

## **JUDES POIRIER**

Born in Montreal, Dr. Judes Poirier is Full Professor of Medicine and Psychiatry at McGill University, Director of the Centre for Studies in Aging at McGill University and Senior Scientist of the Canadian Institute for Aging Research.

He received his undergraduate training at the Université de Montréal in Canada. Shortly after, he joined Dr. André Barbeau's group at the Clinical Research Institute of Montréal where he completed his Ph.D. on the neurobiology of Parkinson's disease. He then moved to the Alzheimer's Disease Research Consortium of Southern California which based at the Andrus Gerontology Centre, in Los Angeles. It is in California that he discovered the important role of apolipoprotein E, a cholesterol transporter that acts as a powerful modulator of brain reinnervation. In 1989, McGill University and the Douglas Hospital Research Centre recruited him back to Montréal to establish a research program specialised in neurodegenerative diseases.



Dr. Poirier has made some key contributions to the advancement of scientific research on Alzheimer's and Parkinson's diseases. He is internationally renowned for his works on the role of apolipoprotein E in the normal and injured brain and, in the genetics of Alzheimer's disease. Beside his seminal contribution in the field of the neurobiology of apolipoprotein E, he has been a pioneer in the establishment of the pharmacogenomic bases of brain disease treatments. Recently, his work on the use of cholesterol lowering drugs for the treatment of Alzheimer's disease has gained international recognition as several independent epidemiological studies demonstrated the potential protective effect of cholesterol lowering drug belonging to the family of statins in sporadic Alzheimer's disease.

He received several international scientific awards in recent years including: the International Society for Neurochemistry Investigator Award in 1995, in Kyoto, Japan; the First Parke-Davis International Award in 1996, in Osaka, Japan and the Galien Prize (1997). On national scene, he was the recipient of the Beaubien Award of the Alzheimer Society of Canada (1994) and, the Investigator Award (1994) and Innovation Award (1998) of Canadian College of Neuropsychopharmacology (CCNP). He was more recently awarded the Jonas Salk Award (1999) in honor of Dr. Salk, the inventor of the polio vaccine, the AstraZeneca/ASC/RxDx Award (2001) and the CSCC Award (2001) for his seminal work in the field of Alzheimer's disease. In the summer of 2004, he was nominated to the rank of Knight of the Order of Quebec and the Premier of Quebec.

Dr Poirier is also the co-founder of two Montréal-based biotech corporations called respectively Nova Molecular Inc. (1996-2000) and more recently Spectral Neuroscience Inc. (2004 -) which have been involved in the development and commercialisation of pharmacogenomic services and gene-based therapy for biotech and pharmaceutical corporations.