



## Plenary Speaker Bios

### **Robert SILICIANO, MD, PhD (United States)**

#### ***HIV Persistence in Patients on HAART: Reevaluating Prospects for Eradication***

Robert F. Siliciano is a member of the Howard Hughes Medical Institute and Professor of Medicine and Molecular Biology and Genetics at Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine. He also directs the MD-PhD programme at Johns Hopkins University. In 1995, his laboratory provided the first demonstration that latently infected memory CD4+ T cells were present in patients with HIV-1 infection. Dr. Siliciano went on to characterize this latent reservoir and to show that latently infected cells persist even in patients who are on prolonged antiretroviral therapy. These studies indicated that eradication of HIV-1 infection with antiretroviral therapy alone would never be possible, a finding which led to a fundamental change in the treatment strategy for HIV-1 infection. Dr. Siliciano's laboratory has characterized the different forms of HIV-1 that persist in patients on HAART, and is exploring potential strategies for eradicating the virus from this and other reservoirs. Dr. Siliciano completed his undergraduate work at Princeton University, and received his MD and PhD degrees from Johns Hopkins. He is the recipient of a Distinguished Clinical Scientist Award from the Doris Duke Charitable Foundation, as well as two National Institutes of Health (NIH) Merit Awards. He is also past Chairman of the NIH AIDS and Related Research Study Section.