

Itzhaki Ruth

She has a BSc in physics and an MSc and PhD in biophysics from the University of London, UK. As a postdoctoral researcher she worked at the University of Cambridge, UK, holding a Beit Memorial Fellowship in the Radiotherapeutics Department and the Wheldale- Onslow Memorial Fellowship at Newnham College. She then moved to the Paterson Cancer Research Laboratories, Manchester, UK, and later to Manchester University, as a Reader and later a Professor. Her research topics have been diverse: iron-binding in plasma; effects of ionising radiation on macromolecules; chromatin structure; effects of irradiation on chromatin; carcinogens and chromatin. For the last 30+



years she has been investigating the role of viruses in Alzheimer's disease (AD), and the effect of APOE on individuals' responses to microbial diseases. Her main result, now substantiated by several hundred publications from other labs using very diverse techniques, is that herpes simplex virus type 1, when in brain of people who carry the type 4 allele of the APOE gene, confers a strong risk of AD: this points to usage of antiviral treatment to slow disease progression in AD patients. She discovered also that APOE determines response to various infectious pathogens.

Current titles: Visiting Professor at Oxford University, UK, and Emeritus Professor at Manchester University, UK.