Dr. Robert Brown is Professor and Chair of the Department of Neurology, University of Massachusetts Medical School, Worcester, MA. He received an M.D. at Harvard Medical School, Boston, MA and a D.Phil. in Neurophysiology at Oxford University, Oxford, England. Dr. Brown’s laboratory focuses on the identification of gene defects that elucidate the molecular pathogenesis of selected neuromuscular diseases including amyotrophic lateral sclerosis (ALS, also known as Lou Gehrig’s disease), muscular dystrophy, adrenoleukodystrophy, hereditary neuropathy and hyperkalemic periodic paralysis. Knowledge of these disease genes has facilitated the creation of mouse and cell-based models of these disorders. In turn, these resources have allowed the study of therapeutic strategies using conventional small molecule approaches and new modalities such as inhibitory RNAi.