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**James W. Simpkins, Ph.D.**

Director, Center for Basic and Translational Stroke Research

University of West Virginia

**Research Day Lecture Title:***Wandering in Neurodegeneration Research: A career of Running Against the Wind*

**Biographical Sketch**

James W. Simpkins received his Ph.D. degree under the mentorship of the pioneering neuroendocrinologist, Joseph Meites at Michigan State University in 1977. He then joined the University of Florida where he rose through the academic ranks to a full professorship in 1986. At the University of Florida, he was the founding director of the Center for the Neurobiology of Aging, served as Chair of two departments and was appointed the Frank Duckworth Professor of Drug Discovery in 1996. In 2000, he became the Professor and Chair of the Department of Pharmacology & Neuroscience and Founding Director of the Institute for Aging and Alzheimer’s Disease Research at the University of North Texas Health Science Center at Fort Worth. In 2012, he joined the faculty of the Department of Physiology and Pharmacology of West Virginia University and currently serves as the Founding Director of the Center for Basic and Translational Stroke Research. In 2012, he received the Harman Award for Lifetime Achievement for Aging Research from the American Association of Aging.

The author of more than 370 publications, his research has focused on the discovery of novel compounds for the treatment of age-related brain disorders, with a particular focus on Alzheimer’s disease and stroke. His body of research has resulted in 21 issued patents.