

Distinguished Professor Lecture Series: Hamilton O. Smith December 19, 2008

The [University of Florida Genetics Institute](#) is pleased to announce a visit by Nobel laureate Hamilton O. Smith, MD, Scientific Director, J. Craig Venter Institute. During Dr. Smith's visit, he will be awarded an Honorary Degree, Doctor of Science, from the University of Florida.

Dr. Smith was co-awarded the Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine in 1978 for work that he performed related to the "discovery of restriction enzymes and their application to problems of molecular genetics." Dr. Smith "verified [Werner] Arber's hypothesis [concerning restriction enzymes] with a purified bacterial restriction enzyme and showed that this enzyme cuts DNA in the middle of a specific symmetrical sequence. Other restriction enzymes have similar properties, but different enzymes recognize different sequences." (Nobel Press Release) Dr. Smith's autobiography (through 1978) is available at http://nobelprize.org/nobel_prizes/medicine/laureates/1978/smith-autobio.html, and describes his early connection to the University of Florida. In 1980 Dr. Smith was elected to the National Academy of Sciences, Biochemistry Section. In recent years, Dr. Smith has served as Scientific Director at the J. Craig Venter Institute (<http://www.jcvi.org/cms/about/bios/hsmith/>), where he currently leads the Synthetic Biology and Bioenergy Team.

While at the university Dr. Smith will present the inaugural seminar of the Distinguished Professor Lecture Series:

- "Progress toward making a synthetic cell"
- Date and Time: Friday, December 19, 11:00 a.m. - noon
- Location: Cancer/Genetics Research Complex, Room 101

A reception for Dr. Smith will be held in the CGRC Lobby after his seminar.