



JAY A. NELSON, PH.D.
Executive Director and Vice President

Jay A. Nelson, Ph.D., is the founder and Executive Director of Vaccine & Gene Therapy Institute of Florida (VGTI-FL) as well as the VGTI at Oregon Health & Sciences University in Portland, Ore. Dr. Nelson also serves as Director of the Pacific Northwest Regional Center of Excellence, one of 11 centers in the United States that form a national network called the Regional Centers of Excellence for Biodefense and Emerging Infectious Diseases. The network brings together the country's top infectious disease experts to develop research programs, training and education on agents that could be used for bioattacks and emerging or re-emerging infectious diseases that threaten human health.

Dr. Nelson is a senior molecular virologist who has published more than 170 articles in high-profile scientific journals on how viruses cause disease. His work spans multiple different pathogens including the herpesviruses, HIV, West Nile and Dengue Viruses. Dr. Nelson's primary research focus over the years has centered on the molecular processes of disease development by cytomegalovirus (CMV), which can cause life-threatening illness, and is especially dangerous for people with depressed immune systems. His work has contributed to major advancements in the understanding of vascular disease, AIDS and West Nile virus. His work has led to the discovery of the hiding place of CMV during its dormant phase, the use of CMV as an effective vaccine delivery vehicle for protection against HIV, and more recently, the generation of a humanized mouse (genetically altered mice with human immune systems) to study molecular aspects of human CMV dormancy and reactivation.

He has earned numerous awards and distinctions for his research. He has received Faculty Awards from the American Cancer Society, and he's a Fellow of the American Academy of Microbiology. Dr. Nelson has served on multiple committees at the National Institutes of Health, American Cancer Society, and the American Foundation for AIDS Research. He's an editor for the Journal of Virology and Future Virology, and associate editor for PLOS Pathogens. He received his bachelor's degree in biological sciences and biochemistry from California State University, Hayward. He earned his doctorate in microbiology from Oregon State University, and was a post-doctorate fellow at the Fred Hutchinson Cancer Research Center in Seattle. Following postdoctoral work, Dr. Nelson was an Assistant Professor at The Scripps Research Institute in La Jolla CA in 1984 followed by promotion to Associate Professor. He was recruited to the Oregon Health Sciences University in 1992 as a Professor in the Department of Molecular Microbiology and Immunology.



RAFICK-PIERRE SÉKALY, PH.D.

Co-Director and Scientific Director

Rafick-Pierre Sékaly, Ph.D., one of the world's leading scientists in AIDS research, human immunology and immunotherapy, is co-director and scientific director of VGTI Florida. Dr. Sékaly's work has led to a generation of novel approaches to cancer and HIV vaccines, and recognition that his team is on the cusp of finding a possible cure for HIV infection.

His research has resulted in the publication of more than 200 peer-reviewed articles in scientific journals, and in more than 20 patents. Over the past two decades, Dr. Sékaly has generated more than \$160 million in grant income from organizations such as the National Institutes of Health, the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation and the Canadian government. That includes money to build a primate research center and a Canadian national laboratory to monitor immune response to vaccines and other interventions under study.

He also serves as scientific director for the National Laboratory of Immune Monitoring — a collaboration between the University of Montreal and a major pharmaceutical company — and INSERM Unit 743 in Human Immunology, which is a unit of France's major scientific funding organization. And for the last six years, he has held the position of Chairman of Human Immunology in Canada. Prior to coming to VGTI Florida, he served as scientific director of basic research and strategic planning and director of the Laboratory of Microbiology and Immunology at the Research Center of the University of Montreal Hospital Center.

Dr. Sékaly has received numerous honors and awards. Most recently, he was one of four scientists named the 2009 winners of the Avante-Garde Award for HIV/AIDS research presented by the National Institute on Drug Abuse, which is part of the National Institutes of Health. The award, worth more than \$500,000 a year for five years, is given annually to groundbreaking researchers. The money will go to Dr. Sékaly's work focusing on identifying — and eliminating — latent HIV infection, which could be one of the last steps to developing a cure for the disease. In 2007, the Canadian Society for Immunology presented him with the Bernard Cinader Award, which is given to the Canadian scientist who exemplifies distinguished scientific leadership and accomplishments in immunology.

