

## DISTINGUISHED SERVICE AWARD

**Jean Alfred Morisset, PhD**  
**Professor, Université de Sherbrooke**

Dr. Morisset was born in Baie-Comeau Quebec, Canada on November 7th 1940. As a child, he moved to Rimouski across the St Laurence river where he grew up and got his Bachelor in arts in 1961. He then received his BSc(1965) and PhD(1968) degrees in biology from the Université de Sherbrooke in Sherbrooke, Quebec. His research mentor at Sherbrooke was Dr. Jacques Dunnigan, professor of biology, who got him interested in pancreatic physiology. After his PhD, he also worked as a post-doctoral fellow to the Medical College of Georgia in Augusta, Ga, under the supervision of Dr. Paul D. Webster from 1968 - 1970. In fact, he was Dr. Webster's first postdoctoral fellow. In 1970, he returned to his alma mater as a Professor of Biology until 1995, and subsequently earned an appointment as an investigator and associate professor for the medical school in the department of gastroenterology. He remains with the Université de Sherbrooke where he is an Associate Professor and continues to be an invaluable asset to the field of pancreatology.

Dr. Morisset's career is marked by fifty years of pioneering research in basic pancreatic physiology. Over the years, he and his assistants and students have realized important new findings in this field of pancreatic research. He has demonstrated that the cholinergic muscarinic system was not involved in the process of pancreatic enzyme adaptation to different diets, at least in the rat. He and his group also demonstrated that the sensitivity of the pancreatic acini to a cholinergic stimulation developed early after birth and was independent of corticosterone but was delayed by exclusive milk feeding as the only source of energy. He was the first to characterize the pancreatic muscarinic receptor and to establish a parallel development of this receptor population with maximal enzyme release in response to a cholinergic stimulation. He also clearly established that there is no somatostatin in the rat pancreatic juice and demonstrated the presence of an elastase 2 activity in the juice able to control somatostatin activity in the upper intestine.

His laboratory was also actively involved in studying the role of CCK in the control of pancreatic growth through specific intracellular enzyme activation. These intracellular enzymes involve ornithine decarboxylase, tyrosine kinase, Ptd3-kinase and PLD. His laboratory was also involved in studying the circadian rhythms of rat pancreatic secretion. Finally, he has demonstrated with specific CCK receptor antibodies that the pancreases of large animals, including human, do not possess the CCK-1 receptor subtype and that the CCK-2 subtype was present only on the pancreatic somatostatin delta cells in all six species studied so far.

Over the five decades of his research career, Dr Morisset has published 218 research articles in peer-reviewed journals, edited with Dr. Travis Solomon, a former APA President, a book on growth of the gastrointestinal tract, authored 18 book chapters, and given over 300 presentations as abstracts at a variety of scientific meetings. He has also served as an external reviewer for at least 50 scientific journals and supervised 20 MSc students, 15 PhD students and 10 postdoctoral fellows. Dr. Morisset has also served on many Canadian and American research grant committees and has been a member of several editorial boards for scientific journals.

Just as the APA celebrates its 50 birthday, so does Dr. Morisset celebrates his 50 APA anniversary, having attended all the meetings of the association since its conception in 1969; he remembers attending this first meeting at the Drake Hotel in Chicago as a promising post-doctoral fellow. He is very grateful to the APA for the honor of being selected as a recipient of the 2019 Distinguished Service Award.



**Maui, Hawaii**

**November 6 – 9, 2019**