



THE ROCKEFELLER UNIVERSITY

WOMEN
&
SCIENCE

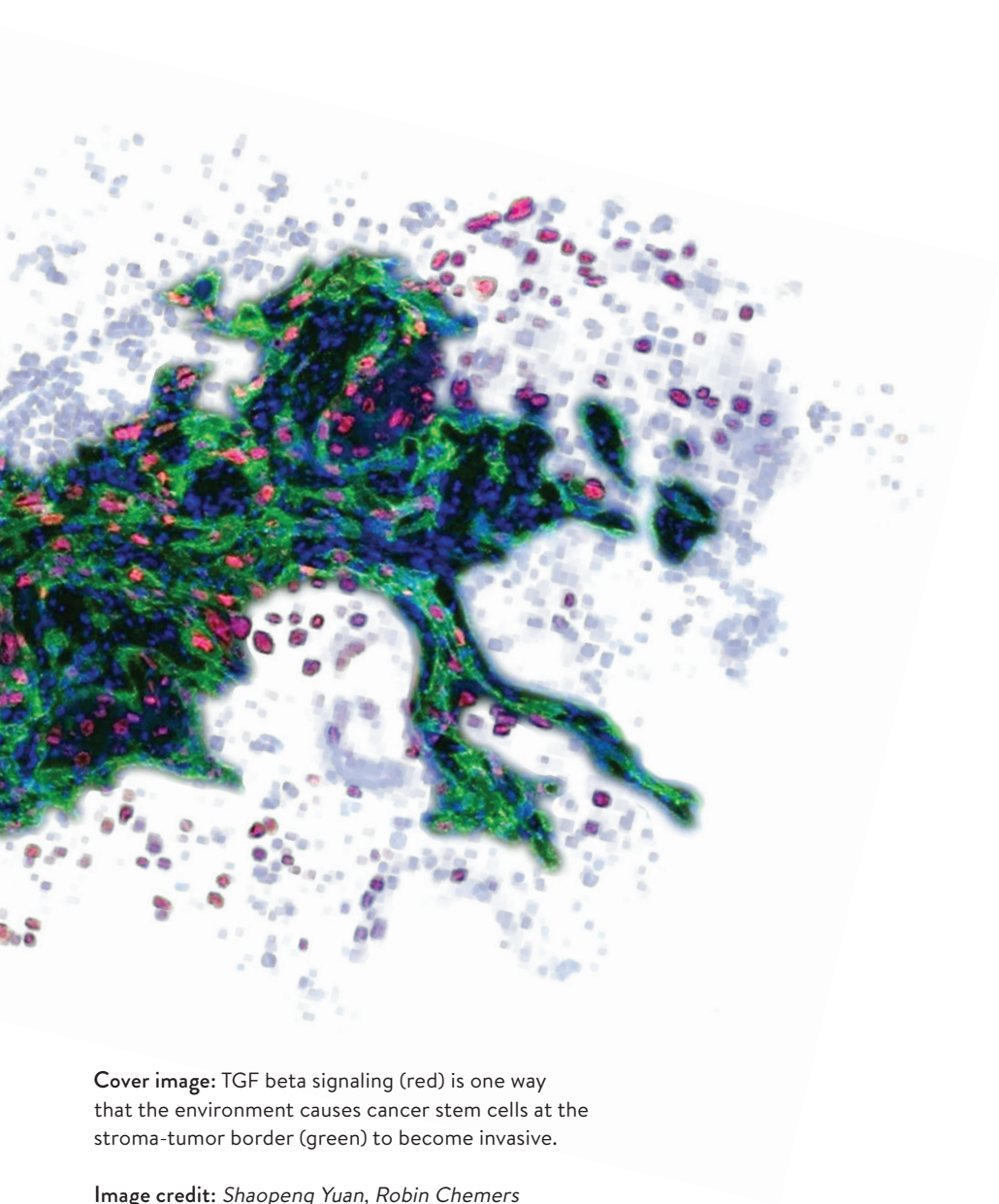
LECTURE AND LUNCHEON

Skin Stem Cells

COPING WITH STRESS,
INFLAMMATION, AND CANCER

Elaine Fuchs, Ph.D.

THURSDAY, MAY 11, 2023



Cover image: TGF beta signaling (red) is one way that the environment causes cancer stem cells at the stroma-tumor border (green) to become invasive.

