Dr. Brian Druker Targeting Molecular Pathogenetic Events in Cancer

Howard Hughes Medical Institute Lecture For Undergraduates Tuesday, March 6th 12–1 pm, WI-110 Whitehead Auditorium

Cancer researchers have made enormous strides in identifying the molecular basis of cancer, aided by technological advances in genomics, gene silencing, and computational biology. Harnessing this information, by matching specific genetic abnormalities with drugs that target these aberrations is showing significant improvements in patient outcomes. Resistance to targeted therapies is emerging as a major problem that is being similarly addressed by understanding the molecular basis of resistance. Through these advances, a clearer picture of cancer is developing that has the potential to convert cancer into a manageable disease.



Reception to Follow

Open to undergraduates; others welcome.

Event sponsored by the Howard Hughes Medical Institute Dr. Druker's laboratory studies molecular abnormalities that lead to cancer. His laboratory was instrumental to the development of Gleevec (imatinib), a drug that targets the molecular defect in chronic myeloid leukemia (CML). Imatinib is currently FDA approved for CML, gastrointestinal stromal tumors (GIST) and eight other cancers. His role in the development of imatinib and its application in the clinic have resulted in numerous awards for Dr. Druker, including the 2009 Lasker-DeBakey Award for Clinical Medical Research.

Dr. Druker is director of the Oregon Health & Science University Knight Cancer Institute, associate dean for oncology, JELD-WEN chair of leukemia research, and an investigator of the Howard Hughes Medical Institute.