

Mary Jeanne Kreek, MD

Mary Jeanne Kreek, MD, is internationally renowned for her pioneering research in the field of neuropsychopharmacology and addictive diseases. Dr. Kreek's research has changed our understanding of addiction from a moral shortcoming to a medical disease, transforming how doctors treat people with addictive diseases and how we understand the human brain. Her current research focuses on opiate addiction, cocaine dependency and alcoholism.

Dr. Kreek is a graduate of Wellesley College and also of the Columbia University College of Physicians & Surgeons, where she received the MD degree. She was the first woman appointed as head of a laboratory at Rockefeller University and is currently Patrick E. and Beatrice M. Haggerty Professor and Head of the Laboratory of the Biology of Addictive Diseases at The Rockefeller University and Senior Physician of The Rockefeller University Hospital.

Dr. Kreek joined The Rockefeller Institute in 1964, and, with the late Dr. Vincent P. Dole and the late Dr. Marie Nyswander, pioneered methadone maintenance therapy for heroin addicts. She is author or co-author of over 350 peer reviewed research papers and over 150 invited concept reviews and reports.

Dr. Kreek's lab has discovered over 20 addictive gene variants associated with opioid addiction and is currently studying gene variants and selected epigenetics questions in humans and rodent models. Her work has included studies on HIV and AIDS, hepatitis B, hepatitis delta and hepatitis C.

Dr. Kreek is a Fellow of the New York Academy of Sciences. In addition to numerous international awards, she has received outstanding acknowledgments for her scientific research, including

- the Betty Ford Award
- the Nathan B. Eddy Memorial Award for Lifetime Excellence in Drug Abuse Research presented by the College on Problems of Drug Dependence, one of the highest recognitions in the field of drug abuse research.
- the Columbia University College of Physicians & Surgeons Alumni Association's Gold Medal for Lifetime Distinguished Achievements in Academic Medicine
- the International Narcotics Research Conference Founder's Award
- an Honorary Fellowship in the American College of Psychiatrists
- and the Lifetime Science Award by the National Institute on Drug Abuse

Dr. Kreek has served two terms as president of the College on Problems of Drug Dependence (CPDD), the oldest and most prestigious scientific organization in the field of drug abuse research and has participated in nearly every organization related to addiction in the past 50 years. She is a highly sought-after consultant having advised numerous federal agencies, including the White House Office of National Drug Control Policy.