

A full-length portrait of a man with short, light-colored hair and glasses, wearing a dark suit, a light blue shirt, and a red and white striped tie. He is standing with his hands behind his back. The background is a vibrant purple with a complex, web-like pattern of thin, glowing lines in yellow, orange, and blue.

Audrius V. Plioplys MD, FRCPC
Man of the Year 2011

The Lithuanian Museum Review

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MAN OF THE YEAR EXCELLENCE AWARD

The Balzekas Museum of Lithuanian Culture
requests the honor of your presence

at

The Forty-Fifth Annual Excellence Award Dinner
honoring

Audrius V. Plioplys MD, FRCPC

for his contribution to neuroscience, neurology and art,
as well as for his dedication to preserving the memory of the victims of Soviet deportations

Saturday, December 10, 2011

Amber Ballroom of the Balzekas Museum of Lithuanian Culture
Chicago, Illinois

Reception: 6 p.m. Dinner: 7:00 p.m.

Black Tie Optional --- Dancing

Reservations at \$125 per ticket

For reservations, please call Karile Vaitkute

For more than 30 years, Dr. Plioplys has been both a neurologist/neuroscientist and a professional artist.

His neurology research has concentrated on finding causes and cures for cognitive disorders, from autism in children, to Alzheimer's Disease in the elderly. He has published 74 clinical and research articles and 62 abstracts, and made over 100 presentations to medical professionals. He is the recipient of 10 major research grants which have totaled \$2.8 million (including \$2.4 million from the National Institutes of Health).

For the past 20 years he dedicated himself to caring for severely cerebral palsied children and young adults. These are the most disabled and underprivileged individuals in our society. With the superb hands-on care provided by dedicated nurses, Dr. Plioplys has reported the world's best survival rates data for this disadvantaged population, an accomplishment that he is very proud of.

The beginning of his artistic passion started in Toronto—a childhood friend introduced him to oil painting. It was during medical school at the University of Chicago, that Dr. Plioplys became seriously engaged in artistic activities—creating oil paintings, visiting museums and galleries, and studying the history of art. Over four years, the passion for art grew so strong, that after completing internship, he left medicine entirely, and dedicated himself to art.

During these years that were fully dedicated to art, he had many exhibits which received favorable reviews. He also studied the accomplishments of the Lithuanian painter and composer M. K. Ciurlionis. He made many original discoveries which were published at the time, and eventually were included in his book *Ciurlionis: Mintys / Thoughts*. This full-time commitment to art lasted three years, at which point he realized that he was not using his talents in neurology. He

wanted to help others overcome their illnesses and disabilities. He then started neurology training at the Mayo Clinic. Also, at this time, he realized that his art must be combined with his neuroscience interests.

His art work has been an ongoing metaphorical investigation of consciousness and the thought process. Over time he has used many different techniques to pursue this vision, including outdoor installations, photography, works on paper, audio productions, indoor site-specific mixed-media installations, and more recently digital technology to create large scale prints on canvas. Even though his work is visually engaging, it is the concepts underlying the works that are of paramount importance. He has transformed the neurobiology research laboratory into an artist's studio. Dr. Plioplys has merged neurology and neuroscience with art.

Most recently, he has dedicated his time to address the historical imbalance in recent Eastern European history: that the North American public is well aware of Hitler's atrocities, but ignorant of Stalin's. His great-grandfather, both grandfathers, and one aunt died as a consequence of NKVD interrogations. His grandmother, a simple farm woman, at the age of 71 was deported to Siberia to be a lumberjack. Seven other aunts and uncles were also deported to Siberia. In order to inform the general public of Stalin's atrocities, he organized the Hope & Spirit multi-faceted exhibit and program, which has already received considerable media attention.

He lives in the Beverly neighborhood of Chicago with his wife Sigita. She is a child psychiatrist who specializes in pediatric neuropsychiatry. She works at Children's Memorial Hospital in Chicago and is an Associate Professor at Northwestern University. They have two daughters, Milda and Ausrine.