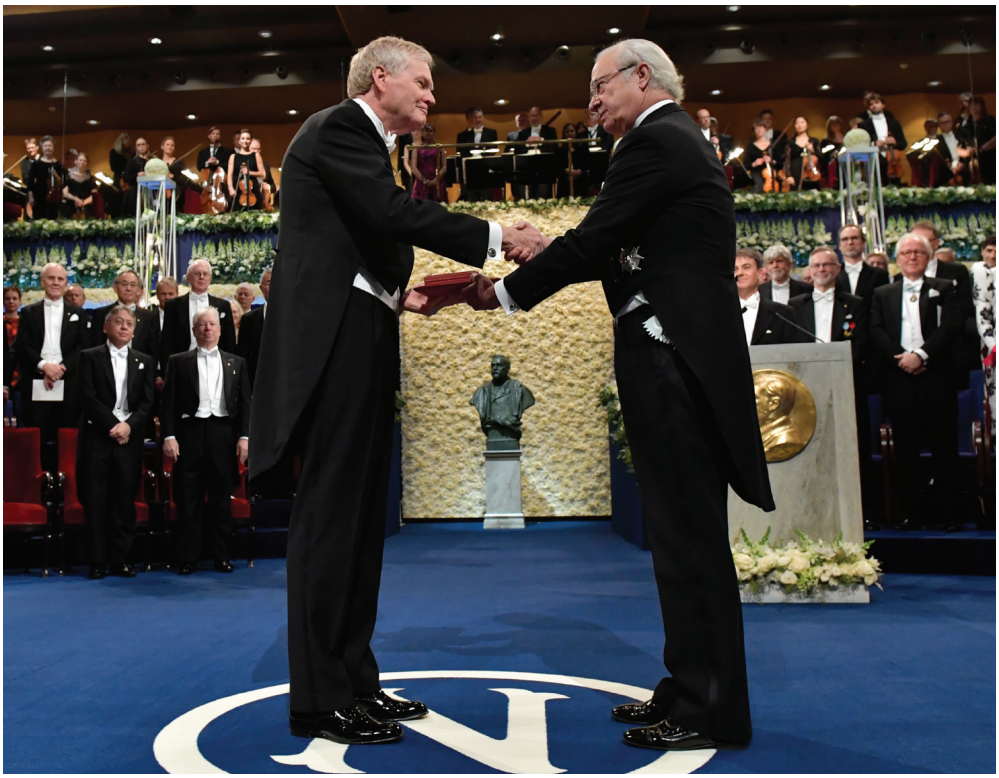
THE ROCKEFELLER UNIVERSITY

SPRING 2018

COMMUNITY CONNECTION

# Michael W. Young becomes 25th Rockefeller scientist to win Nobel Prize

## Four decades in the making, Young's research revealed the inner workings of biological clocks.



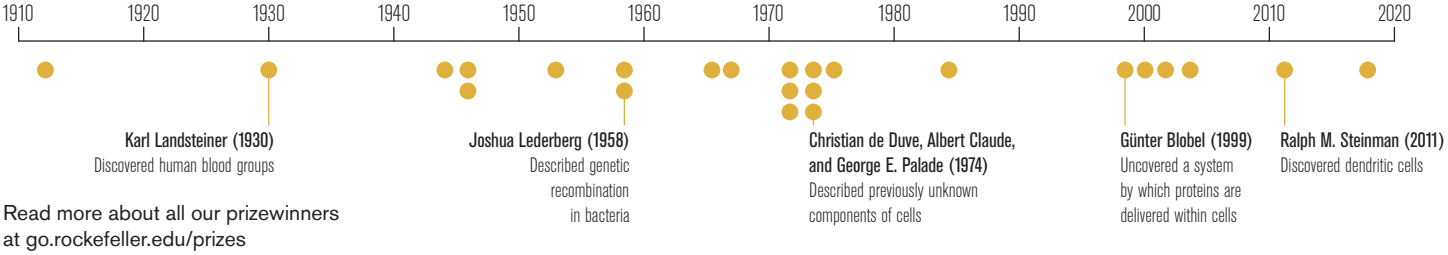
Associated Press

More than 35 years before he traveled to Sweden to accept the Nobel Prize from King Carl XVI Gustaf, Michael W. Young was hard at work watching fruit flies wake up and go to sleep. In his Rockefeller laboratory on York Avenue, he bred thousands of strains of the flies, observing their daily rhythms with the help of a custom-made chamber that recorded their activity. After years of work, Young eventually identified a gene called *period*, as well as several others, that cause the activities of individual cells to crescendo at night and break down during the day.

