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 S. Brugge
2013 Dr. F Philippe Froguel
2014 Dr. Morag Park
2015 Dr. Emil Unanue

Dr. Nada Jabado
Professor of Pediatrics, McGill University

“Oncohistone-associated cancers: a tale of histone tail”

Tuesday, November 8, 2016
1:00-2:00pm
Theatre 4, HSC
Reception: 2:00-3:00pm
HRIC Atrium
Dr. Nada Jabado is a Professor of Pediatrics and staff physician at McGill University. She completed her residency in pediatrics with a specialization in hemato-oncology. She also obtained a PhD in Immunology in Paris, France, followed by a postdoctoral fellowship in biochemistry at McGill. She began her career as an independent investigator at McGill in 2003, pioneering a research program in pediatric brain tumors which is now unparalleled. Her group uncovered that pediatric high-grade astrocytomas (HGA) are molecularly and genetically distinct from adult tumors. More importantly, they identified a new molecular mechanism driving pediatric HGA, namely recurrent somatic driver mutations in the tail of histone 3 variants (H3.3 and H3.1).

Dr. Jabado’s ground-breaking work has created a paradigm shift in cancer with the identification of histone mutations in human disease which has revolutionized this field, as the epigenome was a previously unsuspected hallmark of oncogenesis, thus linking development and what we now know are epigenetic-driven cancers. This work and other publications are considered landmark papers. Dr. Jabado has over 145 peer-reviewed publications, with an impressive number of senior-author, high-impact publications in such prominent journals as Nature Genetics, Nature, Science and Cancer Cell.

Dr. Jabado has received numerous national and international honors while garnering prestigious salary support awards throughout her career. She is one of the best-funded investigators in Canada with grants from CIHR, Genome Canada, NIH as well as philanthropic organizations. She was recently inducted as a Fellow to the Royal Society of Canada.