

Valery Grinevich for Harold Gainer Prize Lectureship

Professor Valery Grinevich has transformed neuropeptide research through the development of viral, transgenic, and CRISPR tools shared freely with over 40 laboratories worldwide, while organizing approximately thirty international conferences, co-founding the IRPS, and carrying forward Harold Gainer's personal mentorship legacy.



Scientific Breakthroughs

His discovery of **non-synaptic axonal neuropeptide release** overturned long-standing assumptions that neuropeptides act only at synapses. He demonstrated that oxytocin and related neuropeptides can be released from axons at sites distant from synapses, enabling highly organized, temporally controlled actions across multiple brain regions.

He has pioneered viral, transgenic, and CRISPR-based tools providing genetic access to neuropeptidergic neurons, developed novel tools for monitoring neuropeptide release in vivo, generated numerous transgenic animal models used internationally, and advanced hypothalamic neurons from human iPSCs. His work on oxytocin regulation of social communication, fear, pain, emotional resilience, and adaptive behavior has direct translational relevance to autism spectrum disorders.

Generosity and Leadership

He has freely shared **more than 400 viral tools and transgenic lines with over 40 laboratories worldwide**, directly mirroring Hal Gainer's willingness to share reagents and encouragement. He has organized approximately **thirty international conferences**, including the WCNH, and was among the **founders of the IRPS**.

The Gainer Connection

Most importantly, Professor Grinevich was **personally mentored by Harold Gainer** during his early independent career at the Max Planck Institute. The guidance and scientific generosity Hal extended shaped Grinevich's own approach to leadership and mentorship. He has now mentored numerous students and postdoctoral fellows who hold independent positions, actively supporting young researchers in obtaining ERC Starting Grants, Emmy Noether Fellowships, and other competitive awards.

Scientific brilliance, tool sharing on an unprecedented scale, conference organization, IRPS co-founding, and carrying forward Hal Gainer's personal mentorship legacy - Professor Valery Grinevich is the ideal recipient of the Harold Gainer Prize Lectureship.