

## ■ COMMUNIQUÉ

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À/To

## ■ PREMMi SYMPOSIUM

### Mitochondrial Medicine: Angers chooses the future

**The symposium « Mitochondrial medicine, a challenge for tomorrow » organized by the Mitochondrial Medicine Research Center (MMRC / PREMMi) gathered 200 attendees.**

**Chaired by Pr. Douglas Wallace, pioneer in mitochondrial genetics, the symposium addressed the challenges of mitochondrial medicine.**

**The title Doctor Honoris Causa was awarded to Pr. Douglas Wallace in the afternoon, during which ceremony he declared: « With its involvement in mitochondrial medicine, Angers chooses the future ».**

On Wednesday December the 2<sup>nd</sup> 2015, the Mitochondrial Medicine Research Centre (MMRC – PREMMi) held a symposium on « Mitochondrial medicine, a challenge for tomorrow ». This event was chaired by Professor Douglas Wallace, pioneer in mitochondrial genetics and Director of the Center of Mitochondrial and Epigenomic Medicine of Philadelphia (USA).

The speakers, worldwide specialists of mitochondria, have gathered about 200 attendees of different horizons: physicians, researchers, patient association members and students from the Medicine Faculty of the University of Angers.

Pr. **Douglas Wallace** presented the history and perspectives of mitochondrial medicine from rare to common diseases. Insisting on the translational aspect « from bed to benchside », he detailed the importance of mitochondrial physiology and its role in the etiology of pathologies that affect energy-demanding organs.

Pr. **André Dietrich** is a CNRS Research Director at the Plants Molecular Biology Institute of Strasbourg University (France). His main research domain deals with the regulation and inverse genetics of vegetal mitochondria. His conference illustrated the important aspect of mitochondrial research in plants, to analyze different concepts conserved in animal and responsible for human diseases.

Pr. **Antonio Zorzano**, professor in molecular biology and biochemistry and research director at the Research Institute in Biomedicine of Barcelona (Spain), presented the relationships between mitochondrial dynamics and metabolic pathways involved in current diseases such as diabetes and obesity, hence opening new therapeutic perspectives involving mitochondrial structural plasticity.

Pr. **Valerio Carelli**, professor in neurology and director of the research laboratory in Neurogenetics of the University of Bologna (Italy), presented the key role of mitochondrial alterations in Leber's hereditary optic neuropathy. He detailed the impact of innate mutations of the mitochondrial genome and the impact of environmental parameters in the control of the disease's penetrance. He also presented the first results of a new therapeutic approach based on the use of phytoestrogens.

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In his acceptance speech, Pr. Douglas Wallace renewed his entire support to PREMMI : « With its involvement in mitochondrial medicine, Angers chooses the future ».

## About PREMMi

The MMRC/PREMMI program favors the reinforcement of collaborations between plant and metazoan life sciences research axes. From this alliance, new therapeutic molecules should be identified to generating tomorrow's medicine for common diseases with a mitochondrial deficit.

