

Robert David Burk, M.D.

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Robert David Burk received his M.D. from the George Washington University School of Medicine with honors and is a Johns Hopkins-trained and board-certified medical geneticist. He is a world authority on papillomavirus viral genomics and evolution. Dr. Burk's team was the first to report, in the *New England Journal of Medicine*, that the vast majority of cervical human papillomavirus infections in young women is of short duration and does not mandate treatment. In addition, his laboratory has discovered more than 25 novel papillomaviruses.

Dr. Burk is the Chair of the Papillomavirus Working Group, of the ICTV. This group determines the nomenclature of these cancer-causing viruses. In addition, Dr. Burk is leading the effort to organize a systematic approach to viral variants. He has a diverse portfolio of research projects, including a genetic study of prostate cancer in men of Ashkenazi descent, identification and characterization of the genes involved in excessive sweating conditions and, most recently, exploration of the cervicovaginal microbiome using genetic techniques.