Dr. Avindra Nath is the Clinical Director of the National Institute of Neurological Diseases and Stroke and the Chief of the Section of Neurological Infections. He is also the President of the International Society of Neurovirology. His research is focused on the pathophysiology and treatment of neurological complications of HIV infection including opportunistic infections. In particular, his laboratory is studying how HIV enters the nervous system and establishes a reservoir in glial cells and maintains latency in these cells. Further his group is studying the mechanisms by which these HIV infected glial cells lead to neurodegeneration. Through interactions with the Translational Neuroscience Center they are developing therapeutic approaches to block the formation of the reservoirs, preventing viral activation in the glial cells and developing ways of accelerating the turnover of the infected cells in the brain. His laboratory also closely interacts with investigators in other institutes to establish a cohort of HIV infected patients where the pathophysiology of the infection can be studied and these therapeutic approaches will be tested. In recent years, his group has begun to explore the role of endogenous retroviruses in neurological Diseases. In particular they are interested in determining how these viruses get activated in the brain, if they can be transmitted and if they can cause neurodegeneration or neuroinflammation. In 2012, he received the Pioneer award from the International Society of Neurovirology.