



**Prof. Patricia J. Johnson**

Professor

University of California, Los Angeles, USA

Dr. Patricia J. Johnson is a Professor in the Department of Microbiology, Immunology and Molecular Genetics at the University of California, Los Angeles (UCLA). Professor Johnson received her Ph.D. in Biological Sciences from The University of Michigan. She conducted postdoctoral research in the laboratories of Piet Borst at The Netherlands Cancer Institute in Amsterdam, and Christian de Duve at The Rockefeller University in New York City, before becoming a faculty member at UCLA.

Professor Johnson is the recipient of The Helen Hay Whitney Postdoctoral Award, The National Foundation for Infectious Diseases Young Investigator Award, New Investigator Award in Molecular Parasitology and a Scholar Award in Molecular Parasitology from The Burroughs-Wellcome Fund. Professor Johnson has also received a MERIT Award from National Institute of Health and is an elected member of the American Academy of Microbiology

Professor Johnson's laboratory studies the cellular biology and pathogenesis of the sexually-transmitted parasite *Trichomonas vaginalis*, which is responsible for ~1/4 billion infections worldwide annually. Past and current research has focused on organelle biogenesis and evolution, drug resistance, regulation of gene expression, genomics and host:parasite interactions. The major focus of current research is to identify parasite cell surface molecules and secreted factors that play critical roles in establishing infection and in the lysis of human host cells. The cellular mechanisms necessary for parasite killing by 5-nitroimidazoles, as well as host factors that influence infection outcomes, are also being investigated.