



Lecture Series  
**Paths of Discovery in Biology**  
organized by the ZMBH and HBIGS

## **Eric Karsenti**

European Molecular Biology Laboratory & Scientific Director of the TARA Oceans Expedition

# "From cell organisation principles to oceanic life"

Tuesday 06.11.2012, 4.15 pm

Kirchhoff-Institute for Physics (INF 227), Auditorium 1 (HS1)



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**Eric Karsenti** obtained a PhD in Immunology and Cell Biology at the Pasteur Institute in Paris. Then he worked on the cell cycle and mitosis in the laboratory of Marc Kirschner at UCSF, before establishing his own group at EMBL in 1985. Since then he contributed to the understanding of the cell cycle clock and developed a new approach to cell biology involving statistical physics and modeling to understand how cell shapes and the mitotic spindle form. Over the past 15 years he established the Cell Biology and Biophysics unit at EMBL as an interdisciplinary team of biologists, physicists and mathematicians with a focus on morphogenesis. He also worked on the application of self-organization principles,

bridging molecular mechanisms and the emergence of cellular functions like the mitotic spindle. He is a research Director at CNRS and a Senior Scientist at EMBL, a member of EMBO and of the French Academy of Sciences. Since 2009 he is the Scientific Director of the TARA OCEANS expedition.

The **Paths of Discovery in Biology Lecture Series** is open to the public. It especially targets graduate students, doctoral students and postdocs who want to learn about the thrills of scientific discovery from speakers who made seminal contributions to biology. The focus is less on individual results but on the process of discovery and historical perspective on a complete field of research.