Short Biography: **Dr. Jan FRIEDMAN**

Dr. Friedman received his M.Sc. and MD in 1971 from Tulane University, New Orleans, completed his residency at the Children's Memorial Hospital, Chicago in 1973 and his Ph.D. and fellowship in medical genetics at the University of Washington in 1977. Dr. Friedman was recruited as an Assistant Professor in the Dept. of Pediatrics at Northwestern University (1976-1978) and as the Assistant to the Associate Professor and Chief, Div. of Clinical Genetics at the University of Texas Health Science Centre (1978-1986). In 1986, Dr. Friedman was recruited as an Associate Professor and promoted to a Professor, Dept. of Medical Genetics at the University of British Columbia (UBC) in 1989. Dr. Friedman was the Head, Medical Genetics (1992-1999) and has been the acting Associate Dean, Research in the Faculty of Medicine, UBC and acting Executive Director at the Child & Family Research Institute since 2010.

Dr. Friedman's research has led to seminal advances in improving the diagnosis of neurofibromatosis (NF) by enumerating the complex and variable spectrum of its clinical features, and in formulating recommendations for genetic and clinical diagnosis that have led to enhanced standards of patient care. His key research discoveries of novel molecular and cellular hallmarks that distinguish types of neurofibromas, benign tumours that typically arise in these patients, are providing new insights into the pathogenesis and progression of NF. In the past decade, Dr. Friedman has been a pioneer in the development and application of cytogenetic and genomic tools to understand the genetic causes and clinical consequences, and improve diagnosis of intellectual disability syndromes. Dr. Friedman is also a recognized expert in teratology, with his recent focus on determining the risk for birth defects arising from maternal anti-depressant use during pregnancy which provides critical information that is essential for the development of regulatory guidelines for these medications.

Dr. Friedman has received steady funding from many agencies, including the National NF Foundation, BC Health Care Research Foundation, Shriners' Hospitals, CIHR and NIH. Dr. Friedman is the leader of the CFI national project "Canadian Molecular Cytogenetics Platform" and co-leader of the BC Clinical Genomics Network (MSFHR funding) and the Genome Canada project "Finding of Rare Disease Genes in Canada". These research consortia bring together clinicians and scientists to focus on using genomics technologies to solve problems in clinical genetics. Dr. Friedman played an instrumental role in the creation of the National NF Foundation database and the NF1 Mutation and NF2 Mutation databases.

As a UBC faculty member, Dr. Friedman has trained numerous medical students, graduate students, fellows and clinicians, and currently supervises two Ph.D. students. He has taught several post-graduate courses at UBC since 1986. Dr. Friedman has won 15 awards for his research and several teaching awards, including the National NF Foundation Center of Excellence Award (2001), a UBC Killam Teaching Award (2010) and UBC Distinguished Medical Research Lecturer in Clinical Science (2012). He was a member of the Dean's Task Force on Undergraduate MD Curriculum Renewal (2009-2010) and has participated in many committees and strategic advisory groups at UBC and externally. Dr. Friedman is a member of the Medical/Clinical Genetics Examination Committee of both the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Canada and the American Board of Medical Genetics. Dr. Friedman has published more than 220 peer-reviewed papers and numerous articles, book chapters and reports. He is on the editorial boards of several high impact journals, played executive leadership roles in the Association of Professors of Human and Medical Genetics and the Canadian College of Medical Geneticists and has been a member of key committees of the CIHR Institute of Genetics and Genome BC. Over the past 10 years, he has given more than 50 invited presentations.