



James A. Dias, Ph.D.

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Professor Dias serves as Interim Vice President for Research at the University at Albany, State University of New York. His academic affiliation is with the Department of Biomedical Sciences in the School of Public Health. <http://www.wadsworth.org/bms/index.html>

Professor Dias received his Bachelor of Science degree in Biology from the Gonzaga University, Spokane Washington in 1975. He received a M.S. and Ph.D. in Reproductive Physiology subspecialty of Animal Science at Washington State University, Pullman Washington in 1979. He was the recipient of an individual National Research Service Award (1979), for postdoctoral studies, A New Investigator Award (1981) and a Research Career Development Award (1985). He has published more than 100 research articles. His research which focuses on the reproductive hormones which control high quality gametogenesis has been funded by the National Institutes of Health for twenty years. He uses a combination of biochemistry, structural biology and cell biology approaches to better understand how the pituitary glycoprotein hormone follicle stimulating hormone interacts with its cell membrane receptor, and how this interaction activates downstream signaling pathways essential for both spermatogenesis as well as oocyte production. Understanding these mechanisms could lead to the development of male contraceptives and non-steroidal female contraceptives. Conversely, his work is aimed at understanding and treating infertility. And since the organs which produce gametes also are a major source of the steroids estrogen and testosterone which play a role in steroid dependent cancers, his work may also provide adjuvant therapies for steroid dependent cancer.