

Opening remarks



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Current technologies in the areas of biomedical science have provided new insights into the etiology and pathogenesis of human diseases in recent years. Gene amplification and modern molecular pathological approaches have led to new discoveries on the presence of viruses in cancer and their role in other diseases, including kidney nephropathy and neurological disorders. Temple University has consistently demonstrated a great interest in biomedical research, particularly in the fields of cancer research, infectious diseases, cardiovascular disease, substance/drug abuse, among others. Temple University was founded in 1884 by Dr. Russell Conwell as an outgrowth of his ministry at the Baptist Temple. More than 100 years later, having emerged as a major educational enterprise, Temple University continues the Conwell mission. Temple is an urban center of teaching, research and health care. From its roots in the historical and cultural richness of Philadelphia, Temple has become a major international university. With five regional campuses, including the flagship Main Campus and the Health Sciences Campus, the University has international campuses in Tokyo, Japan, and Rome, Italy. Temple attracts more than 34,000 students from across the nation and around the world.

Temple University offers 123 baccalaureate degree programs, 117 masters' degrees, 51 doctoral degrees, and five professional degrees. Temple is the 36th largest university in the United States and the third largest provider of professional degrees in the country. Temple University has been a member of the Commonwealth System of Higher Education in Pennsylvania since 1965 and is one of three public research universities in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, and the second largest in the state.

As a leader in medicine and biomedical research, Temple enhanced its efforts in virus research in 1999, by establishing the Center for Neurovirology and Cancer Biology within the College of Science and Technology, under the leadership of Dr. Kamel Khalili. The University is proud to support various international conferences, such as this year's Sixth International Symposium on NeuroVirology and the First International Conference on Polyomaviruses and Human Diseases in 2003. I am delighted to represent Temple University at the Second International Conference on Polyomaviruses and Human Diseases in Sapporo, Japan. This meeting is timely and important, as world-leading scientists present cutting-edge research in a forum designed to foster collaborations that will lead to the development of novel methodologies and strategies for the treatment of polyomavirus-associated diseases.