

Systems biology pioneer Leroy Hood to give Rodbell Lecture

By Eddy Ball

NIEHS will welcome Leroy Hood, M.D., Ph.D., to present the annual Dr. Martin Rodbell Lecture, March 10 at 11:00 a.m., in NIEHS Rodbell Auditorium. Hood will explore “Systems Medicine and Proactive P4 Medicine: Catalyzing a Revolution in Healthcare.”

Hood

(<https://www.systemsbiology.org/leroy-hood>)

is founder and president of the Institute for Systems Biology (ISB), a nonprofit biomedical research organization based in Seattle. One of the central concepts at ISB is a predictive, personalized, preventive, and participatory approach to medicine, or **P4 medicine**

(<https://www.systemsbiology.org/hood-group>)

. “It [P4 medicine] will represent a network of networks — genetic networks, molecular networks, cellular networks, tissue networks, individual networks, population networks, and social networks,” Hood has said.

Linked Video

[Watch this video on Leroy Hood and his systems approach to medicine. \(2:18\)](#)

“We are very fortunate to have a scientist, inventor, and entrepreneur of Dr. Hood’s caliber speaking at NIEHS,” said Kristine Witt, National Toxicology Program (NTP) Genetic Toxicology Group leader. “I’m sure scientists across the institute will be eager to hear his talk.” Witt and Warren Casey, Ph.D., director of the NTP Interagency Center for the Evaluation of Alternative Toxicological Methods, will co-host Hood’s talk.

A record of excellence

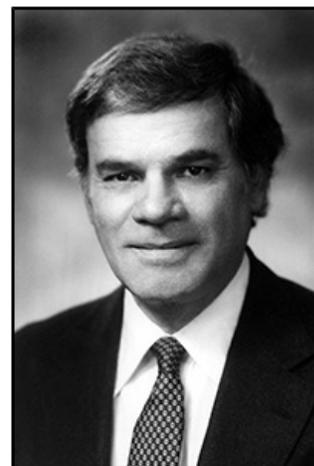
Prior to founding ISB in 2000, Hood served as chairman and founder of the Department of Molecular Biotechnology at the University of Washington; chair of the Division of Biology at the California Institute of Technology, where he completed his Ph.D. in 1968; and a senior scientist at the National Cancer Institute. Hood earned his M.D. at Johns Hopkins University in 1964.

Hood has published more than 750 peer-reviewed papers, been granted 36 patents, received 17 honorary degrees, and founded or co-founded 15 different biotechnology companies, including Amgen, Applied Biosystems, Rosetta, Darwin, Integrated Diagnostics, and Indi Molecular. In recognition of his scientific discoveries and engineering advances, Hood has received more than 100 awards and honors, including some of the highest honors in his fields of endeavor.

The Rodbell Lecture is one of two named talks in the annual NIEHS Distinguished Lecture Series. It honors former NIEHS Scientific Director and Nobel laureate [Martin Rodbell, Ph.D.](#) Rodbell shared the 1994 Nobel Prize in physiology or medicine with [Alfred Gilman, Ph.D.](#) (http://www.nobelprize.org/nobel_prizes/medicine/laureates/1994/gilman-autobio.html), for the discovery of G-proteins, signal transducers that transmit and modulate signals in cells to control fundamental life processes.



Hood joins some of the country’s leading scientists, several of them Nobel laureates, who have presented Rodbell Lectures at NIEHS. (Photo courtesy of ISB)



Rodbell presented the first talk in the series shortly before his death in 1998. (Archive photo courtesy of Steve McCaw)

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