

Dr. Michel Chrétien

Ottawa Health Research Institute

Friday, March 15th, 2002

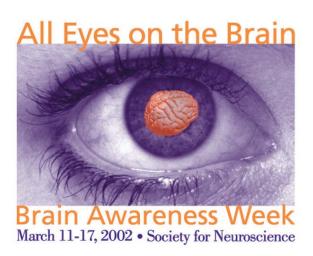
10:30 - 11:30 a.m.

Theatre 'C' at the Basic Medical Sciences Bldg. 730 William Ave.

Refreshments to follow in the Joe Doupe Concourse!

"Endoproteolysis in Disease Processes Including Alzheimer's"

Society for Neuroscience 2002 Grass Lecturer



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Biographical Sketch of Dr. Michel Chrétien

Michel Chrétien received his medical degree from the University of Montréal in 1960. This was followed by his post-graduate studies at McGill and Harvard Universities (Peter Bent Brigham Hospital) and at the University of California in Berkeley.

He returned to Montréal in 1967 to open a new laboratory on polypeptide hormones at the Clinical Research Institute of Montréal (IRCM). From 1984 to 1994, he was scientific director of the Institute, while keeping his laboratory in full steam. In January 1998, Dr. Chrétien became Chief Executive Officer of the Loeb Health Research Institute in Ottawa (now called the Ottawa Health Research Institute and created the Diseases of Ageing Centre involving collaborations with leading specialists in endocrinology, cardiology, virology and neurology in the Ottawa university hospitals as well as with basic and clinical scientists in Canada and around the world. The Diseases of Ageing Centre provides unique and specialized equipment and expertise for protein chemistry research.

Michel Chrétien has received national and international recognition, including five Doctorate Honoris Causa: in 1980 from the Université de Liège in Belgium, in 1992 from the Université René Descartes in Paris, in 1996 from the Laurentian University in Sudbury, in 1999 from the University of Guelph and recently in May 2000 from Memorial University in Newfoundland.

In Canada, he received the Izaak-Walton-Killam Memorial Prize, the Henry Friesen Award (1999) of the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons recognizing a Canadian Researcher who has deomonstrated leadership in developing biomedical research at local, national, and international levels, the Medal of Honour (1999) given by Canada's Research-Based Pharmaceutical Companies, the Actualité Médicale Medal and the Galien Prize

The Royal Society of Canada honored him with its McLaughlin Medal, the Canadian Society of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology (CSBMB) with its Boehringer-Mannheim Award, and the Manning Foundation (Calgary) with its award of distinction.

In the United States, he was the Fuller Albright lecturer (1992) of the Peripatetic Club and the Metzger lectures of the American Clinical and Climatological Association (1990).

He is a member of various scientific societies, committees and boards, amongst others, member of the UNESCO International Scientific Advisory Committee and more recently a member of the Ontario Science and Innovation Council.

Ten years ago, he and his group discovered an enzyme that plays an active role in a number of debilitating conditions whose frequency increase with age. These conditions include: atherosclerosis, Alzheimer's disease, AIDS, influenza, obesity and diabetes. The Chrétien group is recognized as the world leader in the field of studying a group of these enzymes now called Proprotein Convertases (PCs). This research is expected to produce novel approaches not only to diagnose and treat these illnesses but to prevent them in the near future.

He has also presented numerous lectures and conference around the world.

To this date, he has published more than 515 scientific articles.