

KENNY J. SIMANSKY, PH.D.

Kenny J. Simansky, PhD, is vice dean for research, professor of pharmacology and physiology and professor of psychiatry at Drexel University College of Medicine. Previously, he served as director of the graduate programs in pharmacology and in neuroscience and as associate dean for Biomedical Graduate Studies. A native New Yorker, Dr. Simansky earned PhD in 1979 at the University of Iowa. He joined the faculty of the Medical College of Pennsylvania in 1982, after a fellowship in neuroscience at Cornell University College of Medicine. He was funded by the NIH as a principal investigator throughout his academic research career. His research with his students focused on the cellular mechanisms for serotonin, opioids and cannabinoids in regulating eating. These brain mechanisms are important for understanding obesity, drug addiction, and behavioral disorders. He has been invited to present his work nationally and internationally at numerous universities and conferences, and has organized international symposia. He has chaired peer review panels at NIH for investigator-initiated research and for fellowship training in the neurosciences and was president of the Society for the Study of Ingestive Behavior, an international scientific society in his field.

Currently, Dr. Simansky is the Drexel site director for the consortium that is designated by the National Cancer Institute at the Sidney Kimmel Cancer Center of Thomas Jefferson University. He is active in Pennsylvania BIO, the major statewide entity for the pharmaceutical and biotechnology industry and in other organizations that promote regional, national and international discovery, development, and commercialization in the life sciences through academia-industry partnerships. He was a member of the Life Sciences Advisory Council that made recommendations to the Governor of Pennsylvania on strategy for growing the life sciences industry in the Commonwealth. He currently serves on the Scientific Advisory Committee of the University City Science Center for the Philadelphia region, the Greater Philadelphia Life Sciences Advisory Board, and the board of the Philadelphia-Israel Chamber of Commerce.

Kenny enthusiastically joined the board of the Lazarex Cancer Foundation because the vision and activities of the foundation represent the joining of the highest ideals for advancing research to finally cure cancer and ensuring that all members of our society—including those with the least resources—have access to those advances.