

Lawrence-Hawkins Lecturer 2018: Xi Lin, PhD October 3rd and 4th, 2018



KHRI alumnus and 2018 Distinguished Lawrence-Hawkins Lecturer Xi Lin, PhD, is Professor in the Department of Otolaryngology, Emory University School of Medicine.

Following the completion of his M.S. studies at the Shanghai Institute of Physiology, Chinese Academy of Sciences, Xi Lin entered the Neuroscience program at the University of Michigan in 1988. Working at the Kresge Hearing Research Institute under the supervision of Dr. Alfred Nuttall (and with Drs. Jochen Schacht and Josef Miller on his dissertation committee) he obtained his PhD in 1993 with a thesis on “Studies on the ion channels in the plasma membrane of isolated guinea pig outer hair cells”. After graduation he held his first post-doctoral fellowship from 1993 to 1994 at the University of Chicago with Dr. Richard B. Rogart, where he studied cardiac sodium channels by molecular biology approaches. He then moved back into the auditory field joining Peter Dallos’ laboratory at Northwestern University to investigate the molecular basis of outer hair cell motility. In 1996, he received his first academic appointment at the House Ear Institute in Los Angeles. He moved to Emory University in Atlanta in 2003, where he became Professor in Otolaryngology in 2012.

A long-term focus of Dr. Lin’s research has been the question of how membrane channels and receptors contribute to normal cochlear physiology and homeostasis. More recently, he has added studies on mechanisms of genetic deafness caused by mutations, for example, in connexin and pendrin genes. Consequently, he now conducts translational studies on the feasibility and best approaches to apply cochlear gene therapy to treat sensorineural hearing loss in animal models.

In addition to his scientific accomplishments, Dr. Lin has served the scientific community in many capacities. He is the director of research in the Department of Otolaryngology, Emory University School of Medicine, and currently is serving a three-year term on its faculty promotion committee. He is a member of the Collegium Oto-Rhino-Laryngologicum Amicitiae Sacrum (CORLAS). As an entrepreneur, he founded the Otogenetics Corporation in 2009, which was the first in the world to provide commercial next-generation sequencing services for all known deafness genes in a single panel.

We are happy to welcome our alumnus Xi Lin as the 2018 Distinguished Lawrence-Hawkins Lecturer. He will reminisce about Kresge Hearing Research Institute and the influence on his career on Lawrence-Hawkins Lecture Day, Wednesday, October 3rd. His current research will be the topic of his seminar on Thursday, October 4th.