2021
Dr. Alan W. Flake, MD
Director, Center for Fetal Research,
Children’s Hospital of Philadelphia
Professor of Surgery, Perelman School of Medicine,
University of Pennsylvania

For research advancing fetal surgical techniques and therapies to help babies with life-threatening or devastating fetal conditions and those experiencing preterm birth.

2020
Susan Fisher, PhD
Director, Translational Research in Perinatal Biology & Medicine
Center for Reproductive Sciences
Professor, Obstetrics, Gynecology, Reproductive Sciences
University of California – San Francisco

For her research on the human placenta and its role in preeclampsia and other events that lead to preterm labor.

2019
Myriam Hemberger, PhD
Director, Precision Medicine & Disease Mechanisms Program
Alberta Children’s Hospital Research Institute
Professor, Biochemistry & Molecular Biology, Medical Genetics
University of Calgary

For her leading research on the crucial role and impact of the placenta on pregnancy outcomes and embryonic defects.

2018
Allan C. Spradling, PhD
Director, Department of Embryology
Carnegie Institution for Science
Investigator, Howard Hughes Medical Institute
Carnegie Institution

For discovering the concept of the “stem cell niche”, the process by which embryogenesis proceeds sequentially.

2017
C. David Allis, PhD
The Joy and Jack Fishman Professor
Head of the Laboratory of Chromatin Biology and Epigenetics
The Rockefeller University

For unveiling the importance of histone acetylation and an epigenetic code in the control of gene expression through chromatin.
2016
Victor R. Ambros, PhD
Silverman Professor of Natural Science
Co-Director, RNA Therapeutics Institute,
University of Massachusetts Medical School

Gary B. Ruvkun, PhD
Professor of Genetics,
Harvard Medical School
Hans-Hermann Schoene
Distinguished Investigator,
Massachusetts General Hospital

For making the seminal discovery of the conservation of short noncoding microRNAs and elucidating the mechanism by which translation of target mRNAs is controlled by microRNAs, thus providing explanations for developmental and physiological processes of great medical significance.

2015
Rudolf Jaenisch, MD
Whitehead Institute for Biomedical Research,
Professor of Biology
Massachusetts Institute of Technology

For devising innovative technologies that elucidated long-standing dilemmas in developmental biology, for recognizing the transformative significance on cellular function of epigenetic programming, and for applying the power of induced pluripotent stem cells to novel discoveries.

2014
Huda Y. Zoghbi, MD
Professor, Departments of Pediatrics;
Molecular and Human Genetics; Neurology; Neuroscience;
Programs in Cell and Molecular Biology and Developmental Biology
Baylor College of Medicine

For pioneering work evolving from discovery that mutations in the X-linked MECP2 cause Rett syndrome and for studies elucidating the maintenance role of this epigenetic regulator in different neurons.

2013
Eric Olson, PhD
Annie and Willie Nelson Professorship in Stem Cell Research
Pogue Distinguished Chair in Research on Cardiac Birth Defects
Robert A. Welch Distinguished Chair in Science
Department of Molecular Biology
University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center

For discovering genes and regulatory pathways governing development and growth of the cardiovascular system, and establishing a framework for how they function.
2012
Howard Green, MD
George Higginson Professor of Cell Biology
Department of Cell Biology
Harvard Medical School

Elaine Fuchs, PhD
Rebecca C. Lancefield Professor
Laboratory of Mammalian Cell Biology & Development
Rockefeller University
Investigator, Howard Hughes Medical Institute
Professor, Institute for Frontier Medical Sciences
Kyoto University

For discovering how to reprogram adult skin cells into pluripotent embryonic-like adults stem cells.

2011
Patricia Ann Jacobs, OBE, DSc, FRS
Co-Director of Research,
Wessex Regional Genetics Laboratory
Professor of Human Genetics,
Southampton University Medical School

David C. Page, MD
Director, Whitehead Institute
Professor of Biology,
Massachusetts Institute of Technology
Investigator, Howard Hughes Medical Institute

For pioneering work in human cytogenetics and the normal and abnormal function and behavior of the X and Y chromosomes.

2010
Shinya Yamanaka, MD, PhD
L.K. Whittier Foundation Investigator in Stem Cell Biology
Gladstone Institute of Cardiovascular Disease
Professor, University of California, San Francisco
Director, Center for iPS Cell Research and Application

For research on how certain master genes and protein signals regulate formation and growth of organs such as the brain and limbs during embryonic and fetal development.

