

Prof Dr. Helga NOWOTNY, Ph.D.



ERC President and Chair of the ERC Scientific Council (since 1 March 2010). Professor em., Vienna Science and Technology Fund (WWTF)

Helga Nowotny is Professor em. of Social Studies of Science at ETH Zurich, and former Director of its Collegium Helveticum. She was Chair of EURAB, the European Research Advisory Board of the European Commission from 2001-2006. She is Chair of the Scientific Advisory Board of the University of Vienna and member of the Governing Board of the Science Center in Berlin. She was also Vice-Chair of the Governing Board of the University of Goettingen and continues to hold other advisory positions. Helga Nowotny has a doctorate in law from the University of Vienna and a Ph.D. in sociology from Columbia University, New York. Before moving to ETH Zurich she was professor at the University of Vienna and Permanent Fellow at Collegium Budapest/Institute of Advanced Study. She has held teaching and research positions at King's College, Cambridge, the University of Bielefeld, the Wissenschaftszentrum Berlin and at the Ecoles des Hautes Etudes en Sciences Sociales in Paris. She has been a Fellow at the Wissenschaftskolleg zu Berlin and is a former president of the International Society for the Study of Time. She is a member of the Academia Europaea and founding member of Euroscience. In 2003 she received the John Desmond Bernal Prize for life-long achievement in social studies of science and in 2002 the Arthur Burckhardt-Preis. Her main scientific interests are in social studies of science, science and society and social time. Among her many publications in social studies of science and technology are "The New Production of Knowledge" (co-authored) and its sequel "Re-thinking Science. Knowledge and the Public in an Age of Uncertainty" (with P. Scott, M. Gibbons). In 2005 "Unersättliche Neugier: Innovation in einer fragilen Zukunft" and "The Public Nature of Science under Assault: Politics, Markets, Science and the Law" (co-authored) were published and in 2006 "Cultures of Technology and the Quest for Innovation" (editor). In 2008 MIT Press will publish the English translation of "Unersättliche Neugier", "Insatiable Curiosity: Innovation in a Fragile Future".

[Personal homepage](#)

Prof Pavel EXNER



Scientific Director, Doppler Institute for Mathematical Physics and Applied Mathematics, Prague

Born 1946 in Prague, Pavel Exner graduated in 1969 from the Charles University. From 1978 to 1990 he worked in Joint Institute for Nuclear Research, Dubna, where he got his PhD and DSc degrees. Later he was a leader of a research team in Czech Academy of Sciences and taught theoretical physics as a professor at the Charles University. Now he heads Doppler Institute for Mathematical Physics and Applied Mathematics in Prague. Interested in mathematical methods related to quantum systems, in particular, quantum waveguides and graphs, unstable systems and solvable models. Author of three books and more than 180 research papers, cofounder of the QMath conference series. Awarded JINR prize in theoretical physics and Czech Physical Society medal, member of Academia Europaea. At present he serves as the president of the International Association for Mathematical Physics, formerly vice-president of the European Mathematical Society and of the International Union of Pure and Applied Physics.

For more information click [here](#)

Prof Carl-Henrik HELDIN



Director and Professor in Molecular Cell Biology, Ludwig Institute for Cancer Research

C.-H. Heldin is since 1986 the Branch Director of the Ludwig Institute for Cancer Research in Uppsala, Sweden, and since 1992 also professor in Molecular Cell Biology at Uppsala University. He was born in 1952, and obtained a PhD degree in Medical and Physiological Chemistry in 1980 at the University of Uppsala, where he continued to work until 1985 using a position sponsored by the Swedish Cancer Society. The research interest of C.-H. Heldin is related to the mechanisms of signal transduction by growth regulatory factors, as well as their normal function and role in disease. In particular, platelet-derived growth factor (PDGF), a major mitogen for connective tissue cells, and transforming growth factor- β (TGF- β), which inhibits the growth of most cell types, are studied. An important goal is to explore the possible clinical utility of signal transduction antagonists. C.-H. Heldin is a member of the European Molecular Biology Organization, the Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences and Academia Europea. He serves or has served on the Scientific Advisory Boards for several companies and academic institutions, including the German Cancer Center, Heidelberg, Max Planck Institute for Biochemistry, Martinsried, and European Molecular Biology Laboratory, Heidelberg. C.-H. Heldin is currently on the Board for the Swedish Research Councils, and serves as Senior Editor for Cancer Research and Associate Editor for Molecular Biology of the Cell, Genes to Cells and Growth Factors. C.-H. Heldin has received several scientific awards, including Prix Antoine Lacassagne (1989), K. Fernströms Large Medical Prize (1993) and the Pezcoller-American Association for Cancer Research Award (2002).