"Circadian rhythms are a major component of our biology—we are rhythmic organisms," says Young, who is the Richard and Jeanne Fisher Professor and head of the Laboratory of Genetics. In addition to sleep, circadian rhythms play a role in appetite, mood, metabolism, and regulating heart function, he says. Clarifying the biology of our 24-hour cycles has direct repercussions for understanding insomnia, easing jet lag, and making factories safer for shift workers.

Young was awarded the Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine in December, along with Jeffrey C. Hall and Michael Rosbash of Brandeis University, and became the 25th Nobel laureate associated with Rockefeller University. In addition to Young, four other Nobel Prize winners are current members of the Rockefeller faculty: Roderick MacKinnon (2003), Paul Nurse (2001), Paul Greengard (2000), and Torsten Wiesel (1981).

## Rockefeller Nobel Prize Winners: Highlights




Read more about all our prizewinners at go.rockefeller.edu/prizes

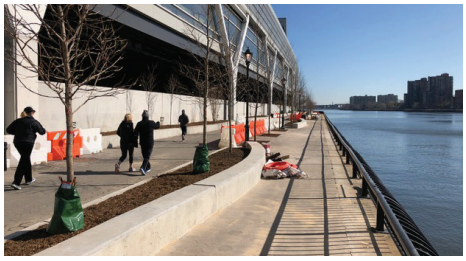
## East River Esplanade reopens with improvements

A portion of the East River Esplanade, closed over the winter while Rockefeller conducted repairs, has reopened. Although work will continue over the next several months to install amenities and plantings, the path will remain open to bicycles and pedestrians throughout the remaining phases of construction.

When complete, the renewed section of the esplanade will include new lighting, ample seating, thoughtful landscaping, and a designated bike lane. It will also be separated from the FDR Drive by an eight-foot-high noise barrier to reduce traffic sound.

In addition to the cosmetic improvements, the university has made extensive repairs to the seawall that forms the foundation of the esplanade, that was damaged during Hurricane Sandy. Improvements have also been made to collapsed sections of underground pipe that drain runoff from the adjacent roadway. In total, Rockefeller has spent over $15 million on upgrades to benefit the public, and has contributed an additional $1 million to an endowment that will maintain landscaping on this portion of esplanade in perpetuity.

Designs for the refurbished esplanade were created with input from Council Member Ben Kallos and other local government officials, Community Board 8, and the New York City Department of Parks and Recreation.



A grass-roots conservancy devoted to the full 60-block esplanade, Friends of the East River Esplanade, was also closely involved.

The public improvements are a component of the university's new $500 million Stavros Niarchos Foundation–David Rockefeller River Campus, which includes 160,000 square feet of modern, flexible lab space in a two-story, four-block-long building over the FDR.


The Rockefeller University
SCIENCE FOR THE BENEFIT OF HUMANITY

1230 York Avenue
New York, NY 10065




The Rockefeller University is the world's leading biomedical research university, devoted to making transformative discoveries in bioscience and improving medicine for the benefit of humanity.

**www.rockefeller.edu**

# COMMUNITY CONNECTION

## Clinical Trials

The Rockefeller University Hospital, a unique facility devoted exclusively to clinical research, is recruiting volunteers to participate in several innovative trials.

### Appendicitis and families

Does appendicitis run in your family? Rockefeller researchers are conducting a study to understand if there are certain genes associated with appendicitis.

More at go.rockefeller.edu/appendicitis.

### Inflammatory diseases

Do you have an inflammatory disease? Rockefeller researchers are assessing the source of inflammation in diseases like diabetes, kidney disease, RA, and MS.

More at go.rockefeller.edu/inflammation.

More than 100 other clinical studies are currently underway at Rockefeller. Explore them at www.rucares.org or call 1-800-RUCARES.


Community Connection is published by The Rockefeller University Office of Communications and Public Affairs.



## Upcoming Events

### The Peggy Rockefeller Concerts: 2018–2019 Season

The next season of outstanding musical performances by internationally acclaimed artists begins September 27 at Rockefeller. Tickets and more information at peggy.rockefeller.edu.