

Al Jesaitis



The focus of Jesaitis' research efforts for almost 50 years has been on integral membrane proteins involved in cellular responses to activating stimuli. These studies began with his thesis work on the examination of photopigment orientation in the *Phycomyces blakesleeanus* blue light response. They continued in his post doctoral identification of plasma membrane cytochrome 558 in *Avena* coleoptiles and *Phycomyces*

sporangiophores as well as inter, intra, transmembrane subunit distance and dynamics measurements of the Na^+K^+ ATPase and Band III Anion Exchanger. Transferring these interests to the study of chemoattractant activation of human PMN superoxide generation was a natural transition and remained his interest for the last 3 plus decades. These studies examined the structure/function relationships of the N-formyl peptide receptor and of flavocytochrome b559. For their patience and guidance through this scientific journey, Jesaitis is most grateful to his mentors over the years: Max Delbrück, Rainer Hertel, Winslow Briggs, George Fortes, Juan Yguerabide, and Charlie Cochrane. And of course without the contribution of his many scientific coworkers and students, the journey would never have continued. Al is now retired, but when he's not skiing, hiking, or fishing, he still enjoys tinkering with loose scientific ends in his lab at Montana State University.

Department of Microbiology and Immunology webpage:
<http://www.montana.edu/mbi/facultyandstaff/AlJesaitis.html>