

## INRC 2017 AWARDEES

### Founders' Award – Professor John Traynor

Dr. John Traynor is Professor of Pharmacology and Associate Chair for Research at the University of Michigan Medical School. He holds the Edward F Domino Research Professorship in Pharmacology and is Principal Investigator of a NIDA-funded training grant on the biology of drug abuse and holder of a NIDA Merit Award. Also, Dr. Traynor chairs the Neuropharmacology Division of the American Society for Pharmacology and Experimental Therapeutics and is a standing member of Neurobiology of Motivated Behavior Study Section of CSR (Center for Scientific Review) of the National Institutes of Health. He has served as Director of the University of Michigan Substance Abuse Research Centre for a four years term and was a member of the Medical School's Biomedical Research Council from 2010-2016. Dr. Traynor was a permanent member of The National Institute on Drug Abuse (NIDA) Training and Career Development Committee and has served on the editorial boards of Journal of Neurochemistry and the Journal of Medicinal Chemistry. He is currently on the editorial board of the British Journal of Pharmacology.



Dr. Traynor earned degrees in Pharmacy (B.S.) and Medicinal Chemistry (Ph.D.), both from the University of Aston in the United Kingdom. His post-doctoral training at the University of Gottingen in Germany concentrated on Biochemical Pharmacology. For more than nearly three decades, Dr. Traynor's research has focused on opioids and includes areas such as structure-activity relationships, signaling and behavior. He has trained a large number of PhD students and postdoctoral fellows as well as many Masters and Undergraduate students.

Dr. Traynor's laboratory employs a wide range of techniques from molecular biology to behavioral pharmacology. Strong analgesic drugs such as morphine are extremely important both for the treatment of pain and for the medical and social consequences of opiate (heroin) addiction. The laboratory uses in vitro and in vivo models to characterize the mechanism of action of these drugs. In recent years, Dr. Traynor's research has focused on alternative ways to better harness the analgesic effects of endogenous opioid peptides by targeting a specific family of intracellular proteins (RGS proteins) that act as negative regulators of a variety of neurotransmitters, and/or developing allosteric compounds that modulate opioid receptors in unique ways. The long-term aim of these studies is to identify novel targets and medications to treat pain, drug dependence and depression.

Dr. Traynor is also widely appraised for his role in organizing symposia in national and international conferences. He has been a frequent attendant at the INRC meetings throughout his career and together with his students and collaborators provided outstanding contributions to our organization. He was President of the International Narcotics Research Conference (INRC, 2010-2014) and continues to serve on the Executive Committee of INRC as the immediate past president. Over the years he has really been an active attendant at the INRC meetings and participated in discussion of actual topics in a way that reveal an outstanding competence and experience in questions related to the field of opioids. Unambiguously, Dr. Traynor belongs to the core of successful and prominent researchers that has been essential for development and maintenance of INRC as an organization promoting high-quality science in the area of opioid research.