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IVAN DAMJANOV  
LECTURE IN  
STEM CELL RESEARCH

*Ivan Damjanov Lecturers*

**Peter W. Andrews, D.Phil.**, The University of Sheffield, Great Britain (2014)

**Barbara B. Knowles, PhD**, Emerita Professor, The Jackson Laboratory (2015)

**Christine L. Mummery, PhD**, Professor, Leiden University Medical Center, Netherlands (2016)

**Martin F. Pera, PhD**, Professor, The Jackson Laboratory (2017)

**Janet Rossant, PhD**, President and Scientific Director, Gairdner Foundation Senior Scientist and Chief of Research Emeritus, Research Institute, The Hospital for Sick Children Professor, University of Toronto (2018)

**Davor Solter, MD, PhD**, Emeritus Director, Max Planck Institute of Immunobiology and Epigenetics, Germany Visiting Professor, Mahidol University, Thailand (2019)

**Terry Magnuson, PhD**, Kay M. & Van L. Weatherspoon Eminent Distinguished Professor, Vice Chancellor for Research, University of North Carolina School of Medicine (2021)

**Robert Blelloch, MD, PhD**, Professor of Urology; Ob/Gyn & Reproductive Sciences; Pathology, Peter R. Carroll, M.D., MPH, Endowed Chair Associate Chair Basic Science Research, Dept of Urology (2022)

**Emery Bresnick, PhD**, Gary Felsenfeld Professor of Cell and Regenerative Biology; Lowell and Gwendolyn Smythe Endowed Professor; Director, UW-Madison Blood Cancer Research Program (2023)

**Andras Nagy, M.D., Ph.D.**, Professor, Obstetrics & Gynecology, University of Toronto (2024)

**Sean J. Morrison, Ph.D.**, Professor and Director, Children's Medical Center Research Institute at UT Southwestern (2025)

**Magdalena Žernicka-Goetz, Ph.D.**

Bren Professor of Biology and Biological  
Engineering Professor

California Institute of Technology

**"How Embryos Build Themselves:  
Rules of Self-Organization"**

**May 7, 2026**

**8:30 - 9:30 am**

**Cates West Auditorium**



To support the Damjanov Lectureship  
in Stem Cell Research, please contact  
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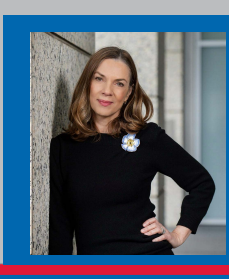
**Ivan Damjanov, MD, PhD**  
**Emeritus Professor of Pathology**  
**University of Kansas Medical Center**

Ivan Damjanov, M.D., Ph.D., Dr. h. c., is Emeritus Professor of Pathology at the University of Kansas School of Medicine, Kansas City, Kansas. Dr. Damjanov graduated from the University of Zagreb Medical School, Zagreb, Croatia in 1964, where he also started his initial postgraduate training in Pathology and received a PhD in Developmental Biology. Upon immigration to the United States he served on the teaching staff of several Medical Schools and in 1994 joined as Chair the Department of Pathology at the University of Kansas. Since 1998, Dr. Damjanov served as Professor of Pathology and Attending Pathologist at KUMC, and retired in 2018, 54 years after graduation from Medical School.

Dr. Damjanov's scientific work concentrated primarily on murine embryology, experimental germ cell tumors, and embryonic stem cell studies. Clinically he acted as a general pathologist but was most interested in hepatic and urogenital pathology. He has authored over 350 papers in peer-reviewed journals and has written numerous review articles, editorials and book reviews. He served during the 1985-1995 period as a reviewer for several Study Sections of the National Institutes of Health, Bethesda, MD, and as a consultant for the Portuguese Cancer Institute, IPATIMUP, Porto, Portugal.

He has published or edited more than 35 medical books and textbooks. Most notably he served as Editor of the 10th Edition of Anderson's Pathology (Mosby, St Louis. His textbook Pathology for Health Professions (Saunders-Elsevier, Philadelphia), published in 1995 has been in print for many years and by now has reached its 6th edition. Many of his books were translated in several foreign languages, including Chinese, Spanish, Russian, Polish and Greek. He served on the editorial board of several biomedical journals such as Human Pathology, Virchows Archiv, Modern Pathology, Pathology Research and Practice, and International Journal of Developmental Biology. Furthermore, he served for 12 years as the Associate Editor of the journal Laboratory Investigation, and for 10 years as the North American Editor of the journal Differentiation.

Upon retiring, Dr. Damjanov moved to the suburbs of Philadelphia to be closer to his daughters. He is still jogging/walking one hour every day. He made a decision to read at least 20 non-fiction books a year, listen to a lot of operas and classical music and spend at least 3 month per year in his native Croatia. Five years since leaving Kansas, he is slowly getting used to retirement and trying to enjoy it.



**Magdalena Żernicka-Goetz, Ph.D.**  
**Bren Professor of Biology and**  
**Biological Engineering Professor**  
**California Institute of Technology**

Magdalena Żernicka-Goetz is a distinguished developmental biologist and a leading researcher on early mammalian and human embryogenesis. She is the Bren Professor of Biology and Biological Engineering at California Institute of Technology and also holds a professorship at University of Cambridge.

Dr. Żernicka-Goetz earned her doctoral degree from the University of Warsaw and completed postdoctoral training at Cambridge. Over the past 25 years, the Zernicka-Goetz Lab has pioneered key discoveries in early mammalian development, including the first studies of post-implantation human embryo development in vitro, insights into the origins of cell fate specification in mouse and human embryos, and the creation of the first stem cell-derived embryo models using multiple stem cell types. By uncovering fundamental principles that regulate cell identity, pluripotency, and self-organization, the lab continues to advance our understanding of embryo development with broad implications for fertility, regenerative medicine, and stem cell biology.

Dr. Żernicka-Goetz has received numerous honors for her contributions to science and is an elected member of the European Molecular Biology Organization. She is also co-author of the book *The Dance of Life*, reflecting on her scientific discoveries and experiences in research.