



## SPECIAL SEMINAR SERIES

NCCR **CHEMICAL  
BIOLOGY**

# STEVEN BENNER

Living Systems that Manage Artificial  
Genetic Information Systems

**19 SEPTEMBER 2013 - 17:00 // EPFL**  
**CM1 Auditorium**

**Steven Benner** founded The Westheimer Institute of Science and Technology (TWIST) and the Foundation for Applied Molecular Evolution (FFAME), after a career at Harvard, the Swiss Federal Institute of Technology in Zurich and the University of Florida.



The Benner group has:

- initiated synthetic biology as a field. The Benner group was the first to synthesize a gene for an enzyme, and used organic synthesis to prepare the first artificial genetic systems;
- invented dynamic combinatorial chemistry, combining ideas from molecular evolution, enzymology, analytical chemistry, and organic chemistry to generate a strategy to discover therapeutic leads;
- established paleomolecular biology, where researchers resurrect ancestral proteins from extinct organisms for study in the laboratory;
- helped found evolutionary bioinformatics.



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