

Midwest Research Institute Salute to Science Seminar Series features:

Frank Douglas, MIT Biomedical Innovator, Speaking on Future Trends in Life Sciences Research

KANSAS CITY, Mo. -- Frank L. Douglas, executive director of the Center for Biomedical Innovation at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, will be the featured speaker in MRI's Salute to Science Seminar in July. He will talk about the future of scientific research in the life sciences – new trends, challenges and ways that academia, industry and government can work together to make new discoveries a reality.

The presentation by Douglas, Ph.D., M.D., will be held at 5:30 p.m., Tuesday, July 11, at MRI's Arthur Mag Conference Center, 4920 Cherry St., Kansas City, MO. The presentation is free and open to the public; however, reservations are requested by calling MRI Salute to Science coordinators at 816.360.5381 by Friday, July 7.

The Center for Biomedical Innovation, jointly organized by the MIT Schools of Engineering, Management, and Science, and the Harvard-MIT Division of Health Sciences and Technology, brings together representatives from industry, government, and academia in a "safe harbor" setting for cross-institutional and cross-disciplinary dialogue.

Douglas is a former executive vice president and chief scientific officer for Aventis SA pharmaceuticals, now Sanofi-aventis.

A leader in managing innovation in pharmaceutical research and development; Douglas received the Global Pharmaceutical R&D Director of the Year Award in 2001 and in 2004. He has served as chairman of the Executive Committee of the Science and Regulatory Section of the Pharmaceutical Research and Manufacturers Association (PhRMA), has been a member of the Scientific Advisory Board of the U.S. Food and Drug Administration; and a member of the Board of Directors of Medtronic, Inc.

Born in British Guyana, he holds an undergraduate degree from Lehigh University in Bethlehem, Penn., and a Ph.D. in physical chemistry and M.D. from Cornell University in Ithaca, N.Y.

Douglas trained in internal medicine at Johns Hopkins Hospital, held a fellowship in neuroendocrinology at the National Institutes of Health, and taught medicine and clinical pharmacology at the Pritzker School of Medicine at the University of Chicago.

He joined the pharmaceutical industry in 1984 and was named senior vice president and director of U.S. Research at Ciba Geigy in 1987. In 1992, he joined Marion Merrell Dow as executive vice president of global research and development.

MRI is an independent, not-for-profit research organization with 1,800 employees nationwide. Established in 1944, MRI performs research for government and industry in national defense, life sciences, energy, and engineering, and other areas. With headquarters in Kansas City, MRI also has facilities in Palm Bay, Fla., Frederick, Md., and Rockville, Md.

MRI has managed the National Renewable Energy Laboratory (NREL) in Golden, Colo., for the U.S. Department of Energy since 1977. For more information, visit www.mriresearch.org