Launch of the University of Pretoria Institute for Cellular and Molecular Medicine (ICMM)

Thursday 23 April 2015, 18:00 Room 4.27, HW Snyman Building, Prinshof Campus, University of Pretoria

Guest speaker: Peter Mombaerts MD, PhD Director, Max Planck Research Unit for Neurogenetics, Frankfurt, Germany

Establishing circuitry in the nervous system: the sense of smell as a model



Please RVSP to Mrs Martie Madgwick: 012-319-2179 <u>martie.madgwick@up.ac.za</u>

Peter Mombaerts was born in 1962 in Leuven, Belgium. He obtained his M.D. degree in 1987 at the Catholic University of Leuven. He then joined the laboratory of Nobel Laureate Prof. Dr. Susumu Tonegawa at MIT, Cambridge, MA, USA, where he obtained his Ph.D. degree in 1992 with a thesis on immunodeficient mice generated by gene targeting. As a postdoc with Nobel Laureate Prof. Dr. Richard Axel at Columbia University, New York, NY, USA (1993-1995), he developed a genetic approach to visualize axonal projections of mouse olfactory sensory neurons that express the same odorant receptor gene. From 1995-2007 he was faculty member at The Rockefeller University in New York, NY, USA, where he established and led the Laboratory of Developmental Neurogenetics. In 2008 he moved to Frankfurt as director of the newly created Department of Molecular Neurogenetics at the Max Planck Institute of Biophysics, and in 2013 he became the director of the independent Max Planck Research Unit of Neurogenetics. Currently is the Julius von Haast Fellow at the University of Auckland, New Zealand. He is the author of 107 papers, which have been cited more than 14,500 times and he has an H-index of 60.