“Janelia: birth and childhood of a new research institute”

Dr. Rubin will describe the reasons why the Howard Hughes Medical Institute decided to build a free-standing research institute, and how its philosophy, organizational structure, building design, and initial research areas were determined, before presenting some of the scientific highlights from Janelia’s first 10 years.

Thursday, Oct. 13 • 5 PM • Fukushima Auditorium

“Learning and Memory in Drosophila”

All animals need to learn and remember features of their environment. Dr. Rubin will describe his lab’s efforts to understand the mechanisms of learning and memory in the fruit fly Drosophila at the level of identified cells and circuits.

Friday, Oct. 14 • 12 PM • 301 BMRC

Gerald M. Rubin, PhD
Vice President, Howard Hughes Medical Institute
Executive Director, Janelia Research Campus

Dr. Rubin is a vice president of the Howard Hughes Medical Institute and Executive Director of its Janelia Research Campus. Dr. Rubin received his bachelor’s degree from MIT and then worked at MRC Laboratory of Molecular Biology, earning his Ph.D. in 1974 (University of Cambridge). He did postdoctoral work at the Stanford University School of Medicine and held faculty positions at Harvard Medical School and the Carnegie Institution of Washington before moving to the University of California, Berkeley, in 1983 to assume the John D. MacArthur Professorship. Rubin was appointed an HHMI investigator in 1987. He moved to HHMI headquarters in 2000, assumed overall planning responsibility for Janelia Farm in 2002, and was appointed its first director in 2003. He is known for his studies of genetics, genomics, and developmental biology in the fruit fly Drosophila. He led the publicly funded effort to sequence the Drosophila genome, collaborating with Celera Genomics to achieve this goal in 2000. Dr. Rubin is a member of the National Academy of Sciences, the National Academy of Medicine, and the American Academy of Arts and Sciences, and a Foreign Member of The Royal Society (London). He has received numerous awards, including the American Chemical Society Eli Lilly Award in Biological Chemistry, the National Academy of Sciences U.S. Steel Foundation Award in Molecular Biology, and the Genetics Society of America Medal.