

MAURY STRAUSS DISTINGUISHED PUBLIC LECTURE

Presented by the Fralin Biomedical Research Institute at VTC



**ROBERT GOURDIE, Ph.D.,
FAHA, AIMBE**

Heywood Fralin Professor and Director
Center for Vascular and Heart Research
Fralin Biomedical Research Institute

Elected Member, National Academy of Inventors

From Lab to Life: Translating Heart Cell Discoveries into Therapy

Dr. Robert Gourdie's Maury Strauss Distinguished Public Lecture will take the audience on a journey from the basics of how heart cells talk to each other, all the way to new treatments that can improve lives. He will explain how his team's discoveries about cell-to-cell connections—tiny structures called gap junctions and the perinexus—have changed the way scientists think about how heartbeats are coordinated and how irregular heart rhythms start. Gourdie will show how this understanding inspired his team to develop specialized molecules, which are now being tested to help heal wounds, protect the heart after injury, and even fight cancer. He will share real-life stories about how basic science from the lab grew into biotechnology companies and treatments. He will also describe how turning research into real-world health solutions benefits everyone— especially when supported by public funding.

THURSDAY, SEPT. 18, at 5:30 p.m.

(Reception and hors d'oeuvres at 5 p.m.)
Room M203, 2 Riverside Circle

Watch via Zoom: <https://FralinBioMed.info/DPL-Join>.



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