

LIFE SCIENCES

seminar series

Jules A. Hoffmann

Molecular and Cellular Biology Institut,
CRNS, France

Innate Immunity: From Flies to Humans

Mendel Lecture

May 21, 2015

Thursday, 17:00 – 18:00

Mendel Museum, Mendel Square

Telecast

Seminar room 114, pavilion A11

University campus Bohunice

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Dr. Hoffmann's research has focused on the development and the defence reactions of insects. Since 1990, he and his laboratory have explored the potent antimicrobial mechanisms of *Drosophila* as a paradigm for innate immune defences. In particular, the group is credited with having unravelled the role of Toll receptors in fighting infections.

Hoffmann and Bruce Beutler were jointly awarded a half share of the 2011 Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine for "their discoveries concerning the activation of innate immunity".

Hoffmann and Lemaitre discovered the function of the fruit fly Toll gene in innate immunity. Its mammalian homologs, the Toll-like receptors, were discovered by Beutler. Toll-like receptors identify constituents of other organisms like fungi and bacteria, and trigger an immune response, explaining, for example, how septic shock can be triggered by bacterial remains.



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