Robert Daber, Ph.D.
Director of Research and Development and Director of Cancer Genetics
Bio-Reference Laboratories, Inc.

Biography

Robert Daber is a biochemist and molecular biologist whose career spans both industry and academia. He is the Director of Research and Development and Clinical Genomics for BioReference Laboratories, the nation's third largest and most innovative full service clinical laboratory. In that role, Dr. Daber has created products that leverage Next Generation Sequencing (NGS) for tumor profiling, including novel techniques for DNA extraction data processing analytics or bioinformatics.

Dr. Daber has a rare combination of scientific and operational skills. Over the past 3 years he has helped build and operationalize two CAP/CLIA compliant NGS programs. He helped to build BioReference's CAP/CLIA compliant NGS program. As the technical director at the University of Pennsylvania School of Medicine, he built their fully compliant genomics laboratory.

Dr. Daber is a healthcare professional who has performed molecular diagnostics on clinical samples to better diagnosis rare diseases. He has been a teacher of molecular biology, biophysics, and human genetics at great institutions including the University of Pennsylvania and Haverford College.

His clinical fellowship training was done at Children's Hospital of Philadelphia where he received post graduate Board Certification in Clinical Cytogenetics. Dr. Daber received a Ph.D. in Biochemistry and Molecular Biophysics from U. Penn. and his B.S. Summa Cum Laude in Biochemistry and Applied Molecular Biology from University of Maryland, Baltimore County.

Richard M. Weinshilboum, M.D.
Mary Lou and John H. Dasburg Professor of Cancer Genomics Research
Chair, Division of Clinical Pharmacology
Professor of Pharmacology and Medicine
Mayo Clinic College of Medicine

Biography

Dr. Weinshilboum received B.A. and M.D. degrees from the University of Kansas, followed by residency training in Internal Medicine at the Massachusetts General Hospital, a Harvard teaching hospital, in Boston. He was also a Pharmacology Research Associate at the National Institutes of Health in Bethesda, Maryland, in the laboratory of Nobel Laureate Dr. Julius Axelrod. Dr. Weinshilboum began his affiliation with the Mayo Medical School and Mayo Clinic in Rochester, Minnesota, in 1972 where he is presently Professor of Pharmacology and Medicine and Mary Lou and John H. Dasburg Professor of Cancer Genomics Research.

Dr. Weinshilboum's career has been devoted to the development of "Precision Medicine," specifically, the use of genomics and other "omic" science to individualize drug therapy. He currently directs the Pharmacogenomics Program of the Mayo Center for Individualized Medicine and he is Co-Principal Investigator of the long-standing US National Institutes of Health (NIH) Pharmacogenomics Research Network Center at the Mayo Clinic. Dr. Weinshilboum has authored over 400 scientific manuscripts which address personalized drug therapy. A major area of investigation initially was the pharmacogenetics of drug metabolism but, in recent years, he has increasingly applied genome-wide pharmacogenomic techniques to study individual variation in response to the drug therapy of breast cancer and depression.

Dr. Weinshilboum has been the recipient of many awards and honors including an Established Investigatorship of the American Heart Association, a Burroughs Wellcome Scholar Award in Clinical Pharmacology Award, the Oscar B. Hunter Award of the American Society for Clinical Pharmacology and Therapeutics, the Harry Gold Award of the American Society for Pharmacology and Experimental Therapeutics, the Catecholamine Club Julius Axelrod medal, the Edvard Poulsson Award from the Norwegian Pharmacology Society, Distinguished Medical Alumnus Award from Kansas University Medical School and Mayo Distinguished Alumni Award. He has also served on the Advisory Councils for two US NIH Institutes, the National Institute of General Medical Sciences (NIGMS) and the National Human Genome Research Institute (NHGRI).

Wendy K. Chung, M.D., Ph.D.
Herbert Irving Associate Professor of Pediatrics and Medicine
Director of Clinical Genetics
Columbia University

Biography

Wendy Chung, M.D., Ph.D. is a clinical and molecular geneticist who directs the clinical genetics program at Columbia University and performs human genetic research. She is an associate professor of pediatrics and medicine. She received her B.A. in biochemistry and economics from Cornell University, her M.D. from Cornell University Medical College, and her Ph.D. from The Rockefeller University in genetics. Dr. Chung directs NIH funded research programs in human genetics of obesity, breast cancer, pulmonary hypertension, and birth defects including congenital diaphragmatic hernia and congenital heart disease. She leads the Simons VIP study characterizing genetic forms of autism and tests novel treatments for autism in clinical trials. She has authored over 200 peer reviewed papers and 50 chapters in medical texts. She was the recipient of the American Academy of Pediatrics Young Investigator Award, the Medical Achievement Award from Bonei Olam, and a career development award from Doris Duke. Dr. Chung is renowned for her teaching and mentoring. She is a member of the Glenda Garvey Teaching Academy and has won many awards for teaching including the Charles W. Bohmfalk Award for Distinguished Contributions to Teaching, American Medical Women's Association Mentor Award, and Columbia University Presidential Award for Outstanding Teaching. She was the original plaintiff in the Supreme Court case that overturned the ability to patent genes and is a member of the National Advisory Council for Human Genome Research and the Genomics & Society Working Group. Dr. Chung enjoys the challenges of genetics as a rapidly changing field of medicine and strives to facilitate the integration of genetic medicine into all areas of health care in a medically, scientifically, and ethically sound, accessible, and cost effective manner.