Image credit: Shaopeng Yuan, Robin Chemers Neustein Laboratory of Mammalian Cell Biology and Development, The Rockefeller University

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THURSDAY, MAY 11, 2023

WELCOME AND INTRODUCTION

Richard P. Lifton, M.D., Ph.D.

*President and Carson Family Professor
Laboratory of Human Genetics and Genomics
The Rockefeller University*

SPEAKER

Elaine Fuchs, Ph.D.

*Rebecca C. Lancefield Professor
Robin Chemers Neustein Laboratory of
Mammalian Cell Biology and Development
The Rockefeller University
Investigator, Howard Hughes Medical Institute*

QUESTIONS AND DISCUSSION

CONCLUSION

Dr. Lifton

LUNCHEON

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SPEAKER

Elaine Fuchs, Ph.D.



Elaine Fuchs, the Rebecca C. Lancefield Professor at The Rockefeller University, is a leading authority on the biology of the skin, the body's largest reservoir of adult stem cells. Throughout life, these stem cells renew the body's protective barrier, regenerate hair, and repair surface wounds. Dr. Fuchs and her colleagues study where stem cells come from and how they make and repair tissue. Her group explores how stem cells communicate

with immune, dermal, and other cells, and how communication falters in aging and disease.

New research from Dr. Fuchs's laboratory is not only elucidating the normal mechanisms stem cells use to protect and heal the skin, but also revealing what happens when these processes go awry. This research has enormous implications for understanding wound healing and inflammation—both in the skin and the gut—as well as autoimmune disorders and proliferative diseases such as cancer. Dr. Fuchs's studies have already uncovered the genetic basis of life-threatening blistering diseases and traced the role of cancer stem cells in squamous cell carcinoma.

Dr. Fuchs earned a B.S. in chemistry from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign and a Ph.D. in biochemistry from Princeton University. After postdoctoral work at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Dr. Fuchs joined the University of Chicago in 1980, becoming a professor there in 1989. In 2002, Dr. Fuchs moved to Rockefeller, where she heads the Robin Chemers Neustein Laboratory of Mammalian Cell Biology and Development. Since 1988, she has also been an investigator with the Howard Hughes Medical Institute.

A member of the National Academies of Sciences and of Medicine, Dr. Fuchs is the recipient of many awards and honors, including the Canada Gairdner International Award, the Benjamin Franklin Medal in Life Science, the Albany Medical Center Prize, the March of Dimes Prize in Developmental Biology, and the National Medal of Science—the highest scientific honor given by the U.S. government.

Richard P. Lifton, M.D., Ph.D.



Richard Lifton became the eleventh president of The Rockefeller University in 2016. A renowned physician-scientist, Dr. Lifton has pioneered the use of genome sequencing to understand fundamental mechanisms underlying cardiovascular disease, kidney disease, osteoporosis, and many other health conditions. He is especially well known for his contributions to research on hypertension and salt balance, work that has informed public health

efforts and therapeutic strategies used worldwide. Dr. Lifton made the first clinical diagnosis using exome sequencing and optimized the method for rapidly and inexpensively sequencing the protein-coding portions of the genome. He has led the application of this transformative technology for both the discovery of disease genes and clinical diagnosis.

Prior to joining Rockefeller, Dr. Lifton was the Sterling Professor of Genetics and a Howard Hughes Medical Institute Investigator at the Yale School of Medicine. A graduate of Dartmouth College, he received M.D. and Ph.D. degrees from Stanford University, completed his medical residency at Brigham and Women's Hospital, and served on the faculty of Harvard Medical School. Dr. Lifton joined Yale in 1993. He became chair of Yale's Department of Genetics in 1998 and served as executive director of the Yale Center for Genome Analysis, which he founded in 2009. At Rockefeller, he is the Carson Family Professor and head of the Laboratory of Human Genetics and Genomics.

Dr. Lifton's numerous honors include the Breakthrough Prize, the Wiley Prize for Biomedical Sciences, and the 2023 George M. Kober Medal from the Association of American Physicians. A member of the National Academy of Sciences and the National Academy of Medicine, he co-chaired the working group for the NIH Precision Medicine Initiative in 2015. In addition to his Rockefeller University responsibilities, Dr. Lifton serves on the advisory boards of several nonprofit scientific and medical organizations, including the Simons Foundation Autism Research Initiative. He is also a member of the boards of directors of Genentech and Roche.

