

PRESS ALERT

NOBEL WINNER TO VISIT STUDENTS AT UTAH STATE UNIVERSITY

Dr. Mario R. Capecchi, winner of the 2007 Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine and Distinguished Professor of Human Genetics and Biology at the University of Utah's Eccles Institute of Human Genetics, will visit Utah State University on Tuesday, May 13, 2008 as a guest of the Center for Integrated BioSystems CIBR student program.

The Center for Integrated BioSystems (CIB) offers interdisciplinary graduate and undergraduate fellowship programs to provide research, travel, and educational support to students. "The CIB, and the CIBR students are elated to host Dr. Capecchi as the capstone speaker for the 2008 CIBR student program. His international service and groundbreaking discoveries enable many USU students to complete advanced degrees and make their own discoveries. We are truly honored to have a colleague of Dr. Capecchi's stature at USU," said Dr. Bart Weimer, CIB Director. Dr Capecchi was invited by the CIB Graduate Research (CIBR) students as their capstone speaker.

As part of his visit, Dr. Capecchi will present a lecture at the Eccles Conference Center Auditorium on the Utah State University campus and attend a reception in his honor at the Logan Golf and Country Club. The lecture and reception are open to the public. Dr. Capecchi is a distinguished professor of human genetics and biology, co-chairman of the Department of Human Genetics at the University of Utah's Eccles Institute of Human Genetics, and a Howard Hughes Medical Institute investigator.

On October 8, the Nobel Foundation awarded the 2007 Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine jointly to Dr. Capecchi, Sir Martin J. Evans of Cardiff University (United Kingdom) and Oliver Smithies of the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. They won the prize for their work developing gene targeting, a method that allows researchers to disable any gene in a mouse to deduce its normal function. This method has revolutionized mammalian biology and allows the breeding of mice that can serve as models for hundreds of human diseases, including various cancers. These animal models of human disease allow scientists to learn more about the role of genes in how embryos develop, physiology and aging, how diseases develop, and design strategies for their possible treatments.

The public is invited to the lecture and reception. The details are below.

Public Lecture: 2:30 – 3:30 p.m.
Eccles Conference Center Auditorium, Utah State University
Reception: 4:30 – 5:30 p.m.
Logan Golf & Country Club

Contact: Jeannine Huenemann
435-797-8274
jeannine.huenemann@usu.edu



**CENTER FOR
INTEGRATED
BioSYSTEMS**