

Diagnostic Virology Award



Dr. James Mahony

James Mahony received a Ph.D. in Developmental Biology from the University of Toronto in 1978. He then accepted a Medical Research Council Post-Doctoral Fellowship at the Banting and Best Institute at the University of Toronto where he worked on a Rabies vaccine. In 1980 he joined the Consulting Staff at St. Joseph's Healthcare in Hamilton as a Clinical Virologist and was appointed Assistant Professor in the Department of Pathology & Molecular at McMaster University. In 1993 he became Head of the McMaster University Regional Virology & Chlamydiology Laboratory at St. Joseph's Healthcare and was promoted to Full Professor at McMaster.

Dr. Mahony is board certified by the Canadian College of Microbiology (F.C.C.M.) and is a Fellow of the American Academy of Microbiology (F.A.A.M). He served as Chair of the McMaster University's Biosafety Committee (2000-2004) and has served on several hospital and university committees including the Joint Intellectual Property Committee. He served for five years as Chair of the Virology Committee for the Ontario Medical Association's Laboratory Proficiency Testing Program. He was President of the Canadian Association for Clinical Microbiology and Infectious Diseases (1990-1992) and Founding President of the College of Clinical Scientists of Ontario. In 2010 he was appointed Assistant Dean of Medical Sciences Graduate Program, the 4 largest Graduate Program at McMaster University.

Jim served as Secretary/Treasurer of the Pan American Society for Clinical Virology (PASCV) from 1989-1996, President Elect (2002-2004) and as President from 2004-2006. Between 1983 and 2005 he organized PASCV workshops in Aspen, Buenos Aires, Cordoba, and Phoenix. Over the past 20 years the McMaster University Regional Virology & Chlamydiology Laboratory has hosted visiting scientists from several countries for training in molecular diagnostic techniques.

He has been a member of several professional societies and has served as a member on two NCCLS Subcommittees for Antiviral Susceptibility Testing and Viral culture. He has served on the Editorial Boards of several journals and has been a member of several grant review committees for national and international agencies. He has served on Clinical and Scientific Advisory Boards and been a consultant for over ten diagnostic and pharmaceutical companies. Dr. Mahony has co-authored over 270 peer reviewed articles and book chapters.

The focus of his research is the diagnosis, treatment and prevention of viral and Chlamydial infections. In 1989 he developed the first PCR test to detect *C. trachomatis* in urine. In 2005 he developed a multiplex PCR test for the detection of 20 respiratory viruses (xTAG® RVP Assay, Luminex) which is now in use worldwide. He developed the first PCR tests to monitor the SARS outbreak in Toronto in 2004 and the pH1N1 outbreak in 2009. He also developed a SARS vaccine and is currently working on a chlamydial vaccine. Last year he incorporated a McMaster spin off company called Advanced Theranostics that is working on therapeutic proteins for influenza, RSV and chlamydia together with a hand held point-of-care molecular diagnostic device using isothermal amplification that will provide specimen-to-result diagnosis of viral and bacterial infections in 20 minutes. Jim has attended the last 29 CVS meetings and is an avid golfer, boater, ultralight pilot and motorcyclist.