

## **C. Ronald Kahn, M.D. - Biographical Sketch**

C. Ronald Kahn, M.D. received his undergraduate and medical degrees from the University of Louisville. After training in internal medicine at Washington University, he moved to the NIH where he rose to become the Head of the Section on Cellular and Molecular Physiology of NIDDK. In 1981, he moved to Boston as Research Director of the Joslin Diabetes Center. In 1984 he became Professor of Medicine at Harvard Medical School and in 1986 the Mary K. Iacocca Professor. From 2000-2007, Kahn served as President of the Joslin Diabetes Center. Under his leadership, Joslin research grew more than 20-fold, clinical and educational activity tripled, and new programs were launched in a variety of areas, including new corporate alliances to extend Joslin's mission at a national level.

Scientifically, Dr. Kahn is the preeminent investigator of insulin signal transduction and mechanisms of altered signaling in disease. His laboratory has produced multiple seminal observations including discovery of the insulin receptor kinase, its two primary substrates, and the molecular components of the insulin signaling network. He also was first to define alterations in this signaling network in insulin resistant states such as type 2 diabetes. This body of work has revolutionized the field. Recently, Dr. Kahn's laboratory has also made important contributions that have begun to reshape our understanding of obesity and the role of insulin and diabetes in the brain. This includes work demonstrating that adipocytes in different depots may have different developmental origins and different cellular functions leading to risk of metabolic disease. His work demonstrating that adult humans have active brown fat has also been central to stimulating a resurgence of interest in brown adipose tissue and defining its role in metabolic regulation and protection from obesity. He has also demonstrated an important role of insulin action in control of cholesterol metabolism in the brain

Dr. Kahn has received numerous honors and awards, including the highest scientific awards of the American Diabetes Association, Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation, European Association for the Study of Diabetes, British Diabetes and British Endocrine Societies, International Diabetes Federation, American Federation of Clinical Research, and the Endocrine Society, as well as the Hamdan Award for Medical Research, the Rolf Luft Award of the Karolinska University, the Lawson Wilkins Award of the Pediatric Endocrine Society, the Beering Award of Indiana University, the Allyn Taylor International Prize in Medicine, the Banting and Best Award of the Canadian Diabetes Association, the Frontiers in Science Award of the American Association of Clinical Endocrinologists and was the inaugural recipient of the Manpei Suzuki International Prize in Diabetes.

Dr. Kahn has served on many national commissions and advisory boards, including as chair of the Congressionally-established Diabetes Research Working Group. Dr. Kahn has also served as President of the American Society of Clinical Investigation, and on the Editorial Boards of multiple journals. In 1999, Dr. Kahn was elected to membership in the National Academy of Sciences and the Institute of Medicine for his distinguished achievements in original research. Dr. Kahn also holds honorary Doctor of Science degrees from the University of Paris, University of Louisville and University of Geneva, an honorary Doctor of Medicine from the University of Copenhagen and is an honorary Professor at Peking University School of Medicine.

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