

Dr. Christopher A. Loretz - Biosketch

Director of National Science Foundation Tokyo Regional Office



Christopher A. Loretz assumed his current position as Director of the National Science Foundation (NSF) Tokyo Regional Office in August 2002. Prior to that time, he was Associate Professor of Biological Sciences at the University at Buffalo (he is presently on leave from the University). From 1998 to 2000, Dr. Loretz was a Program Manager for the East Asia and Pacific Program in the NSF Office of International Science and Engineering. During that period, he managed junior and senior fellowship programs for American scientists and engineers in Japan, and summer research institutes for American graduate students in Japan, Korea and Taiwan. In 2001, he organized a series of workshops on best practices for the design, implementation and management of international Research Experiences for Undergraduates site programs.

Dr. Loretz's international experience extends back to 1980, when he made his first collaborative research visit to Japan as a postdoctoral scholar. Subsequently, in 1995, he spent his sabbatical leave as a Visiting Researcher at the Ocean Research Institute of the University of Tokyo. Since that time, he has continued and extended his scientific collaborative relationships through numerous visits to Japan and East Asia, most recently under the auspices of a Japan Society for the Promotion of Science Invitation Research Fellowship.

Dr. Loretz's personal research interests center on the physiology of marine organisms. His long-term research interests focus on the mechanisms of ion, water and nutrient transport across the intestinal epithelium, and on how these processes are regulated in response to ionic and osmotic factors and to nutritional demands of the organism. Euryhaline teleost fish, such as the goby and the Japanese eel, are especially good study systems in this regard since they display remarkable adaptational strategies to fluctuations in environmental salinity and diet. His present work centers on two major topics: the paracrine regulation of transepithelial transport by natriuretic peptides, and the molecular physiology of the extracellular calcium-sensing receptor.

Dr. Loretz received his B.S. degree in Zoology from the University of Washington in 1972, and his M.A. and Ph.D. degrees in Biology from the University of California, Los Angeles in 1974 and 1978, respectively. He completed a postdoctoral fellowship in the Department of Zoology and its Cancer Research Laboratory at the University of California, Berkeley, before taking his academic position at the University at Buffalo in 1981. From 1983 through 2001, Dr. Loretz was an instructor at the summer Aquavet Program in Aquatic Veterinary Medicine presented by the University of Pennsylvania School of Veterinary Medicine and the Cornell University College of Veterinary Medicine. He is a member of the American Physiological Society. He is the author of 30 peer-reviewed journal articles, 23 abstracts, and 7 symposium contributions and book chapters, and has presented invited lectures in several countries. His honors include the State University of New York Chancellor's Award for Excellence in Teaching (1991) and Honorary Membership in Phi Beta Delta Honor Society for International Scholars (2000). He is also an author, and editor, of *Looking Beyond the Borders: A Project Director's Handbook of Best Practices for International Research Experiences for Undergraduates* (2002).

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