



**Simposio Internacional:** Hipoacusias hereditarias: del diagnóstico a la terapia

***International Symposium: Hereditary Hearing Impairment: from diagnosis to therapy***

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Richard Smith

Is Director the Molecular Otolaryngology and Renal Research Laboratories (MORL) and an international leader in the human genetics of hearing loss with over 470 peer-reviewed publications. The MORL has Clinical Diagnostics and Basic Research Divisions. The Clinical Diagnostics Division was CLIA certified in 1999 and accredited by the Joint Commission on Accreditation of Healthcare Organizations in 2001; it is recertified very two years. The MORL is a leader in the application of massively parallel sequencing methods to deafness and translating this technology to the clinical arena. This technology has changed the clinical evaluation of the deaf person. The Basic Research Division of the MORL has made numerous contributions to our understanding of the biology of hearing and deafness. Scientists in the MORL have mapped about 20% of non-syndromic deafness loci and have cloned about 22% of all genes implicated in deafness. They have also studied the application of RNA interference as an intervention to prevent progressive hearing loss in animal models of autosomal dominant non-syndromic deafness. Research in the MORL has been continuously supported by the NIH for the past 25 years. As a reflection of his accomplishments, Smith has been elected to the National Academies, Institute of Medicine and the Association of American Physicians.