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The Mobile DNA Conference: Evolution, Diversity, and Impact

Organizer Bio: David A. Largaespada, PhD

Professor, Departments of Pediatrics and Genetics, Cell Biology, and Development; Associate Director for Basic Research, Masonic Cancer Center; and Director of the Center for Genome Engineering, University of Minnesota, Minneapolis, USA

Dr. Largaespada is an authority on mouse genetics, functional genomics, cancer genes, and disease models. He spent five years as a postdoctoral fellow at the National Cancer Institute, working with world-renowned geneticists Dr. Nancy Jenkins and Dr. Neal Copeland. His lab is working to exploit insertional mutagenesis for cancer gene discovery and functional genomics in the mouse. He has pioneered the use of a vertebrate-active transposon system, called *Sleeping Beauty* (SB), for insertional mutagenesis in mouse somatic and germline cells, and for gene therapy. Using SB, he has developed a powerful method to find new cancer genes using transgenic mouse models. This approach can be used to understand the genetic basis of many types of cancer (Collier, Carlson et al., *Nature*, 2005; Dupuy et al., *Nature*, 2005; Keng et al., *Nature Biotechnology*, 2009; Starr et al., *Science*, 2009).

Dr. Largaespada currently holds the Hedberg Family/Children's Cancer Research Fund Endowed Chair in Brain Tumor Research. He was awarded the American Cancer Society Research Professor Award in 2013.