Medicine, where he obtained his M. D., cum laude, in 1981. He did his residency in internal medicine at Washington University School of Medicine, Barnes Hospital, in St. Louis. In 1984, he became a Research Fellow and Assistant Professor of Medicine, at Duke University Medical Center, where he began his research career with Dr. Lefkowitz. In 1989, Dr. Kobilka moved to Stanford University School of Medicine, where he is now Professor of Medicine, and Professor of Molecular and Cellular Physiology. Dr. Kobilka’s research encompasses the diversity of adrenergic receptor function in hormone and neurotransmitter signaling, from physiology to structural biology. His work has been recognized by many awards, most recently by a Javits Neuroscience Investigator Award from the National Institute of Neurological Disorders and Stroke, reflecting both the diversity of the adrenergic receptors and of Dr. Kobilka’s contributions.