MARC FELDMANN

From a Jewish family, Marc Feldmann emigrated from France to Australia at age eight. After graduating at the top of his medical school class in Melbourne, he earned a Ph.D. in Immunology at Walter and Eliza Hall Institute with Sir Gus Nossal. His initial studies in mice and in the test tube explored immune cell interactions, the molecular mediators of those interactions and mechanisms of autoimmunity.

Moving to London, he sought to apply this knowledge to man. Unable to detect immune responses in cancer patients, Professor Feldmann returned to the study of autoimmunity. He published a new hypothesis for autoimmune induction highlighting the role of cytokines in 1983, which was validated in thyroid disease. To study rheumatoid arthritis, he initiated a highly productive collaboration with Ravinder Maini at the Kennedy Institute of Rheumatology at the Imperial College London. This documented the complex cytokine environment in rheumatoid synovium, described the tumor necrosis factor (TNF) dependent cytokine cascade and led to successful clinical trials of antiTNF in rheumatoid arthritis patients. These trials proved the key pathogenic role of TNF and led to major progress in the therapy of autoimmune diseases. The huge sales of antiTNF have stimulated research on the use of monoclonal antibodies as therapeutics.

Prestigious awards shared with Professor Maini include the Crafoord Prize of the Royal Swedish Academy and the Albert Lasker Clinical Medical Research Award. In 2007 and 2008, Professor Feldmann received the European Inventor of the Year Lifetime Achievement Award, the Curtin Medal of Australian National University and honorary lifetime membership in the International Cytokine Society. For the past 25 years, he has organized the Oxford conference "From Laboratory to Clinic," which has helped advance translational medicine. In his career, Professor Feldmann has published over 660 scientific papers. His ongoing research aims to develop treatments for major unresolved medical problems, like bird flu, post-operative cognitive decline and atherosclerosis using cytokine blockade.

For more information about the Dr. Paul Janssen Award for Biomedical Research, please visit **www.pauljanssenaward.com**.