



# Innovative Medicine Lecture

Turning scientific possibility into reality

## Innovative Medicine Lecture: Turning scientific possibility into reality

Monday 29 October 2018, 16:30–18:30

Careum Auditorium, Pestalozzistrasse 11, 8032 Zürich



Universität  
Zürich<sup>UZH</sup>

Hochschulmedizin Zürich

**ETH** zürich



UniversitätsSpital  
Zürich



UNIVERSITÄTS-  
KINDERSPITAL  
ZÜRICH

Der Balgrist



Psychiatrische  
Universitätsklinik Zürich

## Programme | 16:30–18:30

16:30–16:35	<b>Welcome address</b>	<b>Markus Stoffel</b> , MD, PhD (Moderator)
16:35–16:45	<b>Honouring Alex Leather</b>	<b>Barry Greene</b>
<b>16:45–17:30</b>	<b>The discovery of RNAi</b>	<b>Phillip A. Sharp</b> , PhD (Nobel Laureate)
<b>17:30–18:15</b>	<b>Clinical applications of RNAi</b>	<b>Akshay K. Vaishnaw</b> , MD, PhD
18:15–18:30	<b>Moderated Q&amp;A</b>	<b>Markus Stoffel</b>

*Apéro riche, 18:30–19:30*



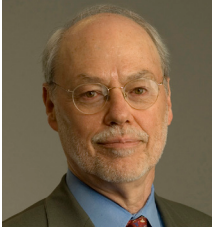
**Markus Stoffel**  
**Institute of Molecular Health Sciences, ETH Zürich**

Markus Stoffel is the Professor of Metabolic Diseases at the Institute of Molecular Health Sciences, ETH Zürich and an adjunct Professor at the University Hospital Zürich since 2006. After studying Medicine in Cambridge, UK, and Bonn, Germany, he performed postdoctoral studies at the University of Chicago. In 1995 he joined the faculty of Rockefeller University in New York. His research interests focus on molecular mechanisms regulating glucose and lipid homeostasis, insulin secretion and insulin signalling by transcriptional and post-transcriptional mechanisms. Selected awards include: Pew Scholar Award, 1996; Bristol Myers Award (Metabolism), 2002; Outstanding Scientific Achievement Award (American Diabetes Association), 2006; Minkowski Prize, 2007; Heinrich Wieland Prize, 2008; European Research Council Advanced Award, 2010; Morgagni Prize, 2012.



**Barry Greene**  
**President, Alnylam Pharmaceuticals**

Barry Greene joined Alnylam Pharmaceuticals in 2003 and has more than 25 years of experience in healthcare, pharmaceutical and biotechnology industries. Prior to Alnylam, Barry was General Manager of Oncology at Millennium Pharmaceuticals, Inc., where he led the company's global strategy and execution for its oncology business, culminating in the approval and launch of VELCADE® (bortezomib) in mid-2003. Prior to joining Millennium in February 2001, Barry served as Executive Vice President and Chief Business Officer for Mediconsult.com. Preceding that, his past experiences include Vice President of Marketing and Customer Services for AstraZeneca, formerly AstraMerck, Vice President of Strategic Integration with responsibility for the AstraZeneca North American post-merger integration, and Partner, Andersen Consulting, responsible for the pharmaceutical/biotechnology marketing and sales practice. Barry received his BS degree in Industrial Engineering from University of Pittsburgh and served as Senior Scholar at Duke University, Fuqua School of Business. He also serves on the Boards of Acorda Therapeutics and Karyopharm Therapeutics.



## **Phillip A. Sharp**

### **The Koch Institute for Integrative Cancer Research, MIT**

Phillip A. Sharp is an Institute Professor (highest academic rank) at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) and member of the Department of Biology and the Koch Institute for Integrative Cancer Research. He joined the MIT Center for Cancer Research (now the Koch Institute) in 1974 and served as its director from 1985 to 1991, before taking over as head of the Department of Biology, a position he held for the next 8 years. He was founding director of the McGovern Institute for Brain Research at MIT from 2000 to 2004.

Dr Sharp's research interests have centred on the molecular biology of gene expression relevant to cancer and the mechanisms of RNA splicing. His landmark work in 1977 provided the first indications of "discontinuous genes" in mammalian cells. The discovery fundamentally changed scientists' understanding of gene structure and earned Dr Sharp the 1993 Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine. Dr Sharp has authored over 430 papers.

He is an elected member of the National Academy of Sciences, the Institute of Medicine, the American Academy of Arts & Sciences, the American Philosophical Society, and The Royal Society, UK. Among his many awards are the Gairdner Foundation International Award, the Lasker Basic Medical Research Award, and the National Medal of Science. His long list of service includes the presidency of the American Association for the Advancement of Science (2013) and Chair of the Scientific Advisory Committee of the SU2C Project, American Association for Cancer Research. A native of Kentucky, Dr Sharp earned a BA degree from Union College, Barboursville, KY, and a PhD in chemistry from the University of Illinois, Champaign-Urbana. Dr Sharp is a co-founder of Biogen and Alnylam Pharmaceuticals Inc.



## **Akshay Vaishnav**

### **Research & Development, Alnylam Pharmaceuticals**

Dr Akshay Vaishnav joined Alnylam Pharmaceuticals in 2006 and is currently the President of Research & Development. He has also served as Executive Vice President of Research & Development, from December 2014 to March 2018, and as Chief Medical Officer from June 2011 to December 2016. Prior to this, Akshay was Senior Director of Translational Medicine at Biogen Idec (now Biogen).

In his 7 years at Biogen he was involved in many aspects of clinical research and business development, and led the effort for the approval of alefacept (Amevive™) for psoriasis. Akshay received his MD from the University of Wales College of Medicine, UK, and PhD from the University of London, UK, in Molecular Immunology.

He is a Fellow of the Royal College of Physicians, UK, and a member of the Scientific Advisory Board of Scholar Rock, MA, US, as well as the Board of Directors for Visterra Inc. and Editas Medicine. In addition, Akshay has published numerous papers in leading scientific journals and authored a number of textbook chapters relating to autoimmune disease.



This lecture is to honour and perpetuate the spirit  
and enthusiasm for science, medicine and innovation of

**Dr Alex Leather**  
(1976–2016)