Amyloid Imaging: Influence of Very Advanced Age and Genetic Alterations
By Dr. William E. Klunk, MD, Ph.D.

Dr. William E. Klunk, MD, PhD, is Director of the Laboratory of Molecular Neuropharmacology and Co-Director of the Alzheimer’s Disease Research Center at Pittsburgh University. Professor Klunk is one of the world’s leading experts in the early detection of Alzheimer’s disease and is a pioneer in the field of in vivo amyloid imaging in humans. During his career, he collected numerous awards for his work in the fields of Alzheimer’s disease and neuroimaging such as Zaven Khatchaturian Award, Alzheimer’s Association Worlds Most Influential Scientific Minds, Thomson Reuters Ronald and Nancy Reagan Research Institute Award for research in Alzheimer’s disease, Alzheimer’s Association Potamkin Prize for Research in Pick’s, Alzheimer’s, and Related Diseases, American Academy of Neurology MetLife Foundation Awards for Medical Research, MetLife Foundation.

In 2001, in collaboration with Dr. Chet Mathis, Dr. Klunk created a molecule that could be used to image Alzheimer’s disease pathology by tagging amyloid (PiB), it was one of a few eureka moments so far in Alzheimer’s disease research. With PiB, Dr. Klunk changed history of neuroimaging in Alzheimer’s disease, allowing for the first time a non-invasive quantification of brain pathology in vivo, which was considered as the single most important advance in the history of imaging in neurodegenerative conditions. (adapted from: William Klunk: imaging Alzheimer’s disease in vivo; The Lancet of neurology 2015). Now, in the 15th anniversary of the publication showing the first results in vivo subjects using PiB, Dr. Klunk comes to Montreal to talk about the developments of his discovery.