

SCIENCE FOR THE BENEFIT OF HUMANITY

Thursday, December 7, 2006

AN EVENING PROGRAM CO-SPONSORED BY The Rockefeller University Council and *Women & Science*

WE ARE WHAT WE REMEMBER:

MEMORY AND THE BIOLOGICAL BASIS OF INDIVIDUALITY

Date: Thursday, December 7, 2006 Time: 6:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m. Place: Abby Aldrich Rockefeller Hall The Rockefeller University York Avenue at East 66th Street

Scientists today are making remarkable progress toward understanding just how the brain captures and stores memories, and why memories are lost to disorders such as Alzheimer's disease. Much of this progress builds directly on the pioneering studies of Dr. Eric Kandel—one of three neurobiologists—including Rockefeller University scientist Paul Greengard—who shared the 2000 Nobel Prize in Medicine for independent discoveries about signaling mechanisms in the brain.

Through elegant experiments with simple marine invertebrates, Dr. Kandel has provided insights into how brain cells change when memories are captured, stored, and edited. His discoveries, in turn, are fueling the development of new classes of pharmaceuticals with the potential to alleviate age-related memory impairments. On Thursday, December 7, 2006, Dr. Kandel will report on recent breakthroughs in the neurosciences and the prospects for safer, more powerful drugs designed to treat a range of neurological and psychiatric disorders.



Eric Kandel, M.D. is University Professor at the Columbia University College of Physicians and Surgeons, where he founded the Center for Neurobiology and Behavior. A psychiatrist by training, Dr. Kandel is also Howard Hughes Medical Institute Senior Investigator and a member of the National Academy of Sciences and its Institute of Medicine. In addition to the Nobel Prize, his many honors include the Lasker Award, the Gairdiner International Award, the Harvey Prize, the Wolf Prize, the Dana Award and the National Medal of Science.

Dr. Kandel has served as a trustee of The Rockefeller University since 1995. He is the author of numerous books, including, In Search of Memory: The Emergence of a New Science of Mind, which was published earlier this year.