

The Columbia University Digestive & Liver Diseases Research Center

Annual 2025 Retreat

May 8th, 2025

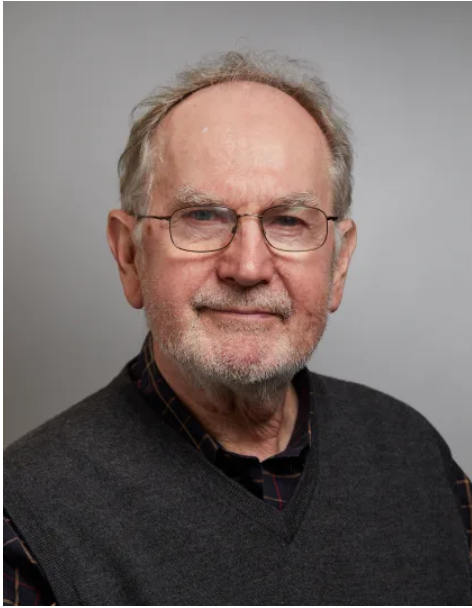
Columbia University

ICRC Building, Florence Irving Auditorium, First Floor, 1130 St. Nicholas Ave, NY 10032



CU-DLDR
DIVISION OF DIGESTIVE
AND LIVER DISEASES

Keynote Speaker



Richard A. Flavell, PHD, FRS, is the Sterling Professor of Immunobiology at Yale University School of Medicine and an Investigator of the Howard Hughes Medical Institute. He is an elected Member of the National Academy of Sciences, a Fellow of the American Association for the Advancement of Science, an elected Fellow of The Royal Society, Member of the Royal Institution of Great Britain, Member of the European Molecular Biology Organization, recipient of several awards such as the Vilcek Prize in Biomedical Science, Excellence in Mentoring Award from the American Association of Immunologists, Hans Bloemendal Medal, Colworth Medal and the William B. Coley Award. He was the President and Chief Scientific Officer of Biogen before he moved to Yale University where he uses transgenic and gene-targeting mice to study innate and adaptive immunity, T cell tolerance and activation in immunity, autoimmunity, apoptosis and regulation of T cell differentiation. Dr Flavell is the co-discoverer of introns in cellular genes, he showed that DNA methylation correlates inversely with gene expression. He is one of the pioneers in the use of reverse genetics in vivo to study function. Some of the Flavell lab's more recent work include the study of fatty acid homeostasis in innate immune cells and their role as a key regulatory node to control inflammation (*Nature*, 2024); and studies using humanized mouse liver model, where they revealed microenvironmental regulation of hepatic metabolic functions (*Cell*, 2023). Dr Flavell has published nearly two thousand peer-reviewed research articles and is one of the most cited immunologists.

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**ANNUAL CU-DLDR 2025 RETREAT (ICRC Building, Florence Irving Auditorium, 1130 St. Rm 116
Nicholas Ave, NY 10032 *in-person*)**

1:00-1:10PM: **Welcome** (Robert Schwabe MD, Timothy Wang MD, Rebecca Haeusler PhD)

KEYNOTE ADDRESS

1:10-2:00PM ***Richard A. Flavell PhD, FRS***, Sterling Professor of Immunobiology, Yale School of Medicine and **Howard Hughes Medical Institute Investigator** *“Modelling Human Liver Biology and Disease”*

SESSION 1: *Epithelial Interactions in Inflammation and Preneoplasia*

Chair: Utpal Pajvani, MD, PhD

2:00-2:25PM **Brent Stockwell, PhD** *“Metabolism, Ferroptosis, and A New Therapeutic Paradigm”*

2:25-2:50PM **Kenneth Olive, PhD** *“Targeting RAS in pancreatic cancer”*

2:50-3:05PM **Jianing Fu, PhD (P&F awardee)** *“Recipient $\gamma\delta$ T cells contribute to graft rejection after human intestinal transplantation”*

3:05-3:30PM **BREAK**

SESSION 2: *Epithelial Homeostasis, Metabolism, and Regeneration*

Chairs: Yiping Han, PhD and Ivaylo Ivanov, PhD

3:30-3:45PM **Avesh Thuluvath, MD (P&F Awardee)** *“Clinical risk prediction model for frailty in end-state liver disease”*

3:45-4:00PM **Giuseppe Cullaro, MD (P&F awardee)** *“Serum bile acid profiles in refractory ascites: a dynamic assessment of sodium retention mechanisms”*

4:00-4:15PM **Yael Nobel, MD (P&F awardee)** *“Contribution of the gut microbiome to acute cellular rejection in liver transplant recipients”*

4:15-4:40PM **Elizabeth Verna, MD** *“Improving outcomes in cirrhosis and liver transplantation”*

SESSION 3: *Trainee presentations*

Chair: Rebecca Haeusler, PhD

4:40-4:50 PM Shuzhen Xu, MD *“Attenuating basal cell hyperplasia in eosinophilic esophagitis by inhibiting mRNA methylation”*

4:50-5:00 PM Jennifer Gamarra *“In vivo hepatic manganese availability determines Akt activity”*