



Honorary Bachelor of Technology

Dr. Ray Rajotte

Dr. Ray Rajotte began his post-secondary education at NAIT, where he completed the Medical X-ray Technology program as part of its first graduating class. In time, this would lead him to become a pioneer and international leader in diabetes research.

Rajotte's work started at Edmonton's General Hospital, where he became involved in research projects. He furthered his education with bachelor's and master's degrees in electrical engineering. In 1975, he completed his doctorate in biomedical engineering. Much of his work during this time was focused on diabetes treatments.

In 1989, Rajotte and a team of clinical scientists successfully carried out Canada's first transplant of islets, which are a part of the pancreas responsible for producing insulin. By 1999, he and his colleagues were achieving a 100-per cent success rate, with some patients enjoying long-term independence from insulin injections. The procedure, known as the Edmonton Protocol, would be employed around the world.

Throughout his career, Rajotte worked to build the foundation for ongoing diabetes research in the province. He was the founding director of the Alberta Diabetes Institute, Canada's largest free-standing facility of its kind, as well as the Islet Transplant Group. In recognition of his 15 years of service as director of the Surgical Medical Research Institute, it was renamed the Ray Rajotte Surgical Research Medical Research Institute.

For his ingenuity, leadership and mentorship, Rajotte has been honoured with many awards. In addition to receiving NAIT's distinguished alumni award and having been named one of its Top 50 Alumni, Rajotte is a distinguished alumni of the University of Alberta and of the Athol Murray College of Notre Dame. He is a recipient of the Queen's Golden Jubilee Medal, the Canadian Medical Association Medal of Honour and a Meritorious Service Medal from the Governor General of Canada, and is an inductee of the Royal Society of Canada, Alberta Order of Excellence and a member of the Order of Canada.