

THE
Flexner
DISCOVERY
LECTURE SERIES

FRANCIS S. COLLINS, M.D., PH.D.

EXCEPTIONAL OPPORTUNITIES IN BIOMEDICAL RESEARCH

MAY 28, 2015

3:00 P.M.

208 LIGHT HALL

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Flexner
DISCOVERY
LECTURE SERIES

SPONSORED BY:
OFFICE OF THE VICE CHANCELLOR FOR HEALTH AFFAIRS

VANDERBILT  UNIVERSITY
MEDICAL CENTER

EXCEPTIONAL OPPORTUNITIES IN BIOMEDICAL RESEARCH

With particular focus on research made possible by the National Institutes of Health (NIH), which is the world's leading supporter of biomedical science, this lecture will examine recent advances in fundamental knowledge about biology—and highlight ways in which such discoveries are being utilized to improve human health.

Topics will include the pioneering Brain Research through Advancing Innovative Neurotechnologies (BRAIN) Initiative and the recently announced Precision Medicine Initiative (PMI), a bold new enterprise that will build the scientific evidence base needed to move the concept of precision medicine into everyday clinical practice. The talk will explain why PMI is now within reach because of recent scientific and technological innovations, along with the public's growing desire to be active partners in medical research. The discussion will also cover NIH's plans for leading PMI's two main components: a near-term component that will focus on cancer and a longer-term component that will generate knowledge applicable to the whole range of health and disease. To achieve PMI's longer-term objectives, NIH will launch a national research cohort of 1 million or more volunteers who will play an active role in how their genetic, environmental, and medical information is used for the prevention of illness and management of a wide array of chronic diseases.

The lecture will also look toward shared challenges and exciting possibilities for the future of science. These extraordinary opportunities include the training of the next generation of researchers and what we might do, together, to improve the biomedical research enterprise.



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AWARDEE, PRESIDENTIAL MEDAL OF FREEDOM
AWARDEE, NATIONAL MEDAL OF SCIENCE**

Francis S. Collins, M.D., Ph.D. is the Director of the National Institutes of Health (NIH). In that role he oversees the work of the largest supporter of biomedical research in the world, spanning the spectrum from basic to clinical research.

Dr. Collins is a physician-geneticist noted for his landmark discoveries of disease genes and his leadership of the international Human Genome Project, which culminated in April 2003 with the completion of a finished sequence of the human DNA instruction book. He served as director of the National Human Genome Research Institute at the NIH from 1993-2008.

Before coming to the NIH, Dr. Collins was a Howard Hughes Medical Institute investigator at the University of Michigan. He is an elected member of the Institute of Medicine and the National Academy of Sciences, was awarded the Presidential Medal of Freedom in November 2007, and received the National Medal of Science in 2009.