

Chemical ecologist **Walter S. Leal** is a distinguished professor in the UC Davis Department of Molecular and Cellular Biology and former professor and chair of the UC Davis Department of Entomology. Leal distinguished himself as the first non-Japanese scientist to earn tenure in the Japan Ministry of Agriculture. He joined the faculty at UC Davis in 2000. His laboratory discovered a mosquito receptor for the insect repellent DEET and published more than 220 peer-reviewed papers and 20 book chapters. Leal is a Fellow of the National Academy of Inventors, a correspondent member of the Brazilian Academy of Sciences, Honorary Fellow of the Royal Entomological Society (*Hon. F.R.E.S.*) and the Entomological Society of America, and Fellow of the California Academy of Sciences and the American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS). He is recipient of prestigious awards from three different countries, including the Nan Yao Su Award for Innovation and Creativity in Entomology and the Silver Medal of the International Society of Chemical Ecology. Leal served as co-chair of the 2016 International Congress of Entomology – the largest conference in the history of entomology. He is Chair of the Council for the International Congresses of Entomology and a Trustee of the Royal Entomological Society.