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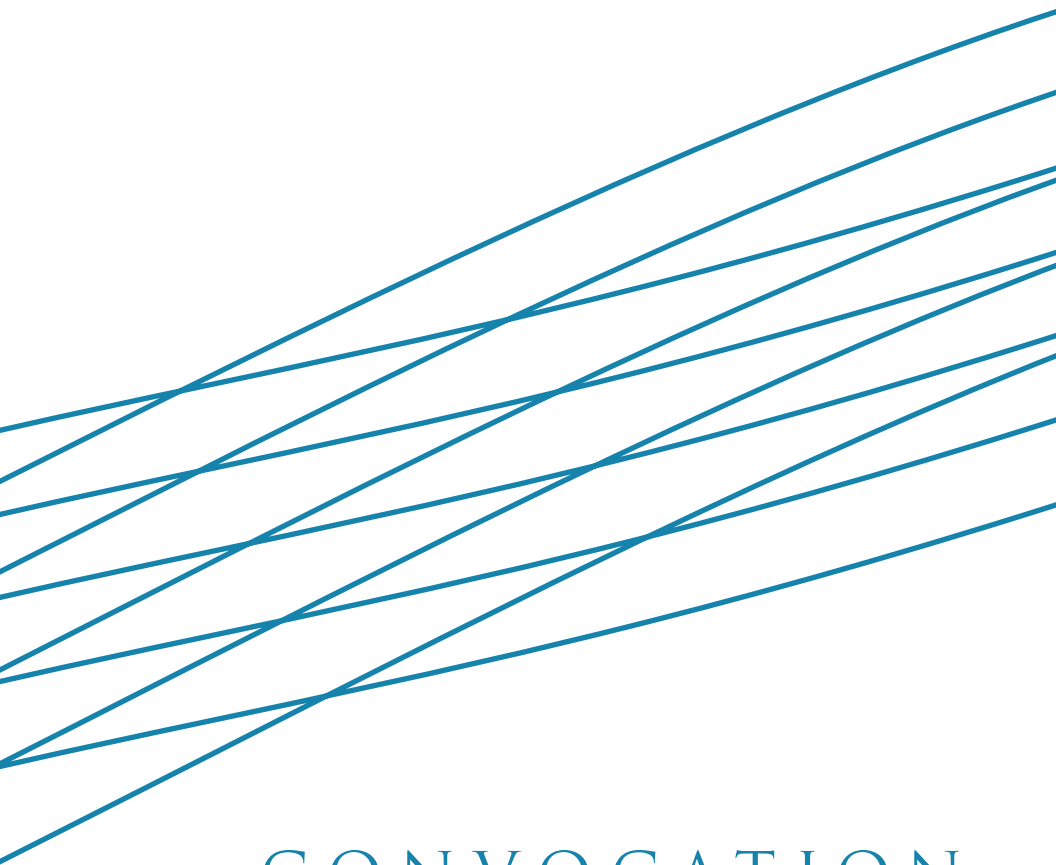

CONVOCATION

FOR CONFERRING DEGREES · 2026

THURSDAY, THE FOURTH OF JUNE, 2026

ACADEMIC PROCESSION

NEW CASTLE BRASS QUINTET

WELCOMING REMARKS

RICHARD P. LIFTON, M.D., PH.D.

PRESIDENT AND CARSON FAMILY PROFESSOR

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TIM STEARNS, PH.D.

DEAN OF GRADUATE AND POSTGRADUATE STUDIES
VICE PRESIDENT FOR EDUCATIONAL AFFAIRS

CONFERRING OF THE DEGREE OF DOCTOR OF PHILOSOPHY

DR. LIFTON

PRESENTATION OF THE DAVID ROCKEFELLER AWARD FOR EXTRAORDINARY SERVICE

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CONFERRING OF THE DEGREE OF DOCTOR OF SCIENCE, HONORIS CAUSA

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ACADEMIC RECESSION

PLEASE JOIN US FOLLOWING THE CEREMONY FOR A RECEPTION ON THE ABBY ALDRICH ROCKEFELLER LAWN.