The Rockefeller University

The Rockefeller University is the world's leading institute of biomedical research and graduate education. Founded in 1901 by John D. Rockefeller with the mission of *science for the benefit of humanity*, it was the first institution in the United States devoted exclusively to biomedical research. The university is home to approximately 70 independent laboratories, each led by a distinguished scientist, and a research hospital dedicated to developing new medical therapies.

The university's bold, innovative approach to science has led to revolutionary and transformative contributions to biology and medicine, including:

- Discovery that DNA is the chemical of heredity
- Development of methadone maintenance to treat opioid addiction
- Determination of the molecular structure of the protein involved in cystic fibrosis, opening the way for improved therapeutics
- Discovery of how the ends of chromosomes are protected from degradation and the consequences when protection is lost
- Elucidation of the role of stem cells in homeostasis, wound repair, inflammation, and cancer
- Development of the biochemical assays that paved the way for drugs that cure hepatitis C
- Identification of molecular mechanisms controlling circadian rhythm

During Rockefeller's 122-year history, 26 university scientists have received Nobel Prizes, 25 have won Lasker Awards, and 20 have garnered the National Medal of Science, the highest honor in science and medicine awarded by the United States government.

About Women & Science



Alicia Guemez Gambo and 2016 Women & Science Graduate Fellow Krithika Venkataraman

For more than 25 years, the Women & Science initiative has supported women investigators by highlighting their many significant contributions, underscored the importance of basic science in addressing women's health challenges, and encouraged more women to make scientific research a philanthropic priority.

Through our Partners in Discovery Fund, donors to Women & Science have generously raised more than \$50 million in support of graduate and postdoctoral fellowships, recruitment of women faculty, special research initiatives related to women's health, and, through the Anna-Maria and Stephen Kellen Women's Entrepreneurship Fund, women-led translational research projects.

Today, approximately 40 percent of Rockefeller's scientists—including graduate students, postdoctoral investigators, research and clinical scientists, assistant and associate professors, and tenured senior professors—are women.

WOMEN & SCIENCE FELLOWSHIPS

The fellowship program is the cornerstone of Women & Science and provides financial support for the university's women graduate students and postdoctoral researchers. To date, more than 250 fellowships have been awarded to some of the university's most outstanding trainees, many of whom have gone on to careers in academia, industry, government, education, and medicine.

THE FUND TO RECRUIT WOMEN FACULTY

With support from the Women & Science Fund to Recruit Women Faculty, Rockefeller has assembled a remarkable cadre of superstar heads of lab. These esteemed women are listed on page 16 and include our speaker, Dr. Elaine Fuchs, whose professorship was the first to be endowed by Women & Science donors. Our outstanding cohort of women faculty attract the best and brightest students and postdocs from around the world, which in turn strengthens Rockefeller's pipeline of women scientists.

PROMOTING WOMEN LEADERS OF THE UNIVERSITY

Women & Science volunteers have joined the **Board of Trustees** and **The Rockefeller University Council**, thereby broadening the role of women in the governance and leadership of the university. The number of women trustees has tripled since the initiative was founded, and women now constitute 40 percent of the board. The university's commitment to achieving greater gender parity on the Board of Trustees sends a powerful message that Rockefeller provides an environment conducive to leadership—at the highest levels—by women.

