



# EMERSON CENTER LECTURESHIP AWARD SYMPOSIUM



C. L. Emerson

## FROM FUNDAMENTAL RESEARCH TO MEDICAL BREAKTHROUGHS

March 30<sup>th</sup>, 2023  
Oxford Road Building Presentation Room

**AWARD WINNER &  
KEYNOTE SPEAKER**

**Prof. Dennis C. Liotta,**  
Emory University

### Novel Therapeutics for Treating Viral Diseases, Cancer and Neurological Disorders



In his decades-long career at Emory University, Dr. Dennis Liotta has dramatically improved the longevity and quality of life of millions worldwide. His accomplishments are not limited to just one significant discovery, as he has been directly involved in the discovery and development of multiple lifesaving therapeutics. In his presentation, Dr. Liotta will overview his group's earlier success in the antiviral arena and transition into their recent endeavors in (1) developing novel CXCR4 antagonists as immunomodulators for treating cancer and (2) designing fast-release neurosteroid prodrugs for treating traumatic brain injury. Dr. Liotta and his group have designed over 350 tetrahydroisoquinoline-containing CXCR4 antagonists. Leading this pipeline is EMU-116, which exhibited enhanced pharmacokinetic properties and superior anti-tumor efficacy. To address the unmet needs in neurosteroid prodrugs for treating traumatic brain injury, Dr. Liotta and his group has developed two generations of progesterone prodrugs having improved aqueous solubility and fast *in vivo* release rate. Their efficacy was demonstrated in a rat model of acute TBI.

#### INVITED SPEAKERS

#### EVENTS SCHEDULE



**Cesar de la Fuente**  
School of Medicine,  
University of  
Pennsylvania

1:30 – 2:00

**OPENING CEREMONY & AWARD PRESENTATION**

2:00 – 3:00

**Dennis C. Liotta:**

*Novel Therapeutics for Treating Viral  
Diseases, Cancer and Neurological Disorders*

3:00 – 3:50

**Cesar de la Fuente:**

*Artificial Intelligence Approaches for  
Antibiotic Discovery*



**Monika Raj**  
Department of  
Chemistry,  
Emory University

3:50 – 4:05

**COFFEE BREAK**

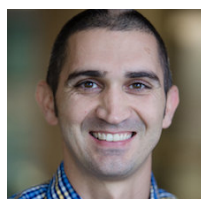
4:05 – 4:55

**Monika Raj:**

*Chemical Tools for Biological Discovery*

4:55 – 5:45

**William M. Wuest:** *Positively Irresistible:  
Designing Novel Cationic Amphiphiles to  
Overcome Bacterial Resistance*



**William Wuest**  
Department of  
Chemistry,  
Emory University

5:45 – 6:00

**CLOSING**

6:30 – 9:30

**DINNER (by invitation)**

**Co-  
SPONSORS:**



**DEPARTMENT OF CHEMISTRY**

<http://www.emerson.emory.edu/conferences/form/register.html>

**REGISTRATION:**

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**CONTACT:**

**Registration is free.**