Prof Klaus BOCK

Danish Ministry of Science, Innovation and Higher Education

Professor Klaus Bock was born in 1944 and has a Master's degree in Chemical Engineering from the Technical University of Denmark (1968) and a PhD in Organic Chemistry from the same university (1970). He was Associate Professor in Organic Chemistry at the Technical University of Denmark from 1970 to 1988. From 1988, he was appointed head and professor of the Chemistry Department at the Carlsberg Laboratory, from 1992 he was Head of Research at Carlsberg Research Centre and? from 2001 to 2007 Executive Vice President for Research of Carlsberg A/S.

He has published 260 papers in international journals and served as a referee in the areas of analytical and synthetic carbohydrate chemistry with special emphasis of the application of NMR spectroscopy in structural studies of carbohydrate derivatives and their interaction with enzymes. His latest interests focus upon protein-carbohydrate interactions, particularly the synthesis and structural analysis of glycopeptides. He received the International Carbohydrate Award in honour of Roy L. Whistler in 1986, the Alexander von Humboldt Research Award in 1992 and the Samuel Friedman Foundation Rescue Award presented by UCLA in 2006. From 2004 to 2012 he was Chairman of the Danish National Research Foundation, from 2005 to 2013 he served as Deputy Chairman of the Danish National Advanced Technology Foundation and President of the Danish Academy of Technical Sciences between 2009 and 2011. From 2010 he has also been a member of the Standing Selection Committee for the Network of Centres of Excellence in Canada, and he is Champion of Euroscience Open Forum (ESOF) 2014 to be held in Copenhagen.



Prof Nicholas CANNY

Professor emeritus of History at National University of Ireland, Galway

Nicholas Canny, a historian, held an Established Chair in History at the National University of Ireland, Galway, 1979-2009, where he was also Founding Director of the Moore Institute for Research in the Humanities, 2000-11, and Vice President for Research, 2005-8. He was President of the Royal Academy 2008-11. He is a Member of Academia Europaea, a Corresponding Fellow of the British Academy and a Member of the American Philosophical Society. He has been a Member of the Institute for Advanced Study, Princeton; a fellow of the Netherlands Institute for Advanced Studies, professeur invité at the École des Hautes Études, Paris, and was Parnell Senior Research Fellow at Magdalene College, University of Cambridge, 2005-6.

An expert on early modern history broadly defined, he edited the first volume of The Oxford History of the British Empire (1998) and, with Philip D. Morgan, edited The Oxford Handbook of the Atlantic World, c1450-c1850 (2011). His major book is Making Ireland British, 1580-1650 (Oxford, 2001), for which he was awarded the Irish Historical Research Prize 2003; a prize he had previously won in 1976 for his first book The Elizabethan Conquest of Ireland: a Pattern Established, 1565-76. His most recent publication is 'A Protestant or Catholic Atlantic World? Confessional Divisions and the Writing of Natural History' in Proceedings of the British Academy, vol. 181, pp. 83-121 derives from the Raleigh Lecture for 2011 that he was invited to give to the British Academy.



Prof Dr. Sierd A.P.L. CLOETINGH

Royal Netherlands Academy Professor of Earth Sciences at VU University Amsterdam

Sierd Cloetingh is Royal Netherlands Academy Professor of Earth Sciences at VU University Amsterdam. He was recently a visiting Professor at the University Pierre and Marie Curie (2008), at the ETH Zürich (2009), at the IFP Rueil-Malmaison (2009).

He published more than 250 papers in international peer-reviewed journals and has been promotor of 55 PhD students of 18 different nationalities.

He served the Earth Science community in various functions, including Presidency of the European Geophysical Society.

He is currently the President of the International Lithosphere Programme, Editor-in-Chief of the International Journal "Global and Planetary Change" and Chairman of the Scientific Committee of the European Large Scale Collaborative Research Programme (EUROCORES) TOPO-EUROPE.

He received honorary doctorates from four European universities and numerous honours and awards, including the Stephan Mueller Medal of the European Geosciences Union, Fellow and Honorary Fellow of the American Geophysical Union and the Geological Society of America and the Leopold von Buch Medal of the German Geological Society.

