Dr. P. Roy Vagelos is retired chairman and chief executive officer of Merck & Co., Inc. and a renowned leader in the pharmaceutical industry for the past 30 years. Under Dr. Vagelos’ leadership, Merck pioneered medications for cholesterol and hypertension and was named “most admired company” by Fortune for a record seven years in a row from 1987 until 1993. Born in Westfield, New Jersey, Dr. Vagelos graduated from the University of Pennsylvania with a degree in chemistry and received his M.D. from Columbia University in 1954. After serving 10 years at the National Institute of Health as senior surgeon and section head of comparative biochemistry, he became chairman of the Department of Biological Chemistry at Washington University’s School of Medicine in St. Louis in 1966 and later founded the university’s Division of Biology and Biomedical Sciences. Dr. Vagelos has received numerous awards, including the National Academy of Science Award for Chemistry in Service to Society in 1995. Today, he serves as chairman of Regeneron Pharmaceuticals, Inc. and Theravance, Inc.

The Simon Ramo Distinguished Lecture Series is Keck Graduate Institute’s premier annual event showcasing achievements in the life sciences by some of the world’s top scientists and business leaders. Previous speakers include J. Craig Venter, Donald Kennedy, Leroy Hood, Maxine Singer and Bruce Alberts.
Dr. Simon Ramo is a co-founder of TRW Inc., one of the world’s largest technological corporations. Dr. Ramo was the Chief Scientist in the development of the U.S. Intercontinental Ballistic Missile, and chaired the President’s Committee on Science and Technology under President Ford. He served as a member of the Advisory Council to the Secretary of State on Science and Foreign Affairs, the National Science Board, the Council of Scholars in the Library of Congress, and the White House Council on Energy Research and Development. In addition to the Presidential Medal of Freedom and the NASA Distinguished Public Service Medals, Dr. Ramo has received the National Medal of Science and the 1999 National Air and Space Museum Trophy for Lifetime Achievement. Dr. Ramo serves as a Senior Advisor to Keck Graduate Institute.

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Mission
KGI is dedicated to education and research aimed at translating into practice, for the benefit of society, the power and potential of the life sciences.

Culture
KGI seeks to sustain an interdisciplinary and entrepreneurial culture, working in partnership with industry to develop leaders for the biosciences, while promoting academic freedom and the highest ethical standards.

Core Values
- Entrepreneurial and Reflective
- Ethical and Responsible
- Collaborative and Independent
- Interdisciplinary and Applied

RSVP
Voicemail: 909/607-7892
or
events@kgi.edu