

# SAMRC PRESIDENT AND CEO LECTURE

LECTURE BY PROF RON VALE

## Science Education and Capacity Building on a Global Scale

### SPEAKER

**Prof Ron Vale**

Senior Group Leader at Howard Hughes  
Medical Institute, Janelia Research Campus



**In person** (SAMRC VC Boardroom,  
Building A, 2nd Floor) and  
**Online** ([click here](#))



**12h00 – 13h00**



**Tuesday,  
09 September 2025**

Prof Ronald Vale earned his PhD in Neurosciences from Stanford University in 1985, followed by a fellowship at the NIH/Marine Biological Laboratory before joining the University of California, San Francisco as faculty in 1987. From 2000–2004, he served as Executive Director of the Janelia Research Campus of the Howard Hughes Medical Institute (HHMI). In December 2025, he will join the Whitehead Institute at MIT as Professor and HHMI Investigator.

Beyond his laboratory research, Vale has made major contributions to the scientific community through innovative initiatives. He founded iBiology, which provides free video lectures by leading scientists, The Explorer's Guide to Biology, a new learning resource for undergraduates, and Beautiful Biology, which uses imagery to inspire public engagement. To advance scientific publishing, he founded ASAPbio, promoting preprints in the life sciences. For India, he established IndiaBioscience and the Young Investigator Meeting,

supporting networking and mentorship. He also co-directed the MBL Physiology Course, launched the Bangalore Microscopy Course, and his lab created MicroManager, free open-source microscopy software.

Vale's leadership extends to professional societies and industry—he served as President of the American Society for Cell Biology, chaired NIH review panels, and co-founded biotech companies Cytokinetics and Myeloid Therapeutics.

His groundbreaking research and service have been recognized with top honors including the Canada Gairdner International Award, Lasker Award in Basic Medical Research, Shaw Prize, Massry Prize, Wiley Prize, and Pfizer Award in Enzyme Chemistry. He is an elected member of the NAS, NAM, AAAS, EMBO, INSA, and the Royal Society.

