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Biographies

Featuring the Special Issue Editors Dr. Kenneth R. Evans, Dr. Barry R. Hoffman and Dr. Eleftherios P. Diamandis

Kenneth R. Evans is President and CEO of the Ontario Cancer Biomarker Network (OCBN), a not-for-profit company dedicated to the discovery and development of early diagnostic and prognostic tools for cancer. In this capacity he leads the OCBN central research facility, which incorporates proteomics, genomics, bioinformatics, biorepository and other laboratory capabilities for the purpose of supporting multidisciplinary industry and academic biomarker research programs involving scientists and clinicians from across the province.

Dr. Evans has over 15 years of pharmaceutical industry experience, during which he led global drug development programs in several therapeutic areas (including Major Depressive Disorder and Parkinson's Disease) and was a core international research team member for a broad spectrum of diseases including cancer, arthritis and various cardiovascular and CNS diseases. He has been instrumental in the startup and implementation of several major collaborative (industry/academia) research initiatives, including the Depression Inventory Development Project (which he Chairs) and the International Society for CNS Drug Development. Dr. Evans has led a number of multi-company collaborative data-mining projects for the purpose of finding predictors of placebo and/or drug response as well as for the development of improved diagnostic definitions and has been involved in numerous translational biomarker research programs, including the use of FDG-PET and fMRI for the purposes of predicting drug response.

Barry R. Hoffman is currently an Assistant Professor in the Department of Laboratory Medicine and Pathobiology, University of Toronto, and Head, Antenatal Genetics Biochemical Screening, Department of Pathology and Laboratory Medicine, Mount Sinai Hospital, Toronto, ON, Canada.

Dr. Hoffman was born in Canada and was educated at the Universities of Ottawa (Ph.D., Biochemistry) and Toronto (Diploma, Clinical Biochemistry). Dr. Hoffman has published in the areas of chondrocyte metabolism, kallikrein cancer biomarkers, pathogenesis of breast cancer and prenatal screening for aneuploidy. In the past few years, Dr. Hoffman has been co-Editor of special issues of journals on cancer biomarkers and co-Chair of committees developing guidelines for use of tumor markers in the clinic. Dr. Hoffman's current interests include prenatal screening and the quest for biomarkers that better predict chromosomal abnormalities and adverse outcome of pregnancy.

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Eleftherios P. Diamandis is currently Professor and Head, Division of Clinical Biochemistry, Department of Laboratory Medicine and Pathobiology, University of Toronto, Division Head of Clinical Biochemistry at Mount Sinai Hospital and Biochemist-in-Chief, University Health Network and Toronto Medical Laboratories, Toronto, ON, Canada.

Dr. Diamandis was born in the island of Cyprus and was educated at the University of Athens (B.Sc., Chemistry, Ph.D., Analytical Chemistry and M.D.). He was trained as a Clinical Biochemist in Toronto and immigrated to Canada in 1986. Dr. Diamandis initially worked on projects related to ultrasensitive analytical technologies by using time-resolved fluorometry and developed numerous methods for many analytes, including tumor markers. Later, he worked with the p53 tumor suppressor gene and other prognostic and predictive markers for cancer. More recently, his group cloned over 20 novel genes, including many members of the human tissue kallikrein family. Dr. Diamandis' group delineated the organization of the human tissue kallikrein locus, comprising of 15 genes, many of which are promising new cancer biomarkers. More recently, Dr. Diamandis is using high-throughput proteomic technologies, and especially mass spectrometry, to discover novel cancer biomarkers. Dr. Diamandis has published 2 books, over 50 reviews and over 400 research papers. His current interests include early cancer detection by using novel biomarkers and identification of targets for cancer therapy.

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