

# CENTER FOR EXCELLENCE in the NEUROSCIENCES



## S E M I N A R   S E R I E S

### Native and Therapeutic Biological Pacemakers: What Each Teaches About the Other

**Richard Robinson, Ph.D.**  
*Professor of Pharmacology*  
Columbia University Medical Center  
New York, NY

**Thursday, April 9<sup>th</sup> 2015**  
12:15-1:15 p.m.

Alfond 113  
UNE, Biddeford Campus

*Lunch will be provided*

Hosted by: Amy Davidoff, Ph.D.  
Sponsored by: The COM Biomedical Sciences Department



**Dr. Rich Robinson** received a BS in Physics in 1971 and PhD in Biophysics in 1975, both from the University of Illinois in Champaign-Urbana. His doctoral research concerned excitation-contraction coupling and modulation of excitability in cardiac tissue. He then conducted post-doctoral research in Pharmacology at the University of Iowa (1975-77), where he was one of the earlier investigators studying the electrophysiological characteristics of cardiac cells while maintained in culture as well as their interaction with nerve cells in this in vitro environment. In 1977 he joined the faculty of the Department of Pharmacology at Columbia University Medical Center in New York, where he has remained and currently is Professor of Pharmacology.

His research is concerned with elucidating the processes that control regulation of cardiac ion channel expression (i.e. electrical behavior) and cardiac autonomic responsiveness (i.e. sensitivity to neurotransmitters) during development and disease, and using that knowledge to design gene- and cell-based therapies for cardiac arrhythmias.

In addition to his research in cardiac electrophysiology, Dr. Robinson has had a long standing commitment to biomedical education. He served as Director of Graduate Studies in Pharmacology from 1989-2006 (and PI of an NIH funded training grant for much of that time) and Associate Dean for Graduate Affairs from 2006-2012. He currently is co-Director of Graduate Studies in Pharmacology. He has mentored numerous undergraduate, graduate and post-doctoral fellows in his laboratory, in addition to guiding the educational progress of many other students through his roles as graduate director and dean, and served on NSF pre-doctoral fellowship review panels for many years.