

## Guest Editors

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Dr Nancy Raab-Traub received her Bachelor of Science from the University of Michigan in 1969 in Zoology and her PhD in Virology from the University of Chicago in 1980, where she began her studies on the Epstein–Barr virus (EBV), an important human tumor virus. EBV causes lymphoma development in immunocompromised individuals and is also linked to several major human cancers including nasopharyngeal carcinoma and Hodgkin's lymphoma. Several of the cancers linked to EBV occur with endemic patterns of incidence, suggesting that environmental or genetic factors also contribute to the development of these tumors.

Her earlier work analysed variation in the viral genome in tumors from various regions and also characterized EBV expression in the various malignancies associated with EBV. These studies contributed to the identification of the viral proteins that have potent effects on cell growth and regulation. She has shown that the viral protein LMP1 activates NF $\kappa$ B in epithelial and lymphoid cells, and in epithelial cells specifically activates expression of the epidermal growth factor. Recent studies of the viral protein LMP2 have shown that it activates the Akt kinase and Wnt signaling. She is presently developing model systems to identify synergy between the effects of expression of viral proteins in specific cell types and cellular genetic changes. She is an Editor of *Journal of Virology* and *Cancer Research* and

serves on the editorial boards of *Virology*, *Molecular Carcinogenesis*, *Virus Genes*, and *Molecular Medicine*.

Dr Kamel Khalili received his PhD in Microbiology from the University of Pennsylvania. In that setting he was able to decipher the molecular pathway that leads to the inhibition of host gene expression upon infection of cells with adenovirus. Following a postdoctoral fellowship at the Wistar Institute in Philadelphia, he was the recipient of a prestigious Fogarty International Scholarship at the National Cancer Institute of the National Institutes of Health in Bethesda, Maryland. He spent 3 years studying the molecular virology of polyomaviruses, including SV40 and JCV in the Laboratory Molecular Virology under the direction of the late Dr George Khoury. Results from his studies on SV40 led to the identification of a novel viral-encoded protein termed SELP, which is encoded by the early genome during the late phase of the lytic cycle.

In 1987, Dr Khalili joined the faculty as an Assistant Professor in the Department of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology and the Jefferson Institute of Molecular Medicine at Thomas Jefferson University. In 1991, he established the Molecular Neurovirology Section of the Jefferson Institute of Molecular Medicine. His research focused on the molecular pathogenesis of viral-induced neurological disorders, including progressive multifocal leukoencephalopathy induced upon reactivation of JCV in immunocompromised individuals, regulation of HIV-1 in brain cells, and molecular pathogenesis of HIV-1 in the CNS.



**Dr Nancy Raab-Traub**



**Dr Kamel Khalili**

In 1999, he established the Center for Neurovirology and Cancer Biology at Temple University. This program is a synergistic effort between basic science and clinical departments. The goal of the Center is to develop a dynamic multidisciplinary interdepartmental research and training program for devising novel therapeutic strategies for targeting a wide range of neurological disorders and training of scientists. He has assembled a group of highly qualified and motivated scientists, who have developed research programs in the areas of neurovirology, cancer biology and intervention, neuroAIDS, gene therapy, molecular therapeutics, and drug discovery and proteomics to achieve our objective.

He has authored or coauthored more than 195 papers, which have appeared in highly regarded, peer-reviewed

journals. In 1995, Dr Khalili established the Journal of Neuro Virology and since that time he has served as Editor-in-Chief of this internationally distributed journal. Dr Khalili serves on the editorial boards of several journals, including Cancer Research and Cancer Biology and Therapy.

Dr Khalili's major contributions have been in the field of molecular neurovirology as it relates to the regulation of human neurotropic viruses (JCV, HIV), gene expression, and replication in the CNS cells. The identification and cloning of genes of tissue-specific transcription factors in the CNS, interaction of viral proteins with host regulatory protein, and the role of immunomodulators in the pathogenesis of diseases are examples of his contributions.