

Prix de l'Etat de Berne 2002

Mme Heidi Diggelmann, professeure honoraire

Née en 1936 à Berne, Mme Diggelmann a été diplômée en médecine en 1961.

Après quelques stages cliniques, elle s'engage dans la recherche fondamentale à laquelle elle consacrera toute sa carrière.

Après des stages aux Etats-Unis et dans différentes villes suisses, elle devient, en 1977, chef du Département de biologie moléculaire de FISREC à Lausanne.

Professeure associée dès 1983, elle sera nommée professeure ordinaire de microbiologie en 1991.

Depuis cette dernière date, elle a été directrice de l'Institut de microbiologie de la Faculté de médecine de IUNIL.

Par ailleurs, de 1990 à 1995, elle a présidé la Commission suisse pour la sécurité biologique.

Ses travaux ont été honorés par plusieurs distinctions:

- Prix Miescher en 1976,
- Prix Cloetta en 1984,
- Prix Otto Naegeli en 1992.

CV complet

University

1955-1961: Medical School of the University of Bern, Switzerland

December 1961: MD, state examination

MD Thesis on «Determination of the total clearance of gammaglobulins» accepted in 1964

Employment

1962	Internship in Internal Medicine, District Hospital Thun,
1963-1964	Institute for Clinical Research on Proteins (Prof. G.Riva), Tiefenauspital, Bern,
1965-1966	Swiss Institute for Experimental Cancer Research, Lausanne, Department of Virology (Prof. R.Weil), Postdoctoral Research Assistant
1966-1968	Department of Biophysics, University of Chicago (Prof. E.P. Geiduschek) Research Associate
1968-1971	Department of Molecular Biology, University of Zürich, (Prof. Charles Weissmann). Head of research on retroviruses
1971-1976	Swiss Institute for Experimental Cancer Research, Lausanne, Department of Virology (Prof. B. Hirt). In charge of research unit on retroviruses
1977-1991	Swiss Institute for Experimental Cancer Research, Epalinges/Lausanne. Head of Department of Molecular Biology

since 1983 Associate professor of the Medical Faculty of the University of Lausanne
 from 1991-2001 Full professor of the Medical Faculty of the University of Lausanne
 Director of Institute of Microbiology, University of Lausanne,

since Sept. 2001 Honorary Professor of the Medical Faculty of the University of Lausanne

Awards

1976 Friedrich Miescher Award
 1984 Max Cloetta Award
 1992 Otto Naegeli Award of the Bonizzi-Theler Foundation

Research Interests

Fundamental research on retroviruses, regulation of viral gene expression, viral aetiology of cancer, mechanisms of malignant transformation of cells, interaction of viruses with the immune system of their host, development of new retroviral vectors for gene therapy.

Research financed by

The Swiss National Science Fund from 1971-2001.
 Several grants from the Swiss Cancer League.
 Grants from different private foundations (Roche Research Foundation, Taecker Foundation, Bourse de Chailly).
 Grants from the Swiss National Program for AIDS Research.
 Grant from the National Program No. 37 on Gene Therapy.

Responsibilities held

Member of the Committee of the Swiss Academy of Medicine on Experimental Genetics from 1976 to 1986
 Member of the European Molecular Biology Organisation
 Swiss Committee of Molecular Biology (SKMB): Executive Secretary (1978-1982), President (1983-1986)
 President of the Swiss Society of Cellular and Molecular Biology, 1981 and 1982
 Member of the Research Council of the Swiss National Science Fund, 1983-1989
 Member of the Scientific and Technical Advisory Committee of the Tropical Disease Program (TDR) of WHO from 1986-1989
 Member of the Swiss Co-ordination Committee for Biotechnology (SKB), 1986-1990
 Member of the Council of the Swiss Federal Universities (ETH-Rat), from September 1990 to December 1996 (vice-president from February 1993 to June 1995, president ad interim from January to June 1995)
 President of the Swiss Committee for Biological Safety (SKBS) from October 1990 to October 1995
 Member of the Roche Research Foundation from 1991 to 1993, Vice-president from 1993 to 1996
 Individual member of the Swiss Academy of Medical Sciences since June 1994
 President of the Research Council of the Swiss National Science Foundation (since 1.1.1997)