Distinguished Visitor Programme

Prof Robert Tjian
Professor of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology, University of California, Berkeley

Biography

Prof. Tjian is also Professor of Molecular and Cell Biology at the University of California, Berkeley, and Adjunct Professor of Biochemistry and Biophysics at the University of California, San Francisco. He received his Ph.D. degree in biochemistry and molecular biology from Harvard University. Before moving to Berkeley, he was a junior fellow of the Harvard Society of Fellows and a staff investigator at Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory. His honors include the Pfizer, Monsanto, Rosenstiel, Passano, Horwitz, and Alfred P. Sloan Awards. Prof. Tjian has been California Scientist of the Year and is a member of the National Academy of Sciences.

Lecture Abstract

18 March 2004, 6.15 pm - 7.30 pm, Clinical Research Centre (CRC) Auditorium, Faculty of Medicine, MD 11, National University of Singapore, 10 Medical Drive, Singapore 117597

"From DNA Binding Proteins to Novel Therapeutics?"

"Rapid advances in molecular biology together with the advent of genomics has ushered in a new era of drug discovery and development. By taking advantage of our newly gained knowledge of how specific DNA binding proteins work to regulate transcription and gene expression in humans, we have been able to develop novel therapeutic agents against a variety of global diseases including cancer, diabetes, heart disease and viral infections. I will first describe some of the fundamental features of the gene regulatory machinery responsible for decoding the human genome. Then I will use specific examples to illustrate how DNA binding proteins have opened the way to new and potent therapeutic treatments for various diseases."