Dr. Mario Capecchi received his B.S. degree in Chemistry and Physics from Antioch College in 1961 and his Ph.D. degree in Biophysics from Harvard University in 1967. After spending two years as a Junior Fellow of the Society of Fellows at Harvard University, he joined the faculty of the Department of Biochemistry at Harvard Medical School, where he remained until 1973. He then moved to the University of Utah as Professor of Biology. Dr. Capecchi has been an Investigator of the Howard Hughes Medical Institute since 1988, Professor of Human Genetics at the University of Utah School of Medicine since 1989, and Distinguished Professor of Human Genetics and Biology since 1993. Since 2002, he has been serving as Co-Chairman of the Department of Human Genetics.

Dr. Capecchi is best known for his pioneering work on the development of methods for gene targeting in mouse embryonic stem cells and for applying these methods to the analysis of the roles of Hox genes in mammalian development. He was elected to the National Academy of Sciences in 1991 and the European Academy of Sciences in 2002. He has won numerous awards, including the Albert Lasker Award for Basic Medical Research and the National Medal of Science, both in 2001.