

Special Seminar by Nina V. Fedoroff

Monday, 19 November 2018 @11:00am
212 CF Bentley Conference Center, ICRISAT



Center of Excellence in Genomics & Systems Biology

“The GMO Wars: What do we do when the public and scientists deeply disagree?”

Today, there continues to be a fierce controversy about genetically modified organisms (GMOs) throughout the world. Despite the long history of genetic improvement of wild plants and animals for agriculture, only those improved by modern molecular methods and designated as GMOs. I will discuss the origins of the present controversies, the diverse forces that perpetuate them, and both the importance of resolving them and the impediments to doing so.

About Professor Fedoroff

Nina V. Fedoroff received her Ph.D. in Molecular Biology from the Rockefeller University and has served on the faculties of the Carnegie Institution for Science, the Johns Hopkins University, the Pennsylvania State University, the Santa Fe Institute and the King Abdullah University of Science and Technology in Saudi Arabia.

After graduating from Rockefeller University in 1972 she joined the faculty of the University of California, Los Angeles, where she did research into nuclear RNA. She moved in 1978 to the Carnegie Institution for Science in Baltimore, Maryland, worked on developmental biology at the Department of Embryology, where she pioneered DNA sequencing and worked out the nucleotide sequence of the first complete gene. In 1978, she also joined the faculty of Johns Hopkins University Biology Department, where she worked on the molecular characterization of maize transposable elements or jumping genes, for which Barbara McClintock was awarded a Nobel Prize in 1983.

Fedoroff has published three books and more than 170 scientific papers. She is a member of the U.S. National Academy of Sciences and a 2006 National Medal of Science laureate. Fedoroff served as the Science and Technology Adviser to the Secretary of State and to the Administrator of the US Agency for International Development (USAID) from 2007 to 2010. She currently serves as Senior Science Advisor to OFW Law, Washington, DC.

In 2001, President Bill Clinton appointed Fedoroff to the National Science Board, which oversees the National Science Foundation which administers the science awards. Fedoroff was Science and Technology Adviser to U.S. Secretaries of State, Condoleezza Rice and Hillary Clinton and from 2007 to 2010 to the administrator Rajiv Shah for the United States Agency for International Development. In 2007, President George W. Bush awarded her the National Medal of Science in the field of Biological Sciences, the highest award for lifetime achievement in scientific research in the United States. Fedoroff was President of the American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS) from 2011 to 2012. She is a member of the United States National Academy of Sciences, the American Academy of Arts and Sciences, the European Academy of Sciences, and the American Academy of Microbiology.



Prof. Nina V. Fedoroff
Emeritus Evan Pugh Professor
Penn State University
USA

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212 CF Bentley Conference Center

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Event Details:

Date: 19 November 2018 (Monday)

Time: 1100 hrs India Time

Venue: For on-site participants:
212 CF Bentley Conference Center

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