2022–2023 Women & Science Fellows

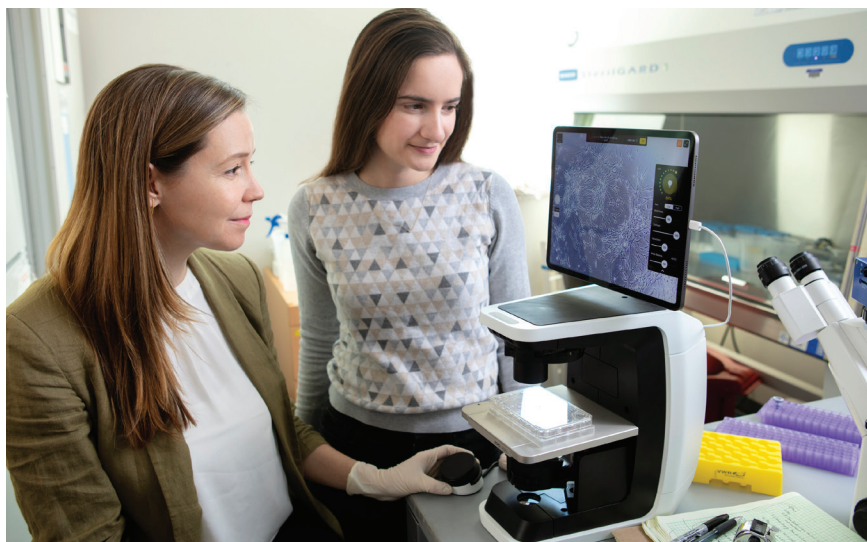


Photo Credit: Matthew Septimus

Assistant Professor Amy Shyer, Ph.D., with 2019 Women & Science Graduate Fellow Emily Atlas

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Laboratory of Chromosome and
Cell Biology
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Anna-Maria and Stephen Kellen Women's Entrepreneurship Fund

The Anna-Maria and Stephen Kellen Women's Entrepreneurship Fund (Kellen WEF) was established by Women & Science to inspire more women to develop the translational and entrepreneurial potential of their research. A key component of the Kellen WEF is a competitive grants program and, since its launch in 2020, more than 20 grants have been awarded. Additionally, a speaker series and educational workshops featuring industry leaders are encouraging scientists to explore entrepreneurship opportunities beyond the bench. The Kellen WEF is central to Rockefeller's robust translational research ecosystem and ensures that all university investigators have the funding, scientific resources, and entrepreneurial programming to take their discoveries from the lab to the clinic.

The Kellen WEF was established with gifts from Women & Science donors and endowed by a generous gift from the Anna-Maria and Stephen Kellen Foundation at the recommendation of Michael and Denise Kellen.

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Women & Science Portrait Initiative



Five Trailblazing Women Scientists at The Rockefeller University
Brenda Zlamany, 81 x 100 ¼ inches, oil on canvas, 2021

In 2019, Women & Science joined with Women In Science at Rockefeller (WISeR) to collaborate on a monumental project: **The Women & Science Portrait Initiative**. Brooklyn-based artist Brenda Zlamany was commissioned to create a portrait of five pioneering women scientists from Rockefeller's early decades. This groundbreaking portrait—the university's first depicting women scientists—Florence R. Sabin, Louise Pearce, Rebecca C. Lancefield, Gertrude E. Perlmann, and Marie M. Daly (left to right), researchers who held significant tenures at Rockefeller or went on to have distinguished careers at other institutions. All were among the first women in their respective fields and are recognized for their pioneering contributions to science.

This portrait was unveiled in 2022 as part of the 25th anniversary celebration of Women & Science and now hangs above the fireplace in Abby Aldrich Rockefeller Hall.

Pearl Meister Greengard Prize

RECOGNIZING OUTSTANDING WOMEN IN BIOMEDICAL RESEARCH



Photo Credit: C + G Partners

The Pearl Meister Greengard Prize, a major international award, recognizes the accomplishments of outstanding women in biomedical science. The prize was established by Nobel laureate Paul Greengard (1925–2019), and his wife, sculptor Ursula von Rydingsvard. Dr. Greengard donated his entire monetary share of the 2000 Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine to Rockefeller and, in partnership with generous supporters of the university, created this annual award.

An exhibit recognizing the Pearl Meister Greengard Prize recipients was installed in the Abby Aldrich Rockefeller Hall in 2021. Composed of translucent, color-shifting hexagons, each with an etched portrait and citation, the exhibit spotlights the outstanding women scientists who have received the prize. This installation seeks not only to recognize these esteemed investigators, but to increase the visibility of women scientists on the Rockefeller campus.

Bulgari: Partnering for Excellence

The Rockefeller University is honored that **Bulgari**, a brand synonymous with excellence, has become a lead supporter of women scientists who are conducting innovative research on COVID-19 and related coronaviruses.

Bulgari's longstanding philanthropic commitment to the advancement of women parallels Rockefeller's own dedication to promoting the careers of the university's women scientists.

The Bulgari Women & Science Fund to Accelerate COVID-19 Research, established in 2020, supports two programs:

- **Bulgari Clinical Fund** for the development and clinical testing of new therapies, drugs, and vaccines to combat COVID-19 and related coronavirus strains.
- **Bulgari Women & Science Fellowships in COVID-19 Research** in support of women graduate students and postdoctoral scholars in laboratories conducting COVID-19 research.

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Laboratory of Virology and

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