

19th November – Lawrence Wilkinson

**What are imprinted genes doing in the brain: sex, polygamy and mental illness
Pharmacology**



Martin Raff was born and educated in Montreal and received his B.Sc. and M.D. degrees at McGill University. He then pursued residencies in medicine at the Royal Victoria Hospital in Montreal and in neurology at Massachusetts General Hospital in Boston. Dr. Raff completed his postdoctoral training in immunology at the National Institute for Medical Research in London, after which he moved to University College London, and has been a Professor of Biology since 1979.

Dr. Raff and colleagues have shown that both intrinsic and extrinsic factors control the number of oligodendrocytes that develop in the optic nerve. The intrinsic factors include a cell death program and a clock that limits the time that an oligodendrocyte precursor cell can divide. The extrinsic factors include survival signals, mitogens and thyroid hormone.

Martin Raff is currently at the Medical Research Council Laboratory for Molecular Cell Biology at University College London. His research interests span immunology, cell biology and developmental neurobiology. Martin Raff is a Fellow of the Royal Society, the Academia Europaea, and is past president of the British Society of Cell Biology (from 1991 to 1995).