



RAVINDER MAINI



Born of Indian parents, Ravinder Maini spent his childhood in East Africa and finished school in England. He graduated in medicine from Cambridge University in 1962 and completed his training in clinical medicine and research in London. He was appointed as a physician at Charing Cross Hospital in 1970, to a professorship in the University of London in 1981 and from 1990 until his retirement, served as scientific director, later head, of the Kennedy Institute of Rheumatology at the Imperial College London. Throughout his career, he combined patient care with laboratory research and teaching of undergraduate and postgraduate students. His 480 publications include original articles, reviews and book chapters. As emeritus professor he continues part-time research, is co-editor of a journal and serves on scientific advisory boards and medical charities' trustee boards.

His life-time research focus has been on the biology of cytokines and antibodies and their role in the pathogenesis of autoimmune rheumatic diseases. From the mid-1980s, he and Professor Marc Feldmann led "bench-to-clinic" research which culminated in the identification of tumor necrosis factor (TNF) as a therapeutic target. He planned and led proof-of-concept clinical trials, which demonstrated the efficacy of TNF blockade and its augmentation by co-therapy with low dose methotrexate. This stimulated commercial development of three anti-TNF agents and research into monoclonal antibody therapies.

Sir Ravinder has been awarded doctor honoris causa by the Université René Descartes, Paris and an honorary doctorate of science by the University of Glasgow. For services to Rheumatology he received a Knighthood in 2003. Other awards include the Distinguished Investigator Award by the American College of Rheumatology and, jointly with Professor Feldmann, the Crafoord Prize by the Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences in 2000 and the Albert Lasker Medical Research Award in 2002.