

Distinguished Achievement Citation

John C. Morris

Class of 1970

Known as one of the most highly regarded Alzheimer's disease researchers in the country, Dr. John Morris has made unique and important contributions to the early diagnosis of the disease. As the Friedman Professor of Neurology, the Director of the Memory and Aging Project, and the Co-Director of the Alzheimer's Disease Research Center at Washington University school of Medicine in St. Louis, he and his colleagues have made tremendous progress in the past decade in the understanding of Alzheimer's disease and the aging process.

Following his graduation with honors and a major in Zoology from Ohio Wesleyan, Dr. Morris received his medical degree from the University of Rochester School of Medicine in 1974. During his residency in neuropathology at Cleveland Metropolitan General Hospital, he became interested in how particular lesions in the brain were connected with changes in behavior and cognition that were typical attributes of patients with Alzheimer's disease. In 1982, he became a postdoctoral fellow in neuropharmacology at Washington University School of Medicine and after moving into the neurology department in 1983, began to focus his research on the symptoms of early Alzheimer's disease.

Dr. Morris has received broad-based recognition from his peers and professional associates as evidenced by his selection to numerous editorial, scientific, community, and pharmaceutical advisory boards, as well as his participation in a variety of professional societies and organizations. Widely published, he has authored countless professional articles and book chapters dealing with Alzheimer's disease, dementia and other neurological disorders associated with aging. Among his many involvements, he currently serves on the Board of Directors of the National Alzheimer's Association and on the scientific review committee of the National Institute on Aging. The National Institute of Health sponsors several of his projects, including identifying the cognitive changes associated with early stage Alzheimer's disease, exploring the role of vascular disease in causing dementia, and investigating an unusual inherited form of dementia known as hereditary dysphasic dementia.

While at Ohio Wesleyan, Dr. Morris was a member of Omicron Delta Kappa, the men's honorary, Chi gamma Nu, the Chemistry Honorary, and was active in his fraternity, Sigma Alpha Epsilon. Also a championship wrestler, it is said that the intensity with which he confronted his hapless opponents in the wrestling ring now manifests itself in his attack upon an illness which affects so many people all over the world.

Dr. Morris, his wife, Lucy, and their three children reside in Clayton, Missouri.

It is a privilege to honor Dr. John C. Morris, an exemplary son of Ohio Wesleyan, and to applaud him for his outstanding work which has given a measure of hope and help to victims of a cruel disease.

May 20, 2000

