THE SCHMIDT LECTURERS

1981 Efraim Racker, Albert Einstein Professor of Biochemistry, Cornell University

1983 H. Gobind Khorana, Alfred P. Sloan Professor of Biology and Chemistry, Massachusetts Institute of Technology

1984 Alton Meister, Chairman and Professor of Biochemistry, Cornell Medical College

1986 James E. Darnell, Vincent Astor Professor of Molecular Cell Biology, Rockefeller University

1987 Alexander Rich, William Thompson Sedgwick Professor of Biophysics, Massachusetts Institute of Technology

1988 Hamish Munro, Professor Physiological Chemistry, Massachusetts Institute of Technology

1989 Bert L. Vallee, Paul C. Cabot Professor of Biochemical Sciences, Harvard Medical School

1990 Stephen J. Benkovic, University Professor, Eberly Chair in Chemistry, The Pennsylvania State University

1991 Steven L. McKnight, Investigator, Howard Hughes Medical Institute at Carnegie Institution of Washington

THE 1992
GERHARD SCHMIDT
LECTURE

May 5, 1992

Tufts University
Health Sciences Campus
Department of Biochemistry
GERHARD SCHMIDT  
(1901-1981)

Gerhard Schmidt, M.D., was a great scientist and a great humanist. A man of charm and charisma, a noted researcher and a devoted educator, he combined brilliance, humor, idealism and apparent simplicity in an extraordinary way.

Professionally known for his work in nucleic acid and phospholipid metabolism, he was as deeply involved in areas as diverse as chamber music and literature. His love of a chamber music style in which virtuosity was subordinate to collaboration mirrored his scientific ideals in which the love of learning was everything, and politics and glory played no role. His lectures combined warmth, clarity and intense love of his subject, with occasional quotes from Shakespeare or Goethe.

The turbulence of Europe in the 1930’s led to him coming to America, but already in 1928 he had written a classic paper describing enzymatic processes of deamination. He joined the Tufts faculty in 1940, and soon after his arrival, made one of the most important contributions to the development of nucleic acid metabolism, describing with Dr. Siegfried Thannhauser a quantitative method for determination of DNA and RNA in tissues. The simplicity and reliability of this method continues to play an important role in research in molecular biology. Dr. Schmidt pioneered work on enzymes involved in nucleic acid degradation. He was a world authority in the field of nucleic acids and phospholipids.

In 1973, the same year in which he was named a professor emeritus at Tufts, he was elected to the National Academy of Sciences. Although in poor health in later years, he worked regularly at his laboratory almost until his death on April 24, 1981.

A final tribute to a life of devotion to science and to humanism is the establishment of the Gerhard Schmidt Memorial Lectureship at Tufts, a memorial that embodies so many of his beliefs and ideals. Contributions to this memorial to ensure its continuation will be gratefully accepted at the Department of Biochemistry, Tufts University School of Medicine, 136 Harrison Avenue, Boston, MA 02111.

THE 1992 SCHMIDT LECTURE

Growth Regulation by Retinoblastoma and Related Nuclear Proteins

David Livingston
Dana Farber Cancer Institute

Tuesday, May 5, 1992
4:00 p.m.
DeBlois Auditorium B
145 Harrison Avenue
Boston

WE ARE GRATEFUL TO THE FOLLOWING FOR THEIR SUPPORT OF THIS LECTURESHIP:

Mr. & Mrs. Herbert Fromm
Dr. Gunter Schmidt
Dr. Teruji Tanaka
Mrs. Edith Schmidt
Drs. Roy & Ingrid Kisluk
Mrs. Erna Weinberg
Dr. Richard C. Siegel
Dr. David A. Holowka
Dr. Keith Halpern
Dr. Henry & Dorothea Mautner
Dr. B. David & Carol Stollar
Dr. Milton & Homai Schmidt
Des. Amy Yue & Eric Paulson
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