

The Department of Pathology and Molecular Medicine invites you to meet Cynthia Hawkins and celebrate the contributions of Dr. David M. Robertson at a reception immediately following the lecture at the University Club.

**Previous David M. Robertson Lecturers**



**PATHOLOGY  
AND  
MOLECULAR MEDICINE**

**THE FIRST DAVID M. ROBERTSON VISITING  
LECTURER**

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**DR. CYNTHIA E. HAWKINS, MD, FRCPC, PhD**  
Neuropathologist, The Hospital for Sick Children (SickKids);  
Senior Scientist, SickKids Research Institute, Toronto, ON;  
and  
Professor, Laboratory Medicine and Pathobiology, University  
of Toronto, Toronto, ON

**“The Genetics and Epigenetics of Paediatric  
Astrocytoma”**

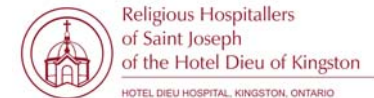
Tuesday, September 20, 2016

4:00 pm

Richardson Amphitheatre, Richardson Laboratory  
Queen's University

*Sponsored by*

The Robertson Family, friends and former students and  
The Department of Pathology and Molecular Medicine and Queen's  
University



## **Cynthia E. Hawkins, MD, FRCPC, PhD**

Dr. Cynthia Hawkins obtained her PhD in 1996 and her MD in 1997 from the University of Western Ontario. She completed her residency training in neuropathology at the University of Toronto in 2002, including a post-doctoral fellowship at the University of Zurich. Dr. Hawkins joined The Hospital for Sick Children (SickKids) as a Neuropathologist in 2002. She is a Senior Scientist at the SickKids Research Institute and a Professor of Laboratory Medicine and Pathobiology at the University of Toronto.

Dr. Hawkins' clinical practice involves both surgical and autopsy pediatric neuropathology. She is best known for her expertise in pediatric brain tumours and has a research laboratory devoted to pediatric astrocytoma. The Hawkins laboratory has published seminal work regarding genetic characterization of diffuse intrinsic pontine glioma (DIPG), as well as the clinical implications of mutant histones in pediatric astrocytoma, leading to introduction of a new diagnostic category in the 2016 revision of the WHO classification of CNS tumours.

Dr. Hawkins has more than 170 peer-reviewed publications, has written 21 book chapters and has given over 60 invited lectures. Recent publications include high-ranking journals such as the Nature Genetics, Cancer Discovery, PNAS and Journal of Clinical Oncology. During the last five years her work has received 12,517 citations with a 5-year h-index of 44 and an i10 index of 113.

Dr. Hawkins has been the recipient of the Mary Tom Award from the Canadian Association of Neuropathologists and the Lotte Strauss Prize from the Society for Pediatric Pathology and has received the Lucien J. Rubinstein Award from the American Association of Neuropathologists four times.

## **David M. Robertson, MD, FRCPC**

**1932-2012**

Dr. David Murray Robertson was born in Melville, Saskatchewan. He graduated with an MD from Queen's University in 1955 and was awarded the WW and Susan Near Prize for the second highest standing throughout the then six-year medical course. Following residency in General Pathology at Queen's he undertook fellowship training in research and diagnostic neuropathology at the National Hospital for Nervous Diseases, Queen Square, London and at Duke University Medical School, NC. He achieved FRCPC specialty qualifications in General Pathology in 1960 and in Neuropathology in 1968.

Dr. Robertson returned to Kingston in 1962 as Assistant professor (Neuropathology) at Queen's and Neuropathologist at Kingston General and Hotel Dieu Hospitals. He rose rapidly through the academic ranks, becoming full Professor in 1969. He had a major role in founding the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Canada specialty of Neuropathology and he developed the Division of Neuropathology at Queen's into one of the premier training and academic neuropathology centres in Canada.

Dr. Robertson had a very successful investigative career, authoring approximately 100 publications in many areas of neuropathology, including the pathogenesis of Wernicke's encephalopathy, toxic and diabetic peripheral neuropathies and hypertension-induced changes in the blood-brain-barrier. Along with his co-investigators Dr. Sukriti Nag and Dr. Henry Dinsdale, he received the Weil Award in Experimental Neuropathology from the American Association of Neuropathologists in 1976. He was a member of the editorial boards of Modern Pathology and Laboratory Investigation and was Associate Editor of the latter journal from 1972 to 1975.

Dr. Robertson held numerous leadership positions in national and North-American organizations; including as President of the Canadian Association of Neuropathologists (1971-73), President of the Intersociety Council of Laboratory Medicine of Canada (1973-74), President of the Canadian Association of Pathologists (1974-75) and Vice-President (1982-84) and President of the United States/Canadian Division of the International Academy of Pathology (1984-85).

Dr. Robertson was Head of the Department of Pathology at Queen's and Pathologist-in-Chief at Kingston General Hospital from 1979 to 1986. He was Vice-President (Medical) of KGH (1986-92), Medical Director of KGH (1992-94) and subsequently acted as Special Advisor to the President of KGH. Dr. Robertson held the rank of Professor Emeritus after his retirement from the Department of Pathology in 1992. Following a dignified struggle with prolonged illness, Dr. David Robertson passed away at home in 2012 in his 81st year.

Through this lectureship series the Department honours David Robertson's many extraordinary contributions to our Department, Queen's University and Kingston General Hospital and to Neuropathology and Laboratory Medicine nationally and internationally.