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## Public Lecture

# Photosynthesis at the time of global climate change



### Prof. Francis-André Wollman

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Francis André Wollman is Emeritus Research Director at the *Centre National de la Recherche Scientifique* (CNRS), EMBO member and vice-president foreign affairs at the *Académie des Sciences*. Since the mid-seventies, he developed his research in Paris, France, at the *Institut de Biologie Physico-Chimique* (IBPC), of which he was appointed Director for a ten year term in 2007. His research focuses on the biogenesis, regulation and evolution of oxygenic photosynthesis using genetics of the microalga *Chlamydomonas reinhardtii*, for biophysical, biochemical and structural studies. Wollman and his team provided a dynamic view of chloroplast gene expression, enabling photosynthesis to be highly responsive to an ever-changing environment through its bioenergetic integration and metabolic flexibility. Thus much of his research has focused on the way the environment impacts the production of bioenergy.

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Oxygenic photosynthesis is a major player in the carbon cycle on earth and in the ocean.

A better understanding of the acclimation properties of this photobiological process at the time of global climate change, may help devising appropriate choices for improving CO<sub>2</sub> fixation and biomass production. These two issues also are central to face escalating food demand, particularly with the need to improve thermotolerance in crop fields over the planet. I will review the basis properties of oxygenic photosynthesis, its emergence and biogenesis, its function and regulation. I will point to current challenges in basic photosynthesis research which may be of significance from an engineering perspective.

**All participants are welcome!**