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Introduction

Tetrahedron Young Investigator Award 2008

Benjamin F. Cravatt



This special Symposium-in-Print issue of *Bioorganic & Medicinal Chemistry Letters* commemorates the 2008 Tetrahedron Young Investigator Award in Bioorganic & Medicinal Chemistry awarded to Benjamin F. Cravatt.

Benjamin F. Cravatt is the Norton B Gilula Professor of Chemical Biology at The Scripps Research Institute. He received a B.S. degree in biological sciences and B.A. degree in history from Stanford University. He then moved to The Scripps Research Institute in 1992 to

pursue his Ph.D. under the guidance of Drs. Dale Boger and Richard Lerner. In 1997, Dr. Cravatt joined the faculty at The Scripps Research Institute, where he is currently chair of the Department of Chemical Physiology.

The research in the Cravatt laboratory has focused on the functional characterization of enzymatic pathways in mammalian biology using integrated chemical and systems biology approaches. His group has advanced the chemical proteomic method activity-based protein profiling (ABPP) that uses active site-directed small-molecule probes to broadly profile the functional state of enzymes in native biological systems. They have applied ABPP in combination with metabolomics methods to determine the function of uncharacterized enzymes in human cancer, as well as to map enzymes that regulate endogenous signaling lipids in the nervous system. Chief among the latter class of enzymes is fatty acid amide hydrolase (FAAH), which the Cravatt lab has shown serves as a principal regulator of endocannabinoid signaling in vivo.

Professor Cravatt serves on the editorial boards of several journals, including *Biochemistry*, *Bioorganic Medicinal Chemistry*, *Bioorganic Medicinal Chemistry Letters*, *Bioorganic Chemistry*, *ChemBioChem*, *Chemistry and Biology*, *ACS Chemical Biology*, *Molecular Biosystems*, and *Current Opinion in Chemical Biology*. He has been recognized with a number of awards, including a Searle Scholar Award (1998–2001), Promega Early Career Life Sciences Award from the American Society for Cell Biology (2002), Eli Lilly Award in Biological Chemistry from the American Chemical Society (2004), Cope Scholar Award from the American Chemical Society (2005), Young Investigator Award from the International Cannabinoid Research Society (2005), and the Irving Sigal Young Investigator Award from the Protein Society (2007).