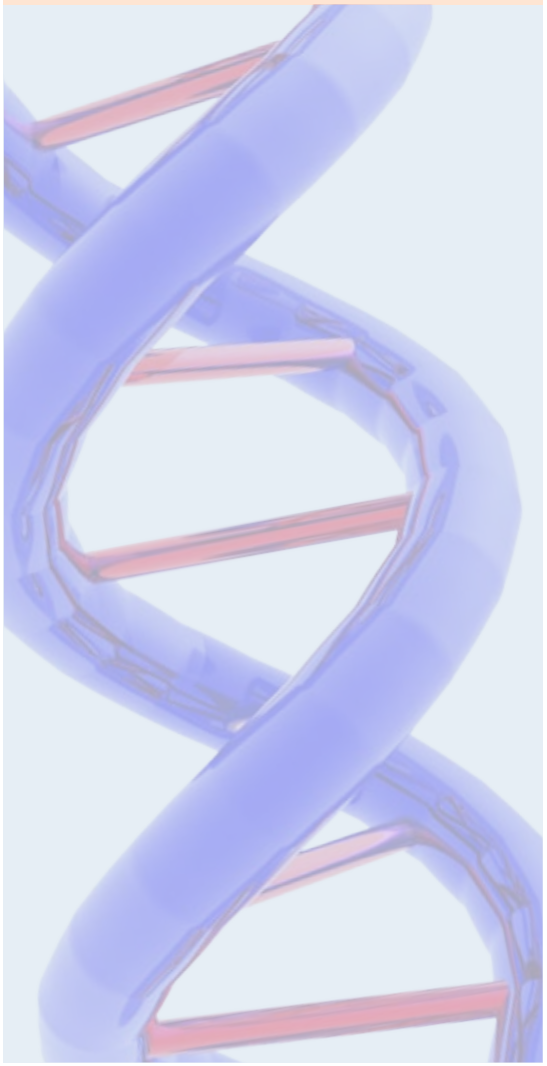
Francis Collins, M.D., Ph.D.
Director, Human Genome Project



UF UNIVERSITY of FLORIDA

UF Genetics Institute

Florida Genetics 2008

Five internationally acclaimed genetics scientists have agreed to present research findings at Florida Genetics 2008, the annual symposium of the University of Florida Genetics Institute slated for Oct. 29-30.

Human Genome Project leader to speak

The leader of the Human Genome Project has accepted an invitation to speak at the UF Genetics Institute's annual symposium this fall, announced Indra Vasil, Ph.D., chairman of the organizing committee for Florida Genetics 2008.

Physician-geneticist Francis S. Collins, M.D., Ph.D., is widely known for his landmark discovery of disease genes and his leadership of the complex scientific enterprise that directed the mapping and sequencing all of the human DNA.

Collins announced a working draft of the human genome in June 2000 with President Bill Clinton and rival scientist Craig Venter at his side. A finished version of the sequence was completed in April 2003.

"In grand style, Dr. Collins will continue our tradition of bringing leading geneticists to the University of Florida for interaction with faculty and students," said Vasil, a graduate research professor emeritus and associate director of the Genetics Institute.

On the roster along with Francis Collins are:

- **John Coffin, Ph.D.**, a professor of molecular biology and microbiology at Tufts University, who will present, "Evolution of the retrovirus-host relationship"
- **Trudy F. C. Mackay, Ph.D.**, the William Neal Reynolds professor of genetics at North Carolina State University, who will present, "The genetic architecture of complex traits: lessons from Drosophila"
- **David J. Lipman, M.D.**, director of the National Center for Biotechnology Information of the National Library of Medicine and National Institutes of Health, who will present, "Generation of new genes (i.e. exploring the proteome on ORFs and orphans)"
- **Joseph R. Ecker, Ph.D.**, professor of plant molecular and cellular biology of the Salk Institute for Biological Studies, who will present, "Sequencing 1,001 genomes for functional and evolutionary studies in Arabidopsis"


DAVID J. LIPMAN, M.D.


JOHN COFFIN, PH.D.


TRUDY F. C. MACKAY, PH.D.


JOSEPH R. ECKER, PH.D.

UF Genetics Institute speakers are:

- **William Hauswirth, Ph.D.**, the Rybaczki-Bullard professor of ophthalmology and molecular genetics in the College of Medicine, who will present, "Gene therapy for blindness caused by retinal cone mutations"
- **Charles Baer, Ph.D.**, assistant professor of zoology in the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, who will present, "The effects of spontaneous mutations on phenotypic canalization in Caenorhabditis"
- **Lauren McIntyre, Ph.D.**, associate professor of molecular genetics and microbiology in the College of Medicine, who will present, "Modeling allele specific expression"
- **Mark Settles, Ph.D.**, the Vasil-Monsanto associate professor of horticultural sciences in the graduate program in plant molecular and cellular biology at the Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences, who will present, "Phenomics meets genomics: exploring maize seed development with high throughput technologies"
- **Kevin Folta, Ph.D.**, assistant professor of horticultural sciences at IFAS, who will present, "Structural and functional genomics of strawberry; a gateway to the Rosaceae"

All UF faculty, graduate students and research associates are invited to submit poster abstracts of their latest genetics research. On-line registration and abstract submission will be available in August at the UFGI Web site.

The event is sponsored by the UF Genetics Institute, the Center for Epigenetics, the College of Engineering, the Department of Molecular Genetics and Microbiology, the Evelyn F. and William L. McKnight Brain Institute, the Graduate Program in Plant Molecular and Cellular Biology, Health Science Center Libraries and the Interdisciplinary Center for Biotechnology Research.