

SPECIAL SEMINAR

3rd DAVID M. ROBERTSON VISITING LECTURER

Dr. James T. Rutka

Professor of Surgery, Temerty Faculty of Medicine, University of Toronto
Neurosurgeon, Division of Neurosurgery at the Hospital for Sick Children



**“Human malignant gliomas: Clinical and research
advances beyond the cutting edge”**

Date: Tuesday May 16, 2023

Time: 4:00 pm.

Place: Richardson Amphitheatre Rm. 104

Zoom: <https://zoom.us/j/92188121392?pwd=elBIMUIWclBHXYXBhYzFPV21peVo3Zz09>
Meeting ID: 921 8812 1392 Passcode: 277557

Reception to follow at the University Club, 168 Stuart St.

PREPARING LEADERS AND CITIZENS FOR A GLOBAL SOCIETY

Dr. James T. Rutka

Born in Toronto, and educated at Princeton University (1975-1977), and Queen's University Medical School (1977-1981), Dr. Rutka did an internship at McGill University (1981-1982) before entering the University of Toronto Neurosurgery Training Program in 1982. His training included a research fellowship at the Brain Tumor Research Centre, the University of California San Francisco where he obtained his PhD in Experimental Pathology (1984-1987).

Dr. Rutka assumed his appointment in the Division of Neurosurgery, the Department of Surgery, the University of Toronto in 1990. He is a Pediatric Neurosurgeon whose clinical practice has been at the Hospital for Sick Children. Dr. Rutka's primary research and clinical interests relate to the science and surgery of human brain tumors and epilepsy. He has over 500 peer reviewed publications.

In 1999, Dr. Rutka was promoted to Professor in the Department of Surgery, the University of Toronto, and was appointed to the Dan Family Chair in the Division of Neurosurgery -- a position he held until 2011. In 2009, he was the Honored Guest at the Congress of Neurological Surgeons' Annual Meeting. In 2010 - 11, Dr Rutka served as President of the American Association of Neurological Surgeons. In 2011, he became President of the World Academy of Neurological Surgery, President of the American Academy of Neurological Surgery, and Fellow of the Royal Society of Canada. That same year, he was appointed as the RS McLaughlin Professor and Chair of the Department of Surgery at the University of Toronto. In 2013, he became the first Canadian to be appointed as Editor-in-Chief of the *Journal of Neurosurgery*, and was inducted as a Member of the Order of Ontario. In 2015, he received the Margolese National Brain Disorders Prize from the University of British Columbia, the Robert L. Noble Award from the Canadian Cancer Society, and was made an Officer of the Order of Canada. In 2017, he received an honorary degree, Doctor of Science, from his Medical School Alma Mater, Queen's University. In 2019, he received the Cushing Medal from the American Association of Neurological Surgeons, the highest honor that the AANS can bestow on a member, and only the second Canadian to receive this. In 2022, Dr. Rutka he received the Distinguished Service Award from the American Association of Neurological Surgeons; the Golden Neuron Award from the World Academy of Neurological Surgeons; and the Medal of Honour from the World Federation of Neurosurgical Societies (WFNS).

Dr. Rutka is married to Mari Rutka. Together they have three children: Daniel, Hana and Marissa.

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.

Previous David M. Robertson Lectures

- 2018 Anthony A. Lang, Professor & previous Director of the Division of Neurology at the University of Toronto where he holds the Jack Clark Chair for Parkinson's Disease Research
- 2016 Cynthia E. Hawkins, Neuropathologist, The Hospital for Sick Children & Professor, Laboratory Medicine and Pathobiology, University of Toronto