In 1984, the University of Lausanne in Switzerland awarded Dr. Sékaly his doctorate in biochemistry. He went on to perform his postdoctoral fellowship there on immunogenetics and molecular biology.

Vaccine & Gene Therapy Institute of Florida

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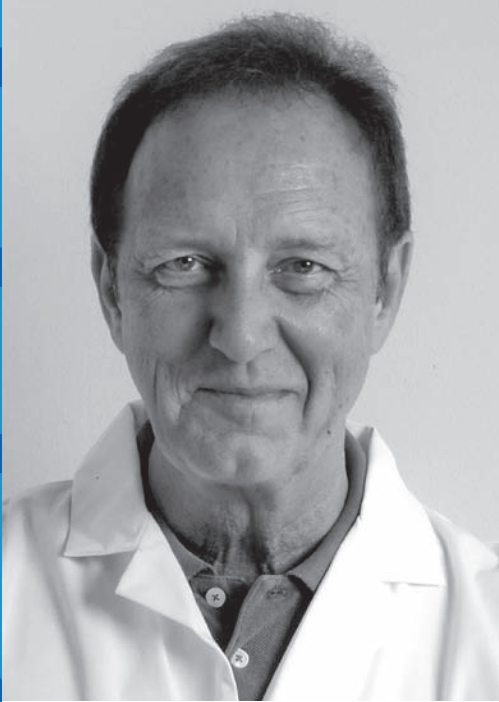
ELIAS K. HADDAD, PH.D.
Associate Member / Principal Investigator

Elias K. Haddad, Ph.D., is an associate member and principal investigator of VGTI Florida. He's an expert in viral disease development, and studies the immediate and long-term human immune response to chronic and emerging infectious diseases. His work has resulted in more than 20 articles published in major scientific journals.

Dr. Haddad's work has led to discoveries regarding how the immune response to infectious diseases is regulated and how the immune system combats foreign invaders, including work on identifying a protein that shields the body's immune system from HIV infection. He's recognized as a pioneer in the systems biology field, which focuses on the complex interactions in biological systems using an inter-disciplinary approach. This tactic led to identifying unique features, or a signature, of the protective immune response provoked by the yellow fever vaccine – one of the most potent vaccines ever made. Scientists now use this finding as a benchmark to design and monitor the development of other vaccines across many diseases.

His work has been recognized by a number of prestigious fellowships, including the Fogarty Fellowship awarded by the National Institutes of Health, and a research fellowship awarded by the National Cancer Institute. Prior to joining VGTI Florida, Dr. Haddad was a senior research scientist at the University of Montreal.

Dr. Haddad earned his bachelor's degree in biological sciences and master's degree in immunology from American University of Beirut. He earned his doctorate in immunology at McGill University, and conducted post-doctoral work at the National Cancer Institute and National Institutes of Health.



JOHN HISCOTT, PH.D.
Full Member / Principal Investigator

John Hiscott, Ph.D., a world-renowned molecular biologist and virologist, is a principal investigator and full member of VGTI Florida. Dr. Hiscott's work has focused on the innate immune response to infectious diseases, cancer and AIDS. His work has provided major contributions to the understanding of the immune system's response to viruses such as hepatitis C, influenza and HIV. His work has appeared in more than 80 peer-reviewed articles published in prestigious scientific journals around the world, such as the European Journal of Immunology, Cellular Microbiology and Cancer Research.

Dr. Hiscott also served as the director of the Molecular Oncology Group at the Lady Davis Research Institute of the Jewish General Hospital, which is affiliated with McGill University in Montreal. He also served as a professor in the departments of medicine, microbiology and immunology, and oncology at the university.

For his work, Dr. Hiscott has earned numerous awards and distinctions, including the Milstein Award, which is given by the International Society of Interferon and Cytokine Research for the pinnacle of scientific achievement in fighting such diseases as cancer, hepatitis, influenza and autoimmune disorders. He was the recipient of the Scientist and Senior Scientist awards from the Canadian Institutes of Health Research. He has also received the Distinguished Service Award from the Israel Cancer Research Fund, an Award for Excellence in Medical Research from Jewish General Hospital, and is a member of Canadian's Who's Who. He is a member of several scientific journal editorial boards, and in 2006 was appointed editor-in-chief of Cytokine and Growth Factors Review, a leading immunology journal.

