## Thursday, March 10, 2005

## WE ARE WHAT WE REMEMBER

## Memory and the Biological Basis of Individuality

More than any other factor, the memories we acquire throughout life define us as unique individuals. The fundamental biological mechanisms of learning and memory, however, are common to all human beings and are found, to varying degrees, in every animal with a nervous system. We know this thanks in large part to the pioneering investigations of Eric Kandel of Columbia University. Dr. Kandel is one of three neurobiologists—including The Rockefeller University's Paul Greengard—who shared the 2000 Nobel Prize in Medicine for independent discoveries about chemical signaling 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. At the *Women & Science* Spring Breakfast Forum on Thursday, March 10, 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 a Howard Hughes Medical Institute Senior Investigator. In addition to the Nobel Prize, his many honors include the Lasker Award, the Gairdner International Award, the Harvey Prize, the Wolf Prize, the Dana Award, and the National Medal of Science. A member of the National Academy of Sciences and its Institute of Medicine, Dr. Kandel has served on the Rockefeller University Board of Trustees since 1995.

Host & Moderator: Paul Nurse, Ph.D.

2001 Nobel Laureate

President, The Rockefeller University

**Time:** 7:30 a.m. Registration and Breakfast Buffet

8:00 - 9:00 a.m. Program

**Location:** The Rockefeller University

Caspary Auditorium