



PEARL MEISTER GREENGARD PRIZE

An International Award Recognizing Outstanding Women in Biomedical Science

Award Presentation and Reception

Thursday, November 2, 2006
6:30 p.m. to 8 p.m.

The Rockefeller University
Caspar Auditorium

Awardee:

Dr. Mary Frances Lyon

Mammalian Genetics Unit
U.K. Medical Research Council



Mary Frances Lyon is an eminent British geneticist noted for her recognition of a phenomenon known as X-chromosome inactivation, a fundamental genetic control mechanism. Also referred to as "Lyonization," X-chromosome inactivation involves the random silencing of one of the two X chromosomes in each of the cells of female mammals. Dr. Lyon's groundbreaking work in mouse genetics has had great importance for human medicine, providing insights into such X-linked inherited diseases as hemophilia, Duchenne muscular dystrophy, fragile X syndrome, and certain cancers. Dr. Lyon has also made major contributions to understanding the risks of gene damage associated with radiation and other environmental mutagens.

Since the 1950s, Dr. Lyon has worked at the U.K. Medical Research Council's center at Harwell, where for many years she headed the genetics division. A fellow of the Royal Society, which presented her with its Royal Medal, Dr. Lyon has also been elected to the U.S. National Academy of Sciences and the American Academy of Arts and Sciences. She is the recipient of a Wolf Prize for Medicine, a March of Dimes Prize in Developmental Biology, and an honorary doctor of science degree from Princeton University.

The Pearl Meister Greengard Prize, awarded by The Rockefeller University, was established by Dr. Paul Greengard, the University's Vincent Astor Professor, and his wife, the 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 major international prize to be awarded by The Rockefeller University to outstanding women scientists. Named in memory of Dr. Greengard's mother, the Pearl Meister Greengard Prize provides recognition of the accomplishments of women in science.

Guest Speaker:

Joan Didion

Distinguished author Joan Didion received the National Book Award for nonfiction in 2005 for *The Year of Magical Thinking*, which she is adapting for the Broadway stage. A novelist, essayist, and journalist, Ms. Didion is a regular contributor to *The New York Review of Books* and *The New Yorker*. With her husband, the late John Gregory Dunne, she also collaborated in writing screenplays. Ms. Didion has written more than a dozen books, including *Play It as It Lays*, *A Book of Common Prayer*, *Slouching Towards Bethlehem*, *The White Album*, *Salvador*, *After Henry*, *Political Fictions*, and *Where I Was From*.

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