BioMedicine 2023 Symposium
Guest Speaker

Geoff Hicks, PhD

Professor - Dept. of Biochemistry & Medical Genetics

Rady Faculty of Health Sciences, University of Manitoba

Senior Investigator – Cancer Care Manitoba Research Institute

Principal Investigator – Children's Hospital Research Institute

Dr Geoffrey G. Hicks is the inaugural Director of Regenerative Medicine Program and Professor of Biochemistry & Medical Genetics at the University of Manitoba. He recognized internationally for his expertise in the genetic modeling of human disease and high throughput functional genomics. As the Director of the Mammalian Functional Genomics Centre, located at the CancerCare Manitoba Research Institute, he has led several large scale international projects including NorCOMM, the Canadian component of The International Knockout Mouse Project from Genome Canada and other partners to create knockout mice lines for each of the approximately 20,000 mouse genes. Dr. Hicks' research program focuses on developing humanized mouse models of rare genetic diseases including those resulting in childhood leukemia, sarcoma and ataxia telangiectasia and late onset diseases such as ALS. Dr. Hicks is the inaugural Director of the Regenerative Medicine Program in the University of Manitoba's College of Medicine. The 8 Principal Investigators of the program focus on stem cell-based applications for the treatment of human disease, including cardiovascular disease, cancer, and spinal cord injury repair. Hicks is co-founder of the Canada Israel International FASD Consortium (CIIFAC) and a PI of the Kid's Brain Health Network NCE. His most recent work developed a novel mouse model of FASD that identifies Vitamin A as a potential preventative treatment for FASD. Genetic and epigenetic studies in animal models and human FASD cohorts are identifying biomarker signatures that can be used for early diagnosis of FASD, particularly for enabling early intervention of children at high-risk of developing FASD.