



Garvan Institute of Medical Research

## Leaders in Science & Society



# Dr Lee Rubin, PhD

Professor, Stem Cell and Regenerative Biology, Harvard University  
Director of Translational Medicine, Harvard Stem Cell Institute

## “New Ways of Analyzing and Treating Nervous System Disorders”

**Monday 25 June 2018 12PM, AUDITORIUM**

**Host: Prof Chris Goodnow**

Dr. Rubin has a broad experience in both academia and industry, particularly in the realms of cell-based assays and drug discovery. Prior to coming to Harvard, he was Chief Scientific Officer of Curis, Inc., a Cambridge-based biotechnology company, where his group identified the first small molecule antagonist of the hedgehog signaling pathway that was developed by Genentech and is now approved as oral treatment for basal cell carcinoma.

At Harvard, much of his work is focused on finding key molecular mediators of different neurodegenerative diseases. For example, his group has identified new targets for the treatment of the motor neuron disorders Spinal Muscular Atrophy and Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis. Recently, his group discovered that a circulating protein, GDF11, has the ability to reverse some of the changes in the CNS associated with aging. They are actively exploring the therapeutic implications of these observations as well. Finally, his group works closely with faculty at the Broad Institute to apply various approaches to understand and treat neuropsychiatric disease.

Dr. Rubin received his PhD in neuroscience from the Rockefeller University and had postdoctoral training, also in Neuroscience, at Harvard Medical School and Stanford University School of Medicine