



EMERITUS NO. 198 March 2017

An occasional newsletter for the Emeritus Faculty Association

*Chair: Robert Kerber, email: robert.kerber@stonybrook.edu Contact
in the Provost's Office: Alison Gibbons, 632-7002, e-mail:
alison.gibbons@stonybrook.edu*

Emeritus Faculty Association News March 2017

Please save the date for the Emeritus Luncheon: Friday, May 12, 2017 at noon in SAC Ballroom B.

Next Meeting: Friday, March 3rd at 11 a.m. in the Chemistry building, room 412. Our guest speaker will be Eckard Wimmer and his presentation will be titled "The Chemical Synthesis of Poliovirus Has Led to a Unique Strategy of Vaccine Design: Significance in View of the Yearly Influenza Epidemics and the Threat with Zika Virus."

Bio: Eckard Wimmer obtained his Doctor rerum naturalium degree from the University of Goettingen in 1962, and came to Stony Brook in 1974. In 2002, Dr. Wimmer and colleagues synthesized and generated poliovirus, the first artificial synthesis of any virus. For this work he was elected to the rank of Fellow of the American Association for the Advancement of Science in December 2009. In more recent research, Wimmer and a team including Steve Skiena of Computer Science (our speaker of March 2010) among others, used a novel method to weaken (attenuate) influenza virus by way of designing hundreds of mutations to its genetic code to create an effective synthetic influenza virus vaccine. They found this vaccine effective and safe against influenza in mice. Reported online and in the July issue of Nature Biotechnology, the method may be a major step in developing more effective and safe vaccines against influenza, which claims 250,000 to 500,000 lives annually worldwide, partly because existing vaccines

are not fully effective.

If you would like receive your copy of the newsletter via email instead of snail mail please send your name, address, and current email address to *Alison Gibbons* at: alison.gibbons@stonybrook.edu

Visit our website: To visit our website, go to the University website at <http://www.stonybrook.edu/commcms/emeritus/index.html>.

It always contains the latest emeritus news (click on "Next Meeting"), a list of members' email addresses, a list of officers, newsletter archives and many other useful links.