

DEPARTMENT OF NEUROLOGICAL SURGERY  
THE ROBERT GOODKIN, M.D. ENDOWED LECTURESHIP

GUEST LECTURER:

**GERALD D. FISCHBACH, M.D.**

**“The Social Brain & Neuropsychiatric Disorders”**



**Gerald D. Fischbach, M.D.**

Chief Scientist of the Simons Foundation  
and Fellow of the Simons Foundation  
Dean Emeritus of Faculty of  
Health Sciences, Columbia University

**May 14, 2014**

**Location: R&T Building;**

**1st Floor Auditorium**

**300 Ninth Avenue, Seattle, WA**

**Harborview Medical Center**

**7:00 – 9:00am**

Gerald D. Fischbach joined the Simons Foundation in early 2006 to oversee the Simons Foundation Autism Research Initiative. Formerly dean of the Faculties of Health Sciences at Columbia University, and director of the National Institute of Neurological Disorders and Stroke at the National Institutes of Health from 1998-2001, Fischbach received his M.D. degree in 1965 from Cornell University Medical School and interned at the University of Washington Hospital in Seattle. He began his research career at the National Institutes of Health, serving from 1966-1973. He subsequently served on the faculty of Harvard Medical School, first as associate professor of pharmacology from 1973-1978 and then as professor until 1981.

From 1981-1990, Fischbach was the Edison professor of neurobiology and head of the department of anatomy and neurobiology at Washington University School of Medicine. In 1990, he returned to Harvard Medical School where he was the Nathan Marsh Pusey professor of neurobiology and chairman of the neurobiology departments of Harvard Medical School and Massachusetts General Hospital until 1998.

Throughout his career, Fischbach has studied the formation and maintenance of synapses, the contacts between nerve cells and their targets through which information is transferred in the nervous system. He pioneered the use of nerve cell cultures to study the electrophysiology, morphology and biochemistry of developing nerve-muscle and inter-neuronal synapses. His current research is focused on roles that neurotrophic factors play in determination of neural precursor fate, synapse formation and neuronal survival.

Fischbach is a past president of the Society of Neuroscience and serves on several medical and scientific advisory boards. He is a member of the National Academy of Sciences, the American Academy of Arts and Sciences, and the Institute of Medicine, and is a fellow of the American Association for the Advancement of Science and a former non-resident fellow of the Salk Institute.