

News

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****Top molecular genetics researcher, Dr. Sydney Brenner,
to be Jonsson Visiting Professor at UT Southwestern

DALLAS -- One of the founders of modern molecular genetics, Dr. Sydney Brenner, will be the 1988 Philip R. Jonsson Visiting Professor at The University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center at Dallas. He will give two major addresses at the school on Jan. 19 and 20, 1988, as part of the premier academic event of the year for Southwestern Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences.

On Tuesday, Jan. 19, Brenner will discuss the latest aspects of his work in a presentation entitled "The Molecular Genetics of Nematodes." The lecture will be at 3 p.m. in the Zale Lecture Hall (D1.600) at UT Southwestern, 5323 Harry Hines Blvd.

Brenner, who is director of the Molecular Genetics Unit of the Medical Research Council in Cambridge, England, also will give the Sigma Xi Lecture on Wednesday, Jan. 20, at 4 p.m. in the Zale Lecture Hall. That lecture is entitled "The Decipherment of Linear G."

The Wednesday lecture is part of a major symposium, sponsored by the graduate school, on "Analysis of the Human Genome in Health and Disease." Seven top researchers in molecular genetics and related areas will participate.

The activities are part of the Jonsson Visiting Professorship program which also includes the Sigma Xi Graduate Student Research Forum. A poster display and reception honoring top student researchers will be held in the A.W. Harris Faculty-Alumni Center following the lecture on Jan. 19.

Brenner, who is a Fellow of the Royal Society, has been working on the nature of the genetic code and the mechanism of gene expression since the early '60s, when messenger RNA (mRNA) was discovered. He began working with nematodes (a parasite) with the object of mapping the origin and fate of neural cells in the organism. His elegant genetic and physical methods to analyze the changing neural networks as the animal develops has provided an intellectual framework that continues to support the work of a large number of laboratories.

The annual Jonsson Visiting Professorship Program was endowed by Mr. and Mrs. Erik Jonsson through the Southwestern Medical Foundation. Previous Jonsson Visiting Professors have included Lewis Thomas, Francois Jacob, Sir Peter Medawar, Sir Gustav Nossal, Arthur Kornberg, George Palade, Paul Berg and Gerald Edelman.

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Note: The University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center at Dallas comprises Southwestern Medical School, Southwestern Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences and Southwestern Allied Health Sciences School.