

Herbert L. Eastlick

Distinguished Professorship



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MICHAEL K. SKINNER

Professor
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Michael Skinner is widely renowned for his pioneering studies into non-genetic biological inheritance. This phenomenon involves the ability of environmental exposures to change the epigenetics of the sperm and egg to transfer molecular information to subsequent generations. His groundbreaking examinations of the role of environmentally induced epigenetic transgenerational inheritance advance broader understanding of evolution and disease.

Through his research, Skinner has revealed how ancestral exposure can impact a person's disease and affect that person's grandchildren, even if the person and grandchildren were never exposed. His research has been highlighted in documentaries by major international media companies, including BBC, PBS, Smithsonian, and ARTE France, and he received the Smithsonian American Ingenuity Award in 2013. *Discover Magazine* ranked his discoveries among the top 100 of 2005 and 2007.

Skinner has authored more than 340 peer-reviewed publications and has presented more than 325 invited symposia, plenary lectures, university seminars, and a number of Ted talks about his work. He is the editor-in-chief of Oxford's journal *Environmental Epigenetics* and serves on editorial boards of numerous other scientific journals.

In addition to launching several biotechnology companies, he founded the WSU–University of Idaho Center for Reproductive Biology, which he began in 1996 and directed until 2008. With more than 90 faculty, it is among the world's largest reproductive sciences research centers. He also founded and directed the interdisciplinary WSU Center for Integrated Biotechnology, established in 2002 with more than 170 active research faculty members.



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