First Laureate
Fundamental Research

Project Title: Novel histocompatibility genes in man (from discovery to clinical application)
Researcher: Prof. Seiamak Bahram
Country: Iran (Iranian resident in France)
Field: Medical Sciences
Scientific Affiliation: School of Medicine Strasbourg University

Abstract:

Prof. Seiamak Bahram has made key contributions to the field of human immunogenetics and specifically with respect to the Major Histocompatibility Complex (also known as HLA). He is regarded as an unanimous leader in the field internationally. His important contributions include (1) involvement in the identification of Transporter associated with Antigen Processing (TAP) genes; key molecules in antigen processing, (2) discovery of the MHC class I chain-related (MIC) gene family ; which encode ligands for the activatory immune receptor NKG2D; a key element in defense against infection and cancer (3) characterisation, including the generation of KO models for MR1, HFE and ZAG; key nonconventional MHC class I genes and (4) the conduct of several large scale studies with respect to the genetics of HLA-linked pathologies; especially Behçet' s disease. His current work is focused on MIC genes and their primordial role in human transplantation, tumor biology as well as MHC-linked diseases.

Biography:

Seiamak Bahram, is Professor of Medicine (Immunology), and head, department of immunology, at the Strasbourg University School of Medcine, France. He is a senior member of the «Institut Universitaire de France» (IUF) and Dean of Researchat the Strasbourg medicalschool. He graduated with highest honors from high school in Tehran. He then enrolled in medical school in Strasbourg, he graduated from the Strasbourg School of Medicine upon which he did his Ph.D. at the Dana-Farber Cancer Institute – Harvard Medical School (Boston). Upon returning to Europe, heaccepted a position asmember of the Basel Institute for Immunology (Basel). He then moved back to Strasbourg, first as an Associate and then full professor. His research aims at understanding the genetic basis of the immune response.