The Eberly Distinguished Lectureship in Immunology was established in 2011 by the Department of Immunology and the Thomas E. Starzl Transplantation Institute to recognize the generous support of the Robert E. Eberly Family and to showcase each year the research of three prominent international leaders in the field of immunology.

RONALD N. GERMAIN, MD, PHD, Chief of the Laboratory of Systems Biology and Chief of the Lymphocyte Biology Section at the National Institute of Allergy, Immunology and Diabetes (NIAID), National Institutes of Health (NIH), and Associate Director of Systems Biology and Technology, Trans-NIH Center for Human Immunology, Inflammation, and Autoimmunity, will deliver the next Eberly Distinguished Lecture of 2014. His talk, “Imaging the Immune System: Insights Gained from Making Movies and Taking Pictures” is from noon to 1pm on Thursday, October 16, in Lecture Room 6 of Scaife Hall. A reception will follow the lecture.

Dr. Germain received his BS degree in biology summa cum laude from Brown University and in 1976 his MD and PhD magna cum laude from Harvard University, the latter for research with Baruj Benacerraf, recipient of the 1980 Nobel Prize in Medicine and Physiology. After serving on the faculty of the Department of Pathology at Harvard Medical School, Dr. Germain joined the NIH in 1982 where he quickly rose through the ranks to his current leadership positions.

Since the inception of his research program, Dr. Germain has focused on answering fundamental questions in immunobiology. He has made key contributions to our understanding of the structure-function relationship of the Major Histocompatibility Complex (MHC) class II molecules, the cell biology of antigen processing, and the molecular basis of T cell recognition, especially the role of self-recognition and the organization of signaling networks involved in ligand discrimination. More recently, Dr. Germain has explored the interactions between T cells and antigen presenting cells and the relationship between immune tissue organization and the control of adaptive and innate immunity. His laboratory has been at the forefront in developing and using novel dynamic and multiplex static imaging methods to investigate the adaptive immune system at the cell, tissue, and organism level. Computer models of T cell and toll-like receptor signaling are underway to tease out how the immune system operates and to develop new tools for predicting immune responsiveness.

Dr. Germain has published more than 345 scholarly research manuscripts, most in leading scientific journals. Among his numerous honors, he was elected as an Associate (foreign) member of EMBO (2008), awarded the Landsteiner Medal of the Austrian Society for Allergology and Immunology (2008), and selected as an NIH Distinguished Investigator (2011). He is a fellow of the American Association for the Advancement of Science and a member of the Institute of Medicine. Dr. Germain has given numerous named lectureships at major academic institutions in the United States and abroad and has trained dozens of postdoctoral fellows, many of whom now occupy senior academic posts at universities around the world and who are internationally recognized investigators in their own right.