



# Scott A. Oakes, MD

Professor and Vice Chair of Research and Academic  
Affairs, Department of Pathology



## Publications

## Website

### Education

**BA:** Biochemistry

*Elmira College*

**MD:** Medicine

*University of Connecticut School of Medicine*

**Residency:** Pathology

*Brigham and Women's Hospital, Harvard  
Medical School*

**Postdoc:** Biochemistry & Cell Biology

*Dana-Farber Cancer Institute, Harvard Medical  
School*

### Awards & Honors

**1993** – Valedictorian

*Elmira College*

**1995-1996** – Research Scholar

*Howard Hughes Medical Institute*

**2003-2008** – Mentored Clinical Scientist

Development Award (K08)

*NIAMS, NIH*

**2006-2007** – Junior Investigator Award

*American Cancer Society*

**2007-2011** – Early Career Physician Scientist  
Award

*Howard Hughes Medical Institute*

**2012 - 2015** – Research Scholar Award

*American Cancer Society*

**2015 - 2017** – Neuroendocrine Tumor  
Award

*American Association for Cancer Research*

**2017** – Outstanding Mentor Award

*University of California San Francisco*

**2018** – Stein Innovation Award

*Research to Prevent Blindness, Inc.*

**2019** – Outstanding Investigator Award

*American Society for Investigative Pathology*

**2023** – Investigator Award

*Neuroendocrine Tumor Research Foundation*

### Lab Overview

Scott Oakes's laboratory studies how mammalian cells commit "suicide" in response to various forms of damage and what goes wrong with this process in cancer and other diseases. In particular, they focus on a type of stress that occurs when the cell's protein folding factory—an organelle called the endoplasmic reticulum—is overwhelmed and protein quality control fails. Defects in responding to ER stress have been linked to a diverse collection of human diseases, including diabetes, neurodegeneration, and cancer. The Oakes lab has made fundamental discoveries about the pro-survival and pro-death signals sent from the stress sensor proteins at the ER membrane. The Oakes lab is actively engaged in developing drugs to control cell fate under these conditions, which have potential to benefit patients with diseases from cancer to neurodegeneration.

### Affiliated Programs

- Pathology
- Committee on Cancer Biology
- Committee on Molecular Metabolism & Nutrition
- UChicago Biosciences
- SPARC Program

### Research Interests

- Apoptosis
- Cancer
- Cell Death
- Cell Signaling
- Endoplasmic Reticulum Stress
- Neurodegenerative Disease
- Protein Misfolding