



Biography



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Dr. M. Maral Mouradian is the William Dow Lovett Professor of Neurology and Director of the Center for Neurodegenerative and Neuroimmunologic Diseases at Rutgers Biomedical and Health Sciences – Robert Wood Johnson Medical School. She also holds joint professorships in the Department of Neuroscience and Cell Biology and in the Department of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology in the same institution.

Prior to joining Rutgers University, Dr. Mouradian led the Genetic Pharmacology research program of the Experimental Therapeutics Branch at the National Institute of Neurological Disorders and Stroke (NINDS), National Institutes of Health (NIH). As a physician-scientist, her career focus has been to elucidate the pathogenesis of Parkinson's disease (PD) and its treatment complications, and to develop improved therapies. Her early work focused on the clinical neuropharmacology of levodopa, describing key pharmacodynamic alterations indicative of the brain's plasticity in response to intermittent drug administration. These seminal contributions provided the rationale for the development of continuous therapeutic modalities for PD including extended release capsules and duodenal infusion of levodopa. She also helped demonstrate for the first time the ability of amantadine to ameliorate L-dopa induced dyskinesia in patients with PD and motor response complications.

Dr. Mouradian's current research focuses on the molecular pathogenesis of PD with an emphasis on the mechanisms by which pathogenic gene products cause neurodegeneration and on the identification of disease modifying therapeutic approaches. She also has a program focused on elucidating the molecular underpinnings of L-dopa-induced dyskinesias and developing novel treatment approaches for these complications in advanced PD. To date, she has authored over 200 scholarly publications and edited two books on Parkinson's disease. Her research is funded by multiple grants from the NIH, the Michael J. Fox Foundation for Parkinson's Research, the American Parkinson Disease Association, and other foundations.

Dr. Mouradian is an elected member of the Alpha Omega Alpha Honor Medical Society, a Fellow of the American Neurological Association and a Fellow of the American Academy of Neurology. She serves on grant review panels for the NIH and other national and international funding agencies, and is a member of the Scientific Advisory Board of the American Parkinson Disease Association. In addition, she is the Editor-in-Chief of the journal *Neurotherapeutics* and serves on the editorial boards of several other scientific journals. Among her honors are the Roger Duvoisin Research Scholar Award from the American Parkinson Disease Association, the Excellence in Research Award from the New Jersey Health Foundation, the Outstanding Medical Scientist Award from the Edward J. III Excellence in Medicine Foundation, and the NIH Award of Merit.