2017 Recipient:

Eric Klann, Ph.D.
Class of 1980

Dr. Eric Klann graduated from Gannon University in 1984 with a bachelor of science degree in chemistry. He then attended the Medical College of Virginia/Virginia Commonwealth and earned his Ph.D. in biochemistry in 1989. During his doctoral studies, Klann's research resulted in five publications in scientific journals. Baylor's College of Medicine, Neuroscience Department, brought him in for a post-doctoral fellowship during which he published eleven more articles and made important findings related to aspects of the cellular and molecular basis of learning and memory in the brain's hippocampus region. In 1994, Klann was recruited to the University of Pittsburgh's Neuroscience Department, where he made further fundamental discoveries related to the biology of memory. He returned to Baylor in 2001 first as an associate professor and then as a full professor in the Department of Molecular Physiology and Biophysics. Klann's work expanded into the areas of how memory is altered by aging, Alzheimer's disease, and autism. In 2006, he moved to New York University's Center for Neural Science where he became Director in 2016 and continues his groundbreaking work. Klann has published over 170 research articles and has contributed to numerous books on the molecular basis of memory and how it is altered in people with brain disorders. He has delivered over 250 invited lectures at universities and meetings all over the world and has developed numerous courses for graduate study. He has also occupied a chair on editorial boards for eight medical scientific journals. In 2013, Klann received the Brain and Behavior Research Foundation Distinguished Award, and was elected Fellow of the American Association for the Advancement of Science. In 2014, he received the Jacab Javits Neurocience Investigator Award from the National Institute of Neurological Disorders and Stroke. He attended Institute Hill and Butler Catholic for elementary school.