He recently received the Alexander von Humboldt research Prize (2010). He is member of the Royal Netherlands Academy of Arts and Sciences and Foreign member of the Royal Norwegian Academy of Sciences, the Royal Danish Academy of Sciences, the Heidelberg Academy and the Bavarian Academy.

In 2006 he was distinguished as Chevalier de Legion d'Honneur for his contributions to science and European scientific cooperation in research and education.

He was elected member of Academia Europaea in 1994 and served Academia Europaea as Chair of the Earth and Marine and Earth and Cosmic Sciences Sections. In 2008 he was elected by the Council as Vice-President of Academia Europaea.

Prof Tomasz DIETL



Head of Laboratory for Cryogenic and Spintronic Research at the Institute of Physics, Polish Academy of Sciences and Ordinary Professor at the Institute of Theoretical Physics, University of Warsaw

Born in Poznań, Poland, Tomasz Dielt is Professor and Head of Laboratory for Cryogenic and Spintronic Research at the Institute of Physics, Polish Academy of Sciences where he completed his PhD and habilitation degrees in experimental and theoretical condensed matter physics in 1977 and 1983, respectively, and obtained the professor title in 1990. He holds also a part-time Ordinary Professor appointment at Chair of Condensed Matter Physics at the Institute of Theoretical Physics, University of Warsaw. He was a postdoctoral researcher at Ecole Polytechnique in Paris and at Munich Technical University. Later he was appointed as a visiting professor at Kepler University in Linz, Fourier University in Grenoble, Tohoku University in Sendai, and Paris Sud University in Orsay.

He is the author or co-author of over 350 publications in peer review journals in the field of semiconductors, magnetism, and low-temperature physics. His recent works have elucidated the interplay between electronic and magnetic properties in relevant families of magnetic semiconductors. His current research interests are focused on the development of material systems and device concepts for nanospintronics of ferromagnetic semiconductors and of hybrid metal/semiconductor nanostructures. He also exploits various means to promote the understanding and achievements of nanotechnology and nanoscience.

In 1998 he became a member of Polish Academy of Sciences, in 2002 he was elected to the International Union of Pure and Applied Physics, Commission on Low Temperature Physics, and in 2004 he was nominated Fellow of the Institute of Physics, UK, while in 2009 he was elected to Polish Academy of Arts and Sciences as well as to Warsaw Science Society.

He is recipient of Maria Skłodowska-Curie Award in Poland (1997), Alexander von Humboldt Research Award in Germany (2003), Agilent Technologies Europhysics Prize (2005), and Foundation for Polish Science Prize (2006). In 2007-2010 he served as a panel member for Starting Grants of ERC and in 2008 he obtained Advanced Grant of ERC.

For more information click [here](#)

Prof Daniel DOLEV



Professor at the School of Engineering and Computer Science of the Hebrew University of Jerusalem

Dolev is a professor at the School of Engineering and Computer Science of the Hebrew University of Jerusalem, where he has been heading the Authority for Information and Communication. His main research areas include distributed algorithms, computer networks, reliability of distributed systems, synchronization protocols and security. Prof. Dolev has published more than 200 papers in peer reviewed journals and leading conferences. Many of the dozens of graduate students he instructed became leaders in the academic world and in the high-tech industry. He has performed research on the durability of distributed systems to faults and his research results have had an impact on the theoretical and the practical research communities. Prof. Dolev is an ACM fellow. He was the chairman of the National Committee for Information Technology and Infrastructure of Israel. He co-authored with Knesset Member M. Eitan the position document on Israel's readiness to the Information Era. He is a consultant to various high-tech companies. He spent several years in IBM Research and was part of the team that designed protocols for the air traffic control system in the USA.

For more information click [here](#)

Prof Athene DONALD



Professor of Experimental Physics at the University of Cambridge

Athene Donald completed her first and second degrees in Physics at the University of Cambridge. After four years of postdoctoral research at Cornell University in the USA, she returned to Cambridge where she has been ever since, becoming a Professor in 1998. Her field of research is soft matter and biological physics, inherently interdisciplinary work, which means that she maintains close links with disciplines beyond physics. She was elected a Fellow of the Royal Society (FRS) in 1999 and currently serves on their Council and is Chair of their Education Committee. She has worked with and served on a number of committees of two of the UK's Research Councils (BBSRC and EPSRC) and is currently a Trustee of the Science Museum in London. She was elected to Academia Europaea in 2009. She has won numerous prizes during her career, including the 2009 L'Oreal/UNESCO For Women in Science Laureate for Europe, and was made a Dame Commander of the British Empire in 2010.

