



***2015 Arthur C. Guyton
Distinguished Lecturer***

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Leslie Leinwand is a Molecular, Cellular, and Developmental Biology (MCDB) Professor and the Chief Scientific Officer of the BioFrontiers Institute at the University of Colorado, Boulder. She was recruited to be Chair of MCDB in 1995. She received her Bachelor's degree from Cornell University, her PhD from Yale University and did post-doctoral training at Rockefeller University. She joined the faculty at Albert Einstein College of Medicine in New York in 1981 and remained there until moving to Colorado. While at Albert Einstein she became a Full Professor and was Director of the Cardiovascular Research Center. Once she moved to Colorado, along with Michael Bristow, she founded the intercampus University of Colorado Cardiovascular Institute which promotes research and training in cardiovascular disease. They, along with Eric Olson at the University of Texas, Southwestern Medical Center, founded Myogen, Inc. which was sold to Gilead Pharmaceuticals. More recently, she was a co-founder of Hiberna, Inc, a biotechnology company using pythons and hibernating ground squirrels to develop novel pharmaceuticals. She also recently co-founded MyoKardia, Inc. a company founded to develop therapeutics for inherited cardiomyopathies. Her work as a cardiac biologist is of importance to both basic scientists and clinicians. She is a Fellow of the AAAS, former MERIT Awardee of the NIH, Established Investigator of the American Heart Association. She was recently elected to the American Academy of Arts and Sciences. The interests of Dr. Leinwand's laboratory are the genetics and molecular physiology of inherited diseases of the heart and how gender and diet modify the heart. The study of these diseases has required multidisciplinary approaches, involving molecular biology, mouse genetics, mouse cardiac physiology, and the analysis of human tissues. Her laboratory's efforts are well-funded from the National Institutes of Health and her teaching is recognized by funding from the Howard Hughes Medical Institute's Professor Program.