



Jerold Chun

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Jerold Chun, MD, PhD, is Professor and Senior Vice President, Neuroscience Drug Discover at Sanford Burnham Prebys (SBP) Medical Discovery Institute in La Jolla, CA where he conducts basic and translational research, and oversees development of neuroscience programs having commercial and/or philanthropic potential. He is also Adjunct Professor in the Departments of Pharmacology and Neuroscience at the University of California at San Diego (UCSD) School of Medicine, and in the Department of Molecular and Cellular Neuroscience at The Scripps Research Institute (TSRI).

He received his MD and PhD (Neuroscience) degrees through the Medical Scientist Training Program at Stanford University School of Medicine with Kavli Prize recipient Carla Shatz, moving east as a Helen Hay Whitney Postdoctoral Fellow at the Whitehead Institute for Biomedical Research–Massachusetts Institute of Technology where he worked with National Medal of Science recipient Dr. Rudolf Jaenisch and Nobel Laureate David Baltimore. He then joined the faculty at the UCSD School of Medicine, where he became Professor of Pharmacology and Neurosciences and directed the Neurosciences Graduate Program. He subsequently became Senior Director and Department Head of Molecular Neuroscience at Merck Research Laboratories, later returning to academia as Professor at TSRI, to arrive at his current position at SBP.

He has made important contributions to our understanding of the brain and its diseases, including the discovery that our brains are composed of genomically distinct cells; that this genomic mosaicism offers a new mechanism for understanding the most common forms of Alzheimer's disease and possibly other brain disorders; and in separate work, identified the first lysophospholipid receptor, which is a growing class of lipid receptors that has led to new neuroscience drugs (e.g., Gilenya for Multiple Sclerosis) and an understanding of other diseases including hydrocephalus, schizophrenia and fibrosis. Authoring more than 300 scientific papers, he has been recognized in Thomson Reuters' World's Most Influential Scientific Minds citation list, is a member of numerous editorial, advisory, and review boards; and has received many awards, including those from the NIH, Alfred P. Sloan Foundation, The Klingenstein Fund, and The March of Dimes.