Prof Carlos M. DUARTE



Research Professor Spanish Research Council (CSIC)

Born in 1960 in Lisbon, Portugal, and Spanish citizen since 1968, Prof. Duarte received his B.Sc. on Biology from the Autonomous University of Madrid in 1982, and received his Ph.D. in 1987 from McGill University (Canada), and presently serves as research professor and Scientific director of the international laboratory for global change at the Spanish Council for Scientific Research, in Majorca, Spain. Prof. Duarte's research is directed to the conservation and sustainability of marine ecosystems through the identification of their role in the functioning of the biosphere, their status and threats, and their responses to the various global pressures, natural or anthropogenic, acting upon them. Prof. Duarte has published over 350 papers in international journals and book chapters, including a book entitled Seagrass Ecology (Cambridge Univ. Press). This research has received over 9,000 cites, for which Prof. Duarte was named Highly Cited Scientist by the Institute of Scientific Information (Philadelphia, USA), in 2005. Prof. Duarte received, in 2001, the Evelyn G. Hutchinson Award to scientific excellence from the American Society of Limnology and Oceanography and in 2007 received the Spanish National Science Award, in 2005 was appointed member of the Academia Europaea and presently serves as President of the American Society of Limnology and Oceanography. Prof. Duarte is co-editor in chief of the journal Estuaries and Coasts and member of the editorial board of half-dozen journals, as well as member of multiple international panels.

For more information click [here](#)



Dr. Barbara ENSOLI

Director of the National AIDS Center, Istituto Superiore di Sanità, Rome, Italy

Barbara Ensoli, M.D., Ph.D., graduated in Medicine and Surgery and specialized in Clinical Immunology and Allergy at the University of Rome "La Sapienza", Italy. She then spent more than 11 years at the National Institute of Health (Bethesda, Maryland, USA), working at the National Cancer Institute. During those years she elucidated the role of the HIV-1 Tat protein in HIV pathogenesis and AIDS-associated tumors.

Her current research interests are HIV pathogenesis and the development of HIV/AIDS preventative and therapeutic vaccines, which are currently in advanced clinical phase. She has coordinated several international and national research programs in Europe and Developing countries. Among them, the EU-funded "AIDS Vaccine Integrated Project" (AVIP) and the "Program to support the Ministry of Health of South Africa in the implementation of a national program of global response to HIV & AIDS" (Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs), which is currently ongoing.

She is a member of the WHO-UNAIDS Vaccine Advisory Committee and the European Molecular Biology Organisation (EMBO). She is the Vice-President of the National AIDS Committee of the Italian Ministry of Health and Member of the Editorial Board of the Health Status Report 2011 (RSSP), Ministry of Health (2012).

She sits on the editorial boards of Lancet Oncology, PLoS ONE, The Open AIDS Journals, Tumor Viruses, Vaccine: Development and Therapy, Journal of Clinical & Cellular Immunology, Advances in Tumor Virology.

She has received several national and international scientific awards and she has been appointed as Ufficiale dell'Ordine al Merito della Repubblica Italiana in 2001 by the President of the Italian Republic Mr. A. Ciampi.

Her scientific activities have resulted in more than 300 publications in peer-reviewed journals.

For more information <http://www.hiv1tat-vaccines.info/index.php> <http://www.iss.it/aids>



Dr Daniel ESTEVE

Research Director, CEA Saclay, Service de Physique de l'état condensé – SPEC

Dr. Daniel Esteve was born in Montpellier France in 1954. He has been research director at the French Commission for Atomic Energy (CEA) since 2001. His main fields of research are Nanosciences, with a focus on mesoscopic physics. In 1984 he created Quantronics, a group with the objective of designing, fabricating and operating electronic circuits which behave quantum mechanically. More specifically, he has developed electron pumps that clock electrons one by one with metrological accuracy, and superconducting circuits whose quantum state can be manipulated at will. These artificial atoms may constitute the building blocks for quantum processors able to run Quantum Computing algorithms. Daniel Esteve was awarded the Agilent-Europhysics prize in 2004.

