

C. Robertson McClung is the Patricia F. and William B. Hale 1944 Professor in the Arts and Sciences at Dartmouth College, where he has been a member of the Department of Biological Sciences since 1988. From 2004 through 2009 he served as Associate Dean for the Sciences. His research focuses on the basis of endogenous biological clocks, now emphasizing the model plant, *Arabidopsis thaliana*. His teaching has focused on genetics and molecular biology and he has taught both introductory genetics to first year students and senior seminars based on the primary literature.

The biological clock provides a fascinating challenge. How does an organism endogenously measure time and use that information to coordinate its physiology and behavior with the externally imposed cycle of day and night? The clock coordinates many aspects of biology, including basic metabolism and responses to biotic and abiotic stresses. Additionally, environmental cues and the circadian clock contribute to the decision to reproduce. Proper coordination of the endogenous timing mechanism with the external day confers adaptive advantage, and impaired circadian function is associated with reduced fitness. The model plant, *Arabidopsis thaliana*, offers a powerful and experimentally tractable system in which to investigate the molecular mechanisms of circadian rhythmicity. Because plants are closely related, it is quite likely that understanding derived from *Arabidopsis* studies will be readily transferred to agronomically important species. In the context of climate change and the need to exploit increasingly marginal habitats, fuller understanding of clock mechanism may offer strategies to improve crop productivity. He has recently been awarded grants from the National Science Foundation to expand his research into the crop plant, *Brassica rapa*.

McClung has published more than 85 articles and his work is funded by major grants from the National Science Foundation. In his lab at Dartmouth he has trained over 95 undergraduates, 17 of whom have completed honors theses with him. In addition, he has served on the thesis committees of an additional 75 undergraduates. Six students have completed their Ph.D. studies with him. At Dartmouth he has served on and chaired numerous councils and committees, including the Molecular and Cellular Biology Graduate Committee, which administers the largest graduate program at Dartmouth. He has served on numerous competitive grant panels for the NSF, NIH and USDA. From 2003-6 he served as the chair of the Publications Committee of the American Society of Plant Biologists, which publishes two of the three top journals in plant biology in the world. He was elected president of that society from 2007-8, serving the year before and the year after as president-elect and then as immediate past president. In 2009 he was elected as a Fellow of that Society. In 2010 he was elected a Fellow of the American Association for the Advancement of Science.