

Wise Young, M.D., Ph.D., Professor II
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Dr. Wise Young, founding director of the W.M. Keck Center for Collaborative Neuroscience and a professor at Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey, is recognized as one of the world's outstanding neuroscientists. He obtained a Bachelor of Arts degree from Reed College, a Doctorate from the University of Iowa and a medical degree from Stanford University. After a surgery internship at New York University and Bellevue Medical Center, he was invited to join the neurosurgery department at NYU. In 1984, he became director of neurosurgery research. In 1997, as part of Rutgers' commitment to the future, Dr. Young was recruited to establish and direct a world-class center for collaborative neuroscience. Dr. Young developed the first standardized rat spinal cord injury model used worldwide for testing therapies, formed the first consortium funded by the National Institutes of Health (NIH) to test promising therapies, and helped establish several widely accepted clinical outcome measures in spinal cord injury research.

Dr. Young founded and served as editor-in-chief of the *Journal of Neurotrauma*. He organized the National and International Neurotrauma Societies as forums for scientists to share discoveries and collaborate on spinal cord injury and brain research. He has served on advisory committees for the NIH, the National Academy of Sciences, and NICHD, and on advisory boards for many spinal cord injury organizations. Dr. Young is committed to bringing treatments to people with chronic spinal cord injuries. He built and trained a twenty-five center clinical trial network in China, Taiwan, and Hong Kong where human clinical trials using umbilical cord blood mononuclear cells and lithium to treat people with chronic spinal cord injuries are now underway. In the initial results from the Phase II trial in Kunming, China, 75% of the participants (15 out of 20) recovered the ability to walk with a rolling walker. He now is establishing clinical trial networks in the USA, Norway, and India where he plans to initiate Phase III trials in 2014.

Well-known as a leader in spinal cord injury research, Dr. Young is in high demand as a speaker at scientific conferences throughout the world and when media are in need of expert knowledge. He has appeared on '20/20' with Barbara Walters and Christopher Reeve, 'Today', with Katie Couric, '48 Hours,' 'Eye-to-Eye,' Fox News, and CNN with Jeff Greenfield. His work has been featured in a Life magazine special edition, USA Today, and innumerable national and international news, talk, and print publications. A few of his many honors include: NIH Jacob Javits Neuroscience Award (1985-1992), Wakeman Award (1991), Tall Texan of the Year Award (1997), "Cure" Award (1998), Trustees Award for Excellence in Research (2001), Asian American Achievement Award (2002), Douglass Medal for work with the advancement of young women in the sciences (2003), and Elizabeth M. Boggs Award for service to the disability community (2004). In 2005 he was the first researcher elected to the Spinal Cord Injury Hall of Fame. In 2006, Dr. Young received The Hope Award – A Salute to Research Innovation, the New Jersey Educator of the Year Award, and the Caring Heart Award. Also in 2006, the Richard H. Shindell Chair in Neuroscience was established at Rutgers University and Dr. Young was named as the first person to hold that chair. In 2007 the Motolinsky Foundation named Wise Young as the recipient of their Distinguished Citizen Award. In 2011 he was selected as the McGowen Distinguished Lecturer. In August 2001, TIME Magazine named Dr. Young as 'America's Best' in the field of spinal cord injury research. Recently BioNJ recognized Dr. Young's unique contributions by presenting him with their Patient Advocacy Award.