For more information click [here](#)



Prof Núria Sebastián GALLES

Professor in Psychology at the Department of Technology, Universitat Pompeu Fabra, Barcelona

Núria Sebastián Gallés received her PhD in Experimental Psychology at the University of Barcelona in 1986. After Post-doctoral training at the Max Plank Institute and the CNRS in Paris, she was appointed Associate Professor at the Faculty of Psychology (University of Barcelona) in 1988, where she was promoted to Full Professor in 2002. In 2009, she moved to the Universitat Pompeu Fabra. She has been Visiting Scholar at several research centres, including the IRCS at University of Pennsylvania, the ICN at the University College (London) and at the University of Chicago. She has received international recognition as shown by a James S. McDonnell Foundation Award ("Bridging Mind, Brain and Behavior" Program) in 2001 and by giving the prestigious Nijmegen Lectures in 2005. In 2009, she was also awarded the ICREA Academia Prize established by the Catalan Government. In 2012 she received the Narcis Monturiol Medal in recognition of her scientific contributions. She was member of the advisory group of the 'Brain and Learning' initiative of the OECD from 2002 to 2006. Until December 2012 she was president of the European Society of Cognitive Psychology. She is the coordinator of a Consolider-Ingenio 2010 research consortium investigating Bilingualism and Cognitive Neuroscience (BRAINGLOT), integrating six interdisciplinary research groups (including linguists, psychologists, physicists etc). She is currently Associate Editor of Developmental Science, Editor of the Language Learning Cognitive Neuroscience Series and member of numerous editorial boards including Bilingualism, Language and Cognition and Language Learning and Development. At the Center for Brain and Cognition (UPF), she leads the SAP Research Group (Speech Acquisition and Processing) (<http://www.sap.upf.edu>). Her current work focuses on the study of learning and language processing with a special emphasis on bilingual populations. Research in her laboratory extends from infants to adults with methodologies that are based on behavioural as well as physiological and brain imaging responses.



Prof Reinzel GENZEL

With a PhD in physics and astronomy from the University of Bonn (Germany), Reinhard Genzel is a distinguished researcher in the area of infrared astronomy. At present, he is Director at the Max Planck Institute for Extraterrestrial Physics (Germany), Scientific Member of the Max Planck Society and Full Professor in the Physics & Astronomy Departments at the University of California, Berkeley (USA). Professor Genzel has received numerous awards and honours in the past, such as the Crafoord Prize in Astronomy from the Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences in (2012) and Leibniz Prize of the German Science Foundation (1990)

amongst others. He has also delivered many prize lectures across the world. Professor Genzel is a member of several academic societies, such as Leopoldina, the US National Academy of Sciences and the Royal Society of London (foreign member). He serves as a reviewer for a host of acclaimed international academic publications. Moreover, he is a member of several Visiting Committees and is an Honorary Professor at the Ludwig Maximilian University, Munich, Germany. His main research interests include for instance massive black holes and galaxy evolution.



Prof Tim HUNT

Principal scientist at the Cancer Research UK

Dr. Tim Hunt is the recipient, together with Leland H. Hartwell and Sir Paul M. Nurse, of the Nobel Prize for Physiology or Medicine in 2001 for discovering "Key regulators of the cell cycle". After receiving a Ph.D. from the University of Cambridge in 1968, Hunt went as a postdoctoral fellow to the Albert Einstein College of Medicine in New York. He returned to Cambridge in 1971, where he taught biochemistry and cell biology. In 1990 he moved to the Imperial Cancer Research Fund (now Cancer Research UK). Hunt's research centred on cyclins, activating subunits of the Cyclin-Dependent protein Kinases (CDKs), which control cell cycle transitions. Hunt's most recent work focused on the control of entry into and exit from mitosis. In addition to writing numerous scientific papers, he has served on editorial boards for several journals and was until recently Chairman of the Council of EMBO.

