

Past Taketa Seminar Speakers

- Oct. 2011 Melanie H. Cobb, Ph.D.
University of Texas at Dallas
Southwestern Medical Center
- Oct. 2009 John L. Markley, Ph.D.
University of Wisconsin at Madison
- May 2007 Natalie G. Ahn, Ph.D.
University of Colorado at Boulder
- May 2006 Jack Dixon, Ph.D.
University of California at San Diego
- April 2004 Phillip A Cole, MD, Ph.D.
Johns Hopkins University, Maryland
- Oct. 2002 William S. Reznikoff, Ph.D.
University of Wisconsin at Madison
- April 2002 Rowena G. Matthews, Ph.D.
University of Michigan
- April 2001 Gregory Petsko, Ph.D.
Brandeis University, MA
- Sept. 1999 Hector DeLuca, Ph.D.
University of Wisconsin at Madison
- Oct. 1998 James L. Lessard, Ph.D.
Children's Hospital Medical Center
Cincinnati, OH
- April 1998 Jonathan Stamler, M.D.
Howard Hughes Medical Institute
Duke University Medical Center
- Oct. 1996 Bettie Sue Masters, Ph.D.
University of Texas Health Science Ctr.
- Oct. 1995 Richard T. Okita, Ph.D.
Washington State University
- May 1994 Richard G. Kemp, Ph.D.
University Health Science Center
Chicago Medical School
- Sept. 1992 Grant Mauk, Ph.D.
University of British Columbia
- October 1991 John W. Suttie, Ph.D.
University of Wisconsin at Madison

TAKETA MEMORIAL SEMINAR

**THE DEPARTMENT
OF BIOCHEMISTRY PRESENTS**

**AJIT VARKI, M.D.
UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA
AT SAN DIEGO**

*Adventures in Anthropogeny:
What Makes Us Human?*



THURSDAY, APRIL 10, 2014
3:00 PM
CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL AUDITORIUM

Reception to follow at the
TBRC 2nd Floor Atrium

Charles F. Taketa, Ph.D.



Charles Fumito Taketa was born March 10, 1926, in Waimea on the island of Kauai, Hawaii. He received his A.B. at Washington University in 1950 and his Ph.D. from the University of Wisconsin-Madison in 1957. In 1958, he was appointed to the faculty of Marquette University School of Medicine as an instructor in Biochemistry and later promoted to Assistant Professor. As the school became the Medical College of Wisconsin in 1967, he continued his ascent to Associate Professor, then to Professor in 1973. From 1980 to 1982, he was acting Chairman, and from 1982 he was Vice Chairman of the Department of Biochemistry. His research career, which was devoted to understanding the chemical basis of hemoglobin function and later the toxicity of organotin compounds, was supported by the National Institutes of Health, the Wisconsin Heart Foundation, the American Cancer Society, and the Midwest Children's Cancer Center. He was a Fogarty Scholar at Kings College, London from 1975 to 1976, and in 1987 he received the Medical College's Distinguished Service Award. He died on June 1, 1990.

Friends and family of Charles Fumito Taketa established the Charles Fumito Taketa Memorial Fund at the Medical College of Wisconsin to promote graduate education in Biochemistry.

Ajit Varki, M.D.



Ajit Varki received his basic training in physiology, medicine, biology, and biochemistry at the Christian Medical College, Vellore, The University of Nebraska, and Washington University in St. Louis. He also has formal training and certification in internal medicine, hematology, and oncology. He is currently distinguished professor of medicine and cellular and molecular medicine, and co-director of the Glycobiology Research and Training Center at UCSD. His research interests are currently focused on a family of sugar molecules called the Sialic Acids, and their roles in biology, evolution and disease. The surfaces of all cells in all organisms are decorated with a dense and complex array of sugar chains. These "glycans" are known to mediate or modulate many biological processes including sub-cellular and cellular trafficking, intercellular adhesion, signaling, and microbial attachment. Much data also indicates their involvement in embryonic development, normal tissue organization, tumor metastasis, and in the interactions of cells with extra-cellular molecules. In recent years, improved technologies have permitted exploration of this new frontier of "Molecular Glycobiology." The Varki lab uses these new approaches, along with the traditional tools of molecular biology, biochemistry, genetics and genomics to investigate selected areas of Glycobiology. The present focus is on the sialic acids, which are found at the outermost position on the glycan chains of all vertebrate cell surfaces and glycoproteins. Currently active projects are relevant to the roles of sialic acids in Viral and Bacterial Infectivity, the Regulation of the Immune Response, the Initiation and Progression of Tumors and Unique Aspects of Human Evolution.