Thursday, April 9
12:30pm in JBJ 504

"Synthetic DNA Vaccines for Difficult Infectious Disease Targets"

David B. Weiner, PhD
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Earlier generations of DNA vaccines were poorly immunogenic in humans. Through improvements like synthetic plasmid optimization and enhanced EP delivery, platforms for vaccine/immune therapeutic development have been developed that drive immune responses similar or superior to live viral vector protocols in important model systems including HIV, influenza, and EIDs. Dr. Weiner will present animal and human study data, focusing on difficult vaccine targets, which have implications for the treatment/prevention of infection by difficult pathogens and in the expanding theater of cancer immune therapy.

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Dr. Weiner’s laboratory helped to found the field of DNA vaccines and, along with collaborators, was the first to move DNA vaccines into human clinical studies, establishing their initial safety and immunogenicity. His group has been instrumental in the recent resurgence in interest in the DNA vaccine field due to developing second generation synthetic enhanced vaccines and delivery approaches which have radically improved this technology.