The Hilldale Lectures:

The Hilldale Lectures, inaugurated in 1973-74, are sponsored by the four faculty divisions of the University of Wisconsin-Madison: Arts and Humanities, Biological Sciences, Physical Sciences, and Social Studies. Annually, each division has the opportunity to present a distinguished thinker whose contributions to contemporary culture have received international recognition.

The focus for discussion is each lecturer's response to problems that are of concern not only to the specialists of a single discipline but, more broadly, to everyone in the various departments of a division, and often, to members of the scholar community as a whole.

The Hilldale Fund

The Hilldale Fund was created in 1962 when the Board of Regents accepted a gift from the University of Wisconsin Foundation for the support of various university projects.

The original fund has since been augmented by annual contributions of income realized from the operation of the Hilldale Shopping Center. The shopping center, constructed on a portion of land formerly included in the University Hill Farms, has become an important part of Madison's retail business community.

The lecture series is one of a number of projects supported by the Hilldale Fund. These funds will continue to be used for underwriting important university programs designed to advance scholarly activity at UW-Madison. The campus is grateful for the generous support that has made this lecture series possible.



The Hilldale Lecture Series

Division of the Biological Sciences
Spring 2001



Francis Collins, M.D., Ph.D.

Director, National Human Genome Research Institute Associate Chief, Genetic and Molecular Biology Branch, National Institutes of Health

Francis Collins received his B.A. in 1970 from the University of Virginia (Chemistry), his M.Phil. and Ph.D. from Yale in 1972 and 1974 (Chemistry), and his M.D. in 1977 from the University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill. He did his residency in internal medicine at North Carolina Memorial Hospital, Chapel Hill (1977-80), followed by a Fellowship in Human Genetics at Yale from 1981 to 1984. In 1993, he became the Director of the National Center for Human Genome Research at the National Institutes of Health, Bethesda, Maryland.

Current active research projects in the Collins laboratory include an intensive analysis of the BRCA1 gene on chromosome 17. Inherited alterations in this gene play a major role in human breast and ovarian cancer, and the discovery of the BRCA1 gene by researchers in Utah and North Carolina is expected to allow advances in diagnosis and eventually in therapy. The laboratory is also involved in an ambitious effort to map the major genes contributing to adult-onset diabetes, by carrying out extensive linkage analysis on affected siblings, largely collected in Finland. Positional cloning of the genes for familial Mediterranean fever, Bloom's syndrome, ataxia telangiectasia, and the long QT syndrome are also underway, in collaboration with other investigators. Vigorous efforts are being pursued to understand the gene responsible for Huntington's disease and to elucidate the mechanism by which a particular inversion of chromosome 16 results in adult leukemia.

Tuesday, March 20, 2001 3:30 p.m. 125 Agricultural Hall 1415 Linden Drive Madison, WI



"Consequences of the Human Genome Project for Medicine and Society"

In February 2001, major papers were published on the sequencing and initial analysis of the human genome. Much work remains to understand how this "instruction book for human biology" carries out its multitudes of functions. But the consequences for the practice of medicine and for society are likely to be profound. Genetic prediction of individual risks of disease, and responsiveness to drugs will reach the medical mainstream in the next decade or so. The development of designer drugs, based on a genomic approach to targeting molecular pathways that are disrupted in disease, will follow soon after. Potential misuses of genetic information, such as discrimination in obtaining health insurance and in the workplace, will need to be dealt with swiftly and effectively.

Reception to Follow in the Biotechnology Center Atrium 425 Henry Mall