The Dr. David M. Kovitz Visiting Professorship was established to stimulate interest and development in education, training and research in the area of cancer and diabetes. The fund supports a lectureship which provided the opportunity for distinguished scholars from around the world to interact with faculty, students and members of the Calgary community while visiting our University.

Dr. David M. Kovitz, a well-respected dentist and businessman in Calgary, originally established the endowment in 1988. The fund was matched by the Government of Alberta and received further support by his family and friends. In 1992, Dr. Kovitz passed away but through his gift to the University of Calgary, the Visiting Professorship is a lasting tribute to his commitment to excellence and the advancement of medical research and education.

Past Dr. David M. Kovitz Lecturers:
1992  Dr. Paul Talalay
1993  Dr. Edmond Fischer
1994  Dr. Meng H. Tan
1995  Dr. Frank Rauscher III
1996  Dr. Joseph Bertino
1997  Dr. Ronald Klein
1998  Dr. Trevor Powles
1999  Dr. Robert Weinberg
2000  Dr. Barry I. Posner
2001  Dr. Morris J. Birnbaum
2002  Dr. C. Ronald Kahn
2003  Dr. Nader Abraham
2004  Dr. Frances M. Ashcroft
2005  Dr. Jeannette Ward
2006  Dr. Edward H. Leiter
2007  Dr. Leonard C. Harrison
2008  Dr. Daniel Von Hoff
2009  Dr. Camillo Ricordi
2010  Dr. Paul Nurse
2011  Dr. Linda Wicker
2012  Dr. Joan Brugge
2013  Dr. Philippe Froguel
Dr. Morag Park

Dr. Morag Park received her PhD in 1983 at Glasgow University, Scotland. She then joined McGill in 1988 where she is a James McGill Professor of Biochemistry and Oncology, as well as the Diane and Sal Guerrera Chair in Cancer Genetics. She held the position of Scientific Director of the Canadian Institutes of Health Research Institute of Cancer Research from 2008 to 2013. She has also served as Director of the McGill Molecular Oncology Group, joint head of the Cancer Axis at the McGill University Health Centre and member of the Fonds de recherche du Québec – Santé, Réseau Cancer. Starting July 1st, Dr. Park was appointed as Director of the Rosalind and Morris Goodman Cancer Research Centre (GCRC), Faculty of Medicine, McGill University.

Over the last 30 years, Dr. Park has honed her research interests in the molecular mechanisms of cancer, in particular on the Met receptor tyrosine kinase and signaling pathways that regulate cell migration and invasion in cancer. More recently, she has begun to explore how changes in the tumour microenvironment impact the progression of human breast cancer. Her work has resulted in the publication of over 150 papers in peer-reviewed journals. Her work has been recognized with numerous awards including becoming a Fellow of the Royal Society of Canada.

Programme

Welcoming Remarks
Dr. Jon Meddings
Dean, Faculty of Medicine

Introduction of Dr. Morag Park
Dr. Gregory Cairncross
Director, Southern Alberta Cancer Research Institute

The 2014 Dr. David M. Kovitz Lecture
“Basal breast cancer, EMT and the Met RTK”

Recognition
Kovitz Family

Closing Remarks
Dr. Gregory Cairncross

Please join us for a reception in the HRIC Atrium