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*PARTICIPANT IN THE TRI-INSTITUTIONAL M.D.-PH.D. PROGRAM

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JOSEPH L. GOLDSTEIN, M.D.

Joseph L. Goldstein is an iconic scientist and influential leader whose discoveries have led to the development of cholesterol-lowering drugs that have prevented millions of heart attacks and provided a model for understanding the molecular basis of human disease.

Dr. Goldstein grew up in Kingstree, South Carolina. He graduated as valedictorian from Washington and Lee University with a bachelor's degree in chemistry. He continued to medical school at the University of Texas (UT) Southwestern Medical Center, followed by internship and residency in internal medicine at Massachusetts General Hospital. There, he met classmate Michael S. Brown with whom he shared a fierce interest in the fundamental mechanisms of human diseases.

After residency, Dr. Goldstein was accepted into the competitive NIH Clinical Associate Training Program where he encountered a child with familial hypercholesterolemia (FH), a rare genetic disease characterized by extremely high blood levels of LDL, a major cholesterol carrier. Patients typically had lethal heart attacks before age 20, yet FH's underlying genetic defect was unknown. After a postdoctoral fellowship in medical genetics at the University of Washington, Dr. Goldstein returned to UT Southwestern as a faculty member and dug into the FH puzzle with Michael Brown, who had also accepted a position there and would become a lifelong scientific partner.

Their research revolutionized cell biology. Drs. Goldstein and Brown discovered that LDL cholesterol is normally cleared from the blood via a cell-surface receptor in the liver, and that this ability is absent in FH. Their isolation of the gene encoding the LDL receptor led to identification of mutations in FHA patients and an explanation of disease pathogenesis. These findings cracked open the fields of receptor-mediated endocytosis, receptor recycling, and feedback regulation of receptor activity—phenomena that govern many physiological processes. The work also laid the conceptual groundwork for statins, cholesterol-lowering drugs. Further research discovered the SREBP transcription factors that regulate cholesterol and fatty acid biosynthesis.

In 1985, Drs. Goldstein and Brown received the Albert Lasker Basic Medical Research Award and the Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine. Dr. Goldstein is a member of the U.S. National Academy of Sciences, the American Philosophical Society, the National Academy of Medicine, and the Royal Society. He is Chair of the Lasker Medical Research Awards Jury and a member of the Board of Trustees of the Howard Hughes Medical Institute. He has served as a Trustee of Rockefeller University since 1993, was chair of the Committee on Scientific Affairs for 15 years, and has been honored as a Life Trustee.

CAROLYN BERTOZZI, PH.D.

Carolyn Bertozzi invented biorthogonal chemistry, putting unique chemical tags on specific complex carbohydrate molecules residing on the surface or inside of living cells, enabling them to be tracked and allowing drugs to specifically target cells with these tags. Her research has shed light on how complex carbohydrates guide biological processes from development to immunity, fueling the discovery of diagnostics and therapeutics for diseases ranging from tuberculosis to cancer.

Dr. Bertozzi discovered the power of chemistry as an undergraduate at Harvard University. After graduating summa cum laude in 1988, she pursued doctoral studies at the University of California, Berkeley, then did postdoctoral training at the University of California, San Francisco. There, she became interested in how carbohydrates change during inflammation, but was frustrated by the lack of tools to follow these processes as they unfold in living cells and organisms. She searched for a way to label and track sugars without disrupting a cell's native chemistry.

Her solution was elegant. Dr. Bertozzi fed cells and animals an unusual chemical group that became incorporated into newly synthesized sugars. Because this chemical does not occur naturally in cells and is harmless, it could function as a "handle" that would accept a fluorescent marker, allowing visualization of sugar molecules in real time while leaving biology unperturbed.

Finding a chemical reaction that would rapidly and selectively attach to that molecular handle was her main objective when she returned to the University of California, Berkeley, in 1996 as an assistant professor of chemistry. There, she and her students identified suitable chemical partners, refined the reactions, and demonstrated that the system could unobtrusively label sugars in living cells and in organisms such as zebrafish and mice.

