David G. Morgan, PhD.

Dave Morgan is Professor of Molecular Pharmacology and Physiology, Director of Basic Neuroscience Research for the College of Medicine and heads the Alzheimer Research Laboratory at the University of South Florida. Dr. Morgan's research interests are aging and brain function, focusing on drugs to treat Alzheimer's dementia. His doctoral research investigated the neurochemistry of memory and his postdoctoral studies addressed aging-related changes in rodent and human brain. Morgan became a faculty member at the University of Southern California in 1986 where his research projects focused on astrocytes and microglia in aged brain, including Alzheimer's tissues. After moving to South Florida in 1992, Morgan participated in the development of a transgenic mouse model of Alzheimer's disease (APP+PS1). He has developed methods to measure the damage that occurs in the brains of these mice and studied how this damage causes memory deficits in the mice. His work focuses largely on the neuro-immune interactions associated with the Alzheimer phenotype, and the role of astrocytes and microglia in the disease process. He is presently testing safer NSAID drugs, amyloid dissolving agents, amyloid immunotherapy and gene therapy to treat the Alzheimer-like changes in this transgenic mouse model. This work is supported by multiple grants from the NIH. Morgan regularly sits on review panels for NIH and other agencies evaluating grants to develop new drugs to treat Alzheimer's and other neurodegenerative disorders. In addition to his research activities, Morgan has consulted with both major pharmaceutical companies and small biotechnology companies regarding the development of therapeutics for Alzheimer's disease.