

Igor Koralnik M.D. Short Bio**4/13/2016**

Dr. Koralnik is Professor of Neurology at Harvard Medical School, as well as Chief of the Division of Neuro-Immunology and Director of the HIV/Neurology Center at Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center in Boston, Massachusetts. He will become the Chair of the Department of Neurological Sciences at Rush University Medical Center in Chicago, IL, in July 2016. He is the President of the International society of Neuro Virology.

Dr. Koralnik's laboratory focuses on the investigation of the polyomavirus JC (JCV), the etiologic agent of progressive multifocal leukoencephalopathy (PML). His laboratory has characterized the cellular immune response against JCV in PML patients, and demonstrated that a strong immune response against this virus is associated with a favorable clinical outcome. He is now exploring novel immunotherapies for PML.

Furthermore, Dr. Koralnik and his colleagues have shown that JCV does not only infect glial cells in the brain, but also neurons. They have identified two novel clinical entities distinct from PML, JCV-granule cell neuronopathy (JCV GCN), JCV-encephalopathy (JCVE), and JCV-meningitis (JCVM) caused by JCV deletion variants. The Koralnik laboratory also studies radiological correlates of inflammation and demyelination in the brain of PML patients using MRI, MR spectroscopy and arterial spin labeling. They are also studying the mechanisms of epileptogenesis in PML.

In addition, the Koralnik laboratory is investigating the determinants of latency and reactivation of JCV in patients with Multiple Sclerosis treated with natalizumab (Tysabri) or dimethylfumarate (Tecfidera). Finally Dr. Koralnik has developed a Global Neurology research program in Lusaka, Zambia, a country severely affected by the AIDS epidemic.

Dr. Koralnik has published more than 160 peer-reviewed articles, reviews and book chapters on the topics of JC virus pathogenesis and neurological complications of HIV.