2009
Kevin P. Campbell, PhD
Carver Chair, Department of Molecular Physiology & Biophysics
Director of the Wellstone Muscular Dystrophy Cooperative Research Center
Professor of Neurology and Internal Medicine
University of Iowa, Roy J. and Lucille A. Carver College of Medicine
Louis M. Kunkel, PhD  
Professor of Pediatrics and Genetics, Harvard Medical School  
Chief of the Division of Genetics  
The Children’s Hospital, Boston

For their pioneering research that has led to major new insights into the genetic and molecular causes of muscular dystrophy.

2008  
Clifford J. Tabin, PhD  
George Jacob and Jacqueline Hazel Leder Professor  
Chair, Department of Genetics  
Harvard Medical School

Philip A. Beachy, PhD  
The Ernest and Amelia Gallo Professor  
Institute for Stem Cell Biology and Regenerative Medicine  
Stanford University School of Medicine  
Investigator, Howard Hughes Medical Institute  
Distinguished Professor and Co-Chairman  
Department of Human Genetics  
University of Utah School of Medicine

For original research on how certain master genes and their protein signals regulate the formation and growth of organs during embryonic and fetal development.

2007  
Dame Anne McLaren, DBE, DPhil, FRS, FRCOG  
Principal Research Associate  
Wellcome Trust/Cancer Research UK Gurdon Institute  
University of Cambridge

Janet Rossant, PhD, FRS, FRS(C)  
Chief of Research, The Hospital for Sick Children  
University Professor,  
Departments of Medical Genetics & Microbiology and Obstetrics & Gynecology  
University of Toronto

For their remarkable contributions to our understanding of the entire cycle of mammalian reproduction and development, using the mouse as a model system.

2006  
Alexander Varshavsky, PhD  
Howard and Gwen Laurie Smits Professor of Cell Biology  
Division of Biology  
California Institute of Technology

For explaining how ubiquitin, a tiny protein found in all living things, plays a major role in our lives by helping to regulate many crucial processes in human cells.
2005
Mario Capecchi, PhD  
Boswell Professor of Neurosciences Emeritus  
Division of Biology  
California Institute of Technology

Oliver Smithies, DPhil, FRS  
Excellence Professor of Pathology and Laboratory Medicine  
University of North Carolina

For the development of gene targeting in mice as a means of determining how genes function.

2004
Mary F. Lyon, PhD, FRS  
Former Head, Genetic Section, MRC Mammalian Genetics Unit  
Medical Research Council

For discovery of the process of X-chromosome inactivation.

2003
Pierre Chambon, MD  
Professor and Director  
Institute for Genetics and Cellular and Molecular Biology, INSERM,

Ronald M. Evans, PhD  
Professor, Gene Expression Laboratory  
The Salk Institute for Biological Studies

For discovering nuclear hormone receptors and characterizing their structure and function.

2002
Seymour Benzer, PhD  
Boswell Professor of Neurosciences Emeritus  
Division of Biology  
California Institute of Technology

Sydney Brenner, DPhil, FRS  
Distinguished Professor  
The Salk Institute for Biological Studies

For their tremendously influential bodies of work which have helped to revolutionize and open up productive new fields of study in molecular biology and genetics.
2001
Corey S. Goodman, PhD
Evan Rauch Professor of Neuroscience
Director, Wills Neuroscience Institute
University of California, Berkeley

Thomas M. Jessell, PhD, FRS
Professor, Department of Biochemistry and Molecular Biophysics
Columbia University

For their extraordinary body of work that has helped revolutionize the molecular understanding of central nervous system development and function.

2000
H. Robert Horvitz, PhD
Professor of Biology
Massachusetts Institute of Technology

For pioneering work in revealing genetic control over the active process of programmed cell death or apoptosis.

1999
Sir Richard L. Gardner, PhD, FRS
Henry Dale Research Professor of the Royal Society
Oxford University

Sir Martin J. Evans, PhD, DSc, FRS
Professor of Mammalian Genetics
University of Cambridge

For pioneering techniques to identify and grow the embryonic stem cells of mice in vitro and to introduce specific mutations into these cells.

1998
Davor Solter, MD, PhD
Director and Member, Max-Planck-Institute of Immunobiology
Department of Developmental Biology
Adjunct Senior Staff Scientist
The Jackson Laboratory

For pioneering the concept of gene imprinting.

1997
Walter J. Gehring, PhD
Professor of Developmental Biology and Genetics, Biozentrum
University of Basel, Switzerland
David S. Hogness, PhD
Munzer Professor of Developmental Biology and Biochemistry
Stanford University School of Medicine

For discovery and analysis of homeobox genes.

1996
Beatrice Mintz, PhD
Senior Member, Institute for Cancer Research
Fox Chase Cancer Center

Ralph L. Brinster, VMD, PhD
Richard King Mellon Professor of Reproductive Physiology
University of Pennsylvania School of Veterinary Medicine

For development of the transgenic mouse.

###