



### **Eric J. Nestler, M.D., Ph.D.**

is the Nash Family Professor of Neuroscience, Chairman of the Department of Neuroscience, and Director of the Brain Institute at the Mount Sinai School of Medicine in New York City. Dr. Nestler's research is centered on better understanding the molecular

mechanisms of addiction and depression. His research uses animal models of these disorders to identify the ways in which drugs of abuse or stress change the brain to lead to addiction- or depression-like syndromes, and to use this information to develop improved treatments of these disorders.

Dr. Nestler received his B.A., Ph.D., and M.D. degrees from Yale University, and completed his residency training in psychiatry at McLean Hospital and Yale in 1987. He then served on the Yale faculty from 1987-2000 where he was the Director of the Division of Molecular Psychiatry, and was Chairman of the Department of Psychiatry at The University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center at Dallas from 2000 to 2008, before moving to Mount Sinai in 2008.

Dr. Nestler has served on the Board of Scientific Counselors of the National Institute on Drug Abuse, on the National Advisory Mental Health Council for the National Institute of Mental Health, and as Council member of the American College of Neuropsychopharmacology and of the Society for Neuroscience. He is a member of the Scientific Advisory Board of the National Alliance for Research in Schizophrenia and Depression and of the International Mental Health Research Organization, and a member of the Board of Directors of the McKnight Endowment Fund in Neuroscience. He currently serves on the National Advisory Drug Abuse Council for the National Institute on Drug Abuse. Dr. Nestler was elected to the Institute of Medicine in 1998 and to the American Academy of Arts and Sciences in 2005.



### **Stephen B. Baylin, M.D.**

is Deputy Director of the Cancer Center, Professor of Medicine and Professor of Oncology at the Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine. He is also Chief of the Cancer Biology Division of the Johns Hopkins Oncology Center, and Associate Director for Research of

The Sidney Kimmel Comprehensive Cancer Center at Johns Hopkins. Dr. Baylin's research has contributed heavily to the concept that epigenetically mediated loss of gene function is a major player in the progression of human cancer. His studies on the functions and regulation of DNA methylation, histone acetylation/de-acetylation, and histone methylation enzymes that controls the transcriptional silencing of human genes give a much more complete picture of the machinery that mediates aberrant promoter methylation in cancer. These studies also contribute to the translational goal of targeting reversal of abnormal gene silencing as a cancer prevention and/or therapy strategy.

Dr. Baylin attended Duke University, and earned his M.D. degree at its Medical School, where he also completed his internship and first year residency in Internal Medicine. Following his two-year study at the National Heart and Lung Institute of the National Institutes of Health (NIH), in 1971 he joined the Departments of Oncology and Medicine at the Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine, an affiliation that still continues.

Dr. Baylin has been a member of committees of the American Cancer Society and of NIH. His honors include a Research Career Development Award from NIH, the Edwin Astwood Lectureship of the Endocrine Society, and appointment to the Virginia and D.K. Ludwig Professorship in Cancer Research and most recently the 2009 Kirk A. Landon-AACR Prize for Basic Cancer Research, also shared with Peter A. Jones, PhD. During his highly productive career, Dr. Baylin has thus far authored over 300 full-length publications.



### **C. David Allis, Ph.D.**

is the Joy and Jack Fishman Professor and Head of the Laboratory of Chromatin Biology at The Rockefeller University in New York City. His laboratory focuses on the DNA-histone protein complex, chromatin, which is part of a sophisticated system that allows for extremely selective gene

activation (or inactivation) in a given cell. His team investigates chromatin signaling via histone modifications such as acetylation, methylation and phosphorylation; these modifications may act together to form a 'histone code' that, in turn, dictates downstream biological events. Their studies suggest that these and other chromatin-modifying activities are centrally connected to the control of normal cellular proliferation and differentiation as well as abnormal events leading to transformation and tumorigenesis.

Dr. Allis received his B.S. from the University of Cincinnati and his Ph.D. from Indiana University. A member of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences since 2001, Allis is a past recipient of the DeWitt Stetten Jr. Award (2001), Dickson Prize in Medicine (2002), the Massry Prize (2003) the 2004 recipient of the Wiley prize; Election as a Fellow of the American Academy of Microbiology, 2004; elected to the Harvey Society, 2005; Election to the National Academy of Sciences, 2005; Gairdner Foundation International Award, 2007; Merck-ASBMB Award, 2008.