



# University of Maryland NEWS

Office of External Affairs • 110 S. Paca Street • Baltimore, Maryland • 21201 • 410/706-7820

March 19, 2010

**Contact:** Sarah Pick  
**Phone:** 410/706-3801  
[Spick@som.umaryland.edu](mailto:Spick@som.umaryland.edu)

## **Claire Fraser-Liggett to be Inducted In Maryland Women's Hall of Fame**

**Claire Fraser-Liggett, PhD**, director of the [Institute for Genome Sciences](#) at the University of Maryland School of Medicine, is one of six trailblazing women who will be inducted into the Maryland Women's Hall of Fame at an event in Annapolis on March 18.

The Maryland Women's Hall of Fame, established by the Maryland Commission for Women and the Women Legislators of Maryland in 1985, honors Maryland women who have made unique and lasting contributions to the economic, political, cultural and social life of the state.

This event takes place during National Women's History Month, a period to recognize and celebrate women's historic achievements as well as an opportunity to honor women within our families and communities.

The other inductees are Anne Catharine Hoof Green, entrepreneur, teacher, and publisher; Irene Morgan Kirkaldy, civil rights activist; Almira Hart Lincoln Phelps, pioneer for women's education; Dr. Bernice R. Sandler, sometimes referred to as the "Godmother of Title IX," and Lillie Shockney, RN, BS, MAS, a leader in the field of breast cancer treatment.

The annual event was held at 5:30 p.m. in the President's Conference Room East in the Miller Senate Office Building and is free and open to the public. Helen Holton, chair of the Maryland Commission for Women, will officiate. Afterward, First Lady Katie O'Malley, JD, hosted a reception at Government House.

"I am truly humbled to be part of this most prestigious tradition. Scientists often focus on the global impacts of our research, but to be successful, we need to be working in an environment that nurtures our work. I am very fortunate that our Institute is part of the University of Maryland School of Medicine, a place that encourages innovative thinking and

fosters women's leadership," says Fraser-Liggett, who serves as a faculty member in the departments of Medicine and Microbiology/Immunology at the School.

A Maryland resident for over 25 years, Fraser-Liggett is a leader and pioneer in genomic medicine. Genomics, a term coined only 15 years ago, is the study not just of single genes, but also of the functions and interactions of all the genes in the genome.

In 2007, Fraser-Liggett launched the Institute for Genome Sciences (IGS) in downtown Baltimore. She is also one of the most highly cited investigators in microbiology.

In 1995, Fraser-Liggett published the first complete genome sequence of a free-living organism, *Haemophilus influenzae*. This groundbreaking publication launched the field of microbial genomics.

She and her team also helped identify the source of the deadly 2001 anthrax attack in one of the biggest investigations conducted by U.S. law enforcement.

Her work with infectious diseases and orphan diseases has significantly helped to improve the health of people in developing countries.

###

<http://www.umaryland.edu/media/>

*The University of Maryland, Baltimore, celebrating its bicentennial, is home to the Dental School, Graduate School, and schools of law, medicine, nursing, pharmacy, public health, and social work. It is the founding campus of the University System of Maryland.*