

Peter G. Schultz, Ph.D.
President, The Scripps Research Institute

Peter G. Schultz graduated from Caltech in 1979 with a B.S. degree in Chemistry (summa cum laude) and continued there for his doctoral degree with Peter Dervan (in 1984). After a postdoctoral year at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, he moved to the University of California, Berkeley, where he was a Professor of Chemistry, a Principal Investigator at the Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory and an Investigator in the Howard Hughes Medical Institute. He moved to The Scripps Research Institute in 1999 where he is currently the President and The Scripps Family Chair Professor. Schultz has been a pioneer in the fields of chemical and synthetic biology- specifically in using chemical and biological approaches together to create new molecules and systems of molecules with novel functions. His contributions to science include: (1) the discovery of catalytic antibodies, and their use to study fundamental mechanisms of biological catalysis and the immune response; (2) the development of methods to expand the genetic code of living organisms to include noncanonical amino acids with novel chemical and biological properties, and their application to fundamental problems in cell biology, medicine and molecular evolution; and (3) the development and application of molecular diversity technologies to problems in chemistry, materials science and medicine, including the first application of combinatorial methods to materials science and the identification of regenerative drugs. Schultz also established the Genomics Institute of the Novartis Research Foundation I 1999 (GNF; La Jolla, CA) and served as its Director until 2010 with some 600 FTE. GNF develops and applies state of the art high throughput chemical, proteomics, genomics and informatics technologies to the identification of novel genes and biological processes, as well as the development of new human therapeutics including drugs for lung and skin cancer, multiple sclerosis, liver fibrosis, and malaria. More recently, Schultz established Calibr, which is focused on translational research to create innovative medicines for major unmet medical needs including tuberculosis, childhood diarrhea, osteoarthritis and prostate cancer. Schultz is the author of ~600 scientific publications, and has trained over 300 coworkers, many of whom are on the faculty of major universities. He has received numerous awards including the Alan T. Waterman Award, NSF (1988), the ACS Award in Pure Chemistry (1990), the Wolf Prize in Chemistry (1994), the Paul Ehrlich and Ludwig Darmstaedter Award (2002), the ACS Arthur C. Cope Award (2006), the Solvay Prize (2013), and the Wieland Prize (2016). Professor Schultz is a member of the National Academy of Sciences, USA (1993) and the Institute of Medicine of the National Academy of Sciences (1998) and he is active on many editorial and scientific advisory boards. He is a founder of Affymax Research Institute, Symyx Technologies, Syrrx, Kalypsys, Phenomix, Ilypsa, Ambrx, Wildcat Discovery Technologies, and Ardelyx, which have pioneered the application of molecular diversity technologies to challenges in energy, materials and human health.