For more information click [here](#)



Prof. Dr.-Ing. Matthias KLEINER

Head of the Institute of Forming Technology and Lightweight Construction (IUL) at the University of Dortmund and immediate past President of the German Research Foundation (DFG)

Prof. Matthias Kleiner completed his habilitation in the field of forming technology in 1991. Three years later, he joined the faculty of the newly founded Brandenburg Technical University of Cottbus as Professor of Forming Technology as the Chair in Design and Manufacturing. In 1997, Professor Kleiner was awarded the DFG's Gottfried Wilhelm Leibniz Prize, the most prestigious prize in German research. In 1998, Professor Kleiner moved to the Technical University Dortmund, where he holds the Chair of Forming Technology. From 2004 to 2006, he served as Managing Director of the newly established Institute of Forming Technology and Lightweight Construction (IUL). He has played an instrumental role in a number of international and, above all, interdisciplinary research projects and research networks. He is a member of numerous international professional committees and academies. In 2011, he co-chaired the German "Ethics Commission for a Safe Energy Supply". Professor Kleiner was elected President of the German Research Foundation (DFG) in 2007. His six year term of office as President of the DFG ended on December 31st, 2012. Since January 2013, he is back at the University of Dortmund as Head of the Institute of Forming Technology and Lightweight Construction (IUL).



Prof. Eva KONDOROSI

Research Professor at Biological Research Centre of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences (HU)
Research Director at the Plant Science Institute of CNRS (FR)

Eva Kondorosi was born in Budapest, graduated (Biology) and received her PhD (Genetics) at the L. Eötvös University in Budapest. She was postdoc at the Max Planck Institut für Züchtungsforschung (Köln) and visiting scholar at the Sussex, Harvard and Cornell Universities.

Eva Kondorosi was the founding director of the BAYGEN Institute (2007-2012) which is now part of the Biological Research Centre of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences in Szeged where she directs the Symbiosis and Functional Genomics Unit. She has also been a founding member of the Institut des Science Végétales CNRS in Gif sur Yvette, France as one of the first research directors and group leaders.

Her primary research field is Rhizobium-legume symbiosis with recent focus on the plant controlled differentiation of bacteria. For her original discoveries she received several awards including the Széchenyi and the IS-MPMI awards in 2012.

She is a foreign associate of the National Academy of Sciences (USA), corresponding member of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences and member of Academia Europaea, the European Molecular Biology Organization and the Board of Directors at the International Society of Molecular Plant-Microbe Interactions.



Prof Alain PEYRAUBE

Directeur de recherche emerite at the Centre National de la Recherche Scientifique (CNRS, Paris)

Alain Peyraube received his Ph.D. from Paris 8 University in 1976 and his Doctorat d'Etat from Paris 7 University in 1984.

Research Fellow at the CNRS since 1975, he has been Director from 1984 to 1998 of the Institute of East Asian Linguistics (CNRS and EHESS). He served as President of the International Association of Chinese Linguistics and as President of the European Association of Chinese Studies.

He has been Visiting Professor and Visiting Scholar at Cornell University (Hu Shih Chair), at the University of California at Santa Barbara, at the Hong Kong Baptist University, at the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences in Peking, at the Academia Sinica of Taiwan, at La Trobe University in Australia.

He is distinguished member of the Chinese academy of social sciences, corresponding member of the academia Sinica of Taiwan, honorary professor at the university of Beijing, and adjunct professor at the Hong Kong university of science and technology.

A specialist in Chinese historical syntax and linguistic typology of Sinitic languages, A. Peyraube has authored five books and more than a hundred of articles on Chinese studies and mainly on Chinese linguistics. His latest research has been done within a broadly functional and cognitive framework in a cross-linguistic perspective. Some of his recent publications are the chapter on Ancient Chinese in the Encyclopaedia of the World's Ancient Languages (Cambridge University Press), articles on Languages and Genes in China and on the cognitive approaches of the expression of Space in Medieval and Modern Chinese.



Prof Mart SAARMA

Academy professor and director of the Centre of Excellence in Molecular and Integrated Neuroscience Research of the Academy of Finland at the Institute of Biotechnology, University of Helsinki

Dr. Saarma is the academy professor and director of the Centre of Excellence in Molecular and Integrated Neuroscience Research of the Academy of Finland at the Institute of Biotechnology, University of Helsinki. He is investigating neurotrophic factors and their receptors in development and neurodegenerative diseases. His group has discovered several GDNF family receptors and demonstrated that RET receptor tyrosine kinase is the signalling receptor for GDNF. Recently his group has discovered a new neurotrophic factor, CDNF, and shown that this protein very efficiently protects and repairs dopamine neurons in pre-clinical models of Parkinson's disease. Currently his group is investigating the mechanism of action and therapeutic potential of CDNF and also the biology of GDNF. Dr. Saarma is the member of several academies and EMBO. He has received several domestic and international scientific prizes and awards including the prestigious Nordic Science Prize.