Dr. Hiscott earned his doctorate in medical sciences from New York University Medical Center, and he completed his post-doctoral training at the Roche Institute in New Jersey, and the Institute for Molecular Biology at the University of Zurich in Switzerland.



JOHN D. SCHATZLE, PH.D.
Manager of Scientific Affairs

John D. Schatzle, Ph.D., manager of scientific affairs at VGTI Florida, oversees the institute's scientific staff, directs and manages its core facilities and supervises the preparation and submission of grant applications and scientific articles to peer-reviewed journals. In addition, he coordinates the institute's research partnerships with other Florida bioscience research organizations, such as Scripps Florida, Martin Memorial Hospital, Moffit Cancer Center, University of Miami and Florida Atlantic University.

Prior to joining VGTI Florida, Dr. Schatzle served as the chairman of the nationally-ranked Immunology Graduate Program at the University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center in Dallas. There, he managed and directed more than 50 faculty members and more than 40 graduate students. He spent 13 years running an independent research program at the medical center, studying the immune system with an emphasis on the biology of "natural killer cells," naturally occurring cells that under certain conditions have the ability to kill cancer cells and other cells infected with viruses. More recently, he focused on studying lupus in mouse models and has identified a family of genes that result in autoimmunity in both humans and mice. He has had over 40 peer-reviewed journal articles appear in world-renowned publications such as Journal of Immunology, Blood Journal and Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences.

Dr. Schatzle earned a bachelor's degree in microbiology from the University of Louisiana-Lafayette, and his doctorate in gene regulation and developmental biology from Louisiana State University School of Medicine. He completed his post-doctoral training in retrovirology and oncology from the University of Texas at Austin.



LYDIE TRAUTMANN, PH.D.
Assistant Member / Principal Investigator

Lydie Trautmann, Ph.D., is an assistant member and principal investigator at VGTI Florida. She's an expert in the role of immune cells that kill infected cells thereby controlling virus infections. She is also actively involved in defining how chronic viral infections result in immune dysfunction. Her work has been published in 20 scientific journal articles.

Dr. Trautmann has extensively studied disease development following infection with the HIV virus. She has contributed to identifying a molecule called PD-1 that suppresses the body's immune response to HIV infection, which has led to clinical trials targeting this molecule to help improve the immune system's capacity to fight HIV infection. Her recent research has focused on using a systems biology approach, which takes an inter-disciplinary look at the complex interactions in biological systems, to study how acute HIV infection attacks the immune system on a molecular level.

Dr. Trautmann has earned a number of prestigious honors for her work, including fellowships from the Cancer Research Association of France, the Foundation for Medical Research in France, the French National League Against Cancer, and the Canadian Institutes of Health Research.

She earned her bachelor's degree in biological sciences and master's degree in biotechnology from Louis Pasteur University in Strasbourg, France. She also holds a biotechnology engineering degree from the Strasbourg Graduate School of Biotechnology, and a doctorate in immunology from the University of Paris. She conducted her post-doctoral training at the University of Montreal.



NICOLAS CHOMONT, PH.D.
Assistant Member / Principal Investigator

Nicolas Chomont, Ph.D., is an assistant member and a principal investigator at VGTI Florida. He is an internationally recognized scientist who specializes in HIV and AIDS research. His work has contributed to advancements in the understanding of how HIV infections persist, despite effective anti-HIV medications wiping out detectable levels of the virus – an important step in eradicating the disease.

Dr. Chomont also helped identify the role of a protein called FOXO3a in the persistence of the HIV virus in infected T cells. His current research is focused on defining mechanisms and potential drug targets that could lead to the eradication of persistent HIV and an eventual cure for HIV infection.

His work has been recognized with a number of prestigious awards, including earning an American Foundation for AIDS Research post-doctoral fellowship. He was awarded a post-doctoral fellowship by the Louis Pasteur Foundation in Canada, and a fellowship by the National Agency for AIDS Research in France.

Dr. Chomont earned his bachelor's degree in biological sciences, a master's degree in biochemistry and his doctorate in virology all at the University of Paris. Prior to arriving at VGTI Florida, he completed his post-doctoral fellowship at the University of Montreal.