

September 21, 2011

John A. Lynch Lecture



Dr. Patrice Courvalin
Head of the Antibacterial
Agents Unit
National Reference Center
for Antibiotics
Institut Pasteur
Paris, France

Lecture is at 2:00 p.m. in the
Radiation Laboratory Auditorium

Wednesday, September 21

“Evolution and Dissemination of Vancomycin Resistance”

Patrice Courvalin, M.D., is a Professor at the Institut Pasteur where he directs the French National Reference Center for Antibiotics and is the Head of the Antibacterial Agents Unit since 1983. He is an expert in the genetics and biochemistry of antibiotic resistance in bacteria. In particular, he and his collaborators first described and then elucidated vancomycin resistance in *Enterococcus*. His research has led to a revision of the dogma describing natural dissemination of antibiotic-resistance genes. He and his colleagues demonstrated that a wide variety of pathogenic bacteria can promiscuously exchange the genetic material conferring antibiotic resistance, proved that conjugation could account for dissemination of resistance determinants between phylogenetically remote bacteria, elucidated the transposition mechanism of conjugative transposons from Gram-positive cocci, and most recently, has obtained direct gene transfer from bacteria to mammalian cells. His work is reported in more than 290 publications in international scientific journals.