

FULL SPEAKER BIOGRAPHY and ABSTRACT

Ron McKay, PhD

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Dr. McKay received a B.Sc. in 1971 and a Ph.D. in 1974 from University of Edinburgh, where he studied under the tutelage of Edwin Southern examining DNA organization and chromosome structure. He received postdoctoral training at University of Oxford working with Walter Bodner examining restriction fragment length polymorphism (RFLPs). In 1978 he became a senior staff investigator at Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory concentrating on two areas: the interaction of SV40 T-antigen with the specific binding site at the viral origin of replication and the molecular organization of the nervous system. Joining the MIT faculty in 1984, Dr. McKay continued to examine different aspects of neuronal organization in the nervous system. In 1993 he joined NINDS as chief of the Laboratory of Molecular biology. His laboratory is studying stem cell differentiation.

Using stem cells to define and treat human neurodegenerative disease