Prof Anna TRAMONTANO

Chair Professor of Biochemistry in the "Sapienza" University in Rome

Anna Tramontano was trained as a physicist but she soon became fascinated by the complexity of biology and by the promises of computational biology. After working at the Biocomputing Programme of the European Molecular Biology Laboratory in Heidelberg, Germany, she moved back to Italy to work in the Merck Research Laboratories. Later she returned to the academic world as a Chair Professor of Biochemistry in the "Sapienza" University in Rome where she continues to pursue her scientific interests on protein structure prediction and analysis. She is a member of the European Molecular Biology Organization and of the Scientific Council of Institute Pasteur - Fondazione Cenci Bolognetti. She is a member of the Scientific Advisory Boards of several prestigious Institutions including the Institute Pasteur - Fondazione Cenci Bolognetti, the EMBL, the EBI, the MPI for Molecular Genetics in Berlin, the Swiss Institute for Bioinformatics, the Centro Nacional de Biotecnología in Madrid and the International Institute of Molecular and Cell Biology in Warsaw.

She has received, among others, the Tartufari Prize of the Accademia dei Lincei, the KAUST Global Research Partnership award, the special Government Prize for Natural Sciences and the Marotta Prize of the National Academy of Science.



Prof Isabelle VERNOS

Research professor at ICREA (Institutió Catalana de Recerca i Estudis Avançats), Centre de Regulació Genòmica, Barcelona, Spain

Isabelle Vernos is a research professor at ICREA (Institutió Catalana de Recerca i Estudis Avançats), Centre de Regulació Genòmica, Barcelona, Spain and an EMBO member since 2005. In the past, she worked at the Wellcome CRC Institute, Cambridge, UK. She then worked as a staff scientist in the Cell Biology and Biophysics Program at the European Molecular Biology Laboratory (EMBL) in Heidelberg, Germany, becoming a team leader in 2001. Research in her lab is directed at understanding the role of the microtubule network in cell organization and function. To address this question her group study various microtubule-associated proteins (molecular motors and MAPs) and their regulators (kinases, phosphatases and the small GTPase Ran during M-phase). One major goal is to unravel how the self-organization of cellular components results in the morphogenesis of dynamic molecular machines.

For more information click [here](#)



Prof Reinhilde VEUGELERS

Prof Dr. Reinhilde Veugelers is a full professor at KULeuven (BE) at the Faculty of Economics and Business, where she teaches international business economics and game theory. From 2004-2008, she was on academic leave, as advisor at the European Commission (BEPA Bureau of European Policy Analysis). She is currently a Senior Fellow at Bruegel and a CEPR Research Fellow and a member of the Royal Flemish Academy of Belgium for Sciences. She was the President-Elect of EARIE (European Association for Research in Industrial Economics), is currently the President of Belgian FNS-FNRS Scientific Committee on Social Sciences and serves on the ERC panel for SH1 Advanced and Starting Grants. She is a member of the Innovation4Growth Expert Group advising EU Commissioner for Research and Innovation, Maire Geoghegan-Quinn. She is also co-promoting ECOOM, the Flemish Center for R&D Monitoring. She was a visiting scholar at Northwestern University's Kellogg Graduate School of Management, Sloan School of Management, MIT, Stern Business School, NYU (US), UCL (BE), ECARES/ ULBrussels, (BE) Paris I (FR) UPF & UAB-Barcelona (ES), UMaastrecht (NL).

With her research concentrated in the fields of industrial organisation, international economics and strategy, innovation and science, she has authored numerous publications in leading international journals. Her research combines analytical frameworks, using micro-economics, game theory and economics of information models, with empirical, mostly econometric testing on large datasets. Specific recent topics include incentives for innovation activities, international technology transfers through MNEs, impact on local R&D of multinational competition, internal and external technology sourcing, alliances and their stability, inter-company technology transfers through cooperation, young innovative companies, industry science links and their impact on firm's innovative productivity, performance of technology transfer offices at universities, designing university spin-off contracts, explaining scientific productivity: persistency and skewness, researchers' international mobility. She coordinates a large, multidisciplinary research project on radical innovations. Recent policy topics include: university governance and higher education reforms, young radical innovators, innovation policy indicators, innovation strategies for catching-up countries, innovation for climate change.

Website: www.econ.kuleuven.be/msi/members/veugelers.htm and www.bruegel.org
