

Queensland Institute of Medical Research

# Special Seminar

## Professor Ben Dunn

Distinguished Professor of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology, University of Florida, USA



Ben Dunn was born in New Jersey, earned a BS degree in Chemistry from Delaware, and did his PhD in Bioorganic Chemistry with Tom Bruice at UC Santa

Barbara. He did two postdoctoral years at NIH in Chris Anfinsen's lab, then served as a Staff Fellow for one year before moving to Florida in 1974 as Assistant Professor of Biochemistry. He has risen through the ranks to his current title of Distinguished Professor. He is Editor-in-Chief of two journal, Current Protein and Peptide Science and Protein and Peptide Letters. He is a member of the FASEB Board of Directors.

## Proteases as Drug Targets in HIV and Malaria, and Others?"

Proteolytic enzymes are essential for many processes in biology and, thus, are excellent targets for drug discovery against pathogenic organisms. The HIV system has clearly established both the value of antiviral therapy with protease inhibitors and the problems that can arise due to resistance development. The first part of the presentation will deal with the variability that is present in HIV and the consequences for inhibition. The second part of the seminar will deal with the malarial parasite, Plasmodium falciparum and three related species that infect humans. Protease inhibitors are currently not utilized as therapeutic agents in malaria, but the growing resistance to classical agents has created a need for new targets for drug discovery. Efforts to develop inhibitors of one class of protease, the aspartic proteinases, will be discussed.

1.00pm, Westpac Auditorium, Bancroft Centre

**Wednesday 16 July 2008**



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