Clifford J. Tabin
Harvard Medical School, USA

Tuesday, July 12, 2016
16:00 ~ C1F CDB Auditorium

Formation of the vertebrate gut

Cliff Tabin acquired his PhD from MIT and trained as a postdoctoral fellow with Doug Melton at Harvard University. After a year and a half of training as a postdoctoral fellow, Dr. Tabin moved to an independent postdoctoral position at Massachusetts General Hospital, Department of Molecular Biology. There he initiated work on the molecular biology of limb development, which has continued to be one of the areas of focus of his laboratory at Harvard Medical School where he has been on the faculty in the Department of Genetics since 1989. He has been a Full Professor since 1997 and was appointed Chairman of the Department in January 2007.

The common theme of Dr. Tabin’s research investigations has been an attempt to understand “pattern formation”, how the organization of an embryo arises during its development. His efforts are responsible for our current understanding of such embryological questions as why the leg is different in form from the arm, and why the heart is on the left and not the right, as well as evolutionary questions such as understanding the genetic basis for the differences in the shapes of the beaks of different species of Darwin’s Finches in the Galapagos Islands.

Dr. Tabin was elected a member of the National Academy of Sciences in 2007. Among his many honors, he received the National Academy of Sciences Award in 1999; the March of Dimes Prize in Developmental Biology in 2008; elected to the European Molecular Biology Organization in 2010; received the Conklin Medal from the Society for Developmental Biology in 2012, received a ScD honoris causa degree from Union College, Schenectady, New York; asked to present the Harvey Lecture in 2012, and was elected Foreign Member of the Royal Society of London in 2014.