

Professor Rudolf Valenta, Professor, Department of Pathophysiology and Allergy Research

Rudolf Valenta studied Medicine at the University of Vienna and obtained his MD degree in 1987 with distinction. He then started to work on the molecular characterization of allergens, became Associate Professor at the University of Vienna and founded his research group “Molecular Immunopathology” in 1993. He currently is full Professor for Allergology at the Medical University of Vienna, co-ordinated two allergy research programs there, served as chairman of the standardization committee of the International Union of Immunological Societies (IUIS), as vice-president of the European Academy for Allergy and Clinical Immunology, as president of the Austrian Society for Allergology and Immunology and is member of the Austrian Academy of Sciences. He has been working in the field of allergy research for more than 25 years. Starting with the molecular and immunological characterization of important allergens he continued to develop recombinant allergen-based diagnostic tests as well as therapeutic allergy vaccines based on recombinant allergens and genetically engineered hypoallergens and advanced them into clinical application. He has been awarded several prestigious national and international awards, among them the START Award of the Austrian Science Fund (FWF), the International Pharmacia Award and the Sarstedt Award which he received in 2000 for his work on the genetic analysis of allergy-eliciting substances and their recombinant production (after: J. Klose and P.H. O`Farrell 1986 “Two-dimensional electrophoresis”; H. Towbin, T. Staehelin and J. Gordon, 1988 “Western blot”; M. Wilchek and E. A. Bayer 1990 “Biotin-Avidin system”; F. S. Collins, J. Riordan, L.-C. Tsui 1993 “Cystic fibrosis gene”; B. Vogelstein and D. Sidransky 1997 “Molecular biology of malignant tumors”). Rudolf Valentas work is highly cited (Cumulative citation index: >17.000; h-index: 69), he has published more than 470 original scientific publications, reviews and book chapters, more than 105 patents/patent applications and introduced recombinant allergens into diagnosis and treatment of allergic diseases. He is currently working on mechanisms of allergic diseases, the introduction of new diagnostic, therapeutic and preventive concepts for allergy into clinical use and on the characterization of antigens in infectious diseases with the aim to develop diagnostic tests and vaccines also in this area.