Dr. Bertozzi's methods revolutionized the study of complex sugar molecules in biology—and earned her the 2022 Nobel Prize in Chemistry. She holds more than 80 U.S. patents and has founded over a dozen companies aimed at translating bioorthogonal chemistry into targeted therapeutics and diagnostics. As the Anne T. and Robert M. Bass Professor of Chemistry and Baker Family Director of Stanford University's Sarafan ChEM-H Institute, she guides interdisciplinary teams of chemists, engineers, and physicists working to advance human health. A Howard Hughes Medical Institute investigator and member of the National Academy of Sciences, Dr. Bertozzi was also the first openly gay woman to receive a Nobel Prize in the sciences.

FRANCIS S. COLLINS, M.D., PH.D.

Francis Collins is a renowned physician-scientist and public servant whose leadership of the Human Genome Project fueled dramatic progress in the understanding of biology, causes of disease, and development of effective therapeutics. As director of the U.S. National Institutes of Health from 2009 to 2021, he oversaw the growth and diversification of the NIH budget and spearheaded large-scale research efforts such as the BRAIN Initiative and the All of Us Research Program. Investigations conducted in his laboratory advanced understanding of inherited and genetically complex diseases, furthering progress toward their treatment.

Growing up in Virginia, Dr. Collins was home schooled until sixth grade. His mother introduced him to the joys of opening himself to intellectual adventure—lessons that would serve him well. He received his undergraduate degree from the University of Virginia in 1970, focusing on quantum chemistry. However, as a physical chemistry Ph.D. student at Yale, the revolution in DNA research ignited his scientific passion, leading him to medical school at the University of North Carolina. Working with patients inspired him to explore the genetic roots of disease.

He then did a human genetics fellowship at Yale, followed by a faculty appointment at the University of Michigan, pursuing the identification of genes contributing to human disease. He discovered mutations that cause diseases such as Hutchinson-Gilford Progeria, characterized by premature aging, the neurodegenerative Huntington's disease, and many others. In 1993, he was recruited to the NIH to lead the National Human Genome Research Institute. There, he steered the international consortium sequencing the three billion pairs of DNA comprising the human genome, resulting in a draft genome sequence in 2000, and the nearly complete human genome in 2003. Critically, Dr. Collins pushed to ensure that the data would be freely available as a global resource. He also directed the Institute's broad programs in genomic science, developing key technologies that advanced the field. In 2009, he was appointed Director of the National Institutes of Health, serving in this role through 2021, during which he championed work that ushered in the era of precision medicine.

Dr. Collins is a member of the National Academy of Sciences and the National Academy of Medicine. He is a Foreign Member of the Royal Society and a recipient of the Presidential Medal of Freedom, the National Medal of Science, and the Templeton Prize. He has also written several books that explore the harmony of religion and science, most recently, *The Road to Wisdom: On Truth, Science, Faith, and Trust.*

Founded in 1901, The Rockefeller University is a world-renowned center for research and graduate education in the biomedical and physical sciences. The university's some 70 laboratories conduct research on a broad range of biological and biomedical questions to understand the underlying causes of disease. Over the years, Rockefeller has been the site of many historic breakthroughs, including the landmark discovery that genes are made of DNA. Twenty-six researchers associated with Rockefeller throughout its history have been awarded the Nobel Prize. This year, Rockefeller is commemorating 125 years of advancing science for the benefit of humanity. This is a milestone for the university community as well as the global scientific enterprise.

The graduate program, with a unique curriculum that emphasizes independent research, began in 1955 and was named in honor of David Rockefeller in 2005. In conjunction with the 125th anniversary, Rockefeller is also marking 70 years of the David Rockefeller Graduate Program.

Discover 125 is a celebration of these two notable anniversaries. Since the first convocation in 1959, The Rockefeller University has granted doctor of philosophy degrees to 1,548 individuals – including 36 students who will receive their Ph.D. degrees today.

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