



Charité Berlin World Health Summit

Curriculum Vitae | Axel Kahn

Prof. Axel Kahn

President of the World Health Summit 2009

President of the Paris Descartes University

Prof. Axel Kahn was born on September 5th, 1944 at "The Petit Pressigny", Indre et Loire (37), France.

Education and Career

- 1962-1974 Medical studies in Paris - Hospital Resident (1967) and Resident in Hematology,
- 1969-1974 Medical Doctor (1974), Doctor of Sciences (1976)
- 1974-1978 Research assistant at the French Institute for Health and Medical Research (INSERM),
- 1978-1988 Research Director, 2nd Class
- 1988-1993 Research Director, 1st class
- 1993 Research Director, exceptional class
- 1984-2002 Head of the Laboratory of Molecular and Genetic Physiology and Pathology, INSERM.129 Unit, ICGM
- 1997-1999 Deputy scientific director for health and agricultural biotechnology at Rhône-Poulenc Society
- since 2002 Head of the Cochin Institute and of the Federative Research Institut Alfred Jost
- since 2007 President of the Paris Descartes University

Activities in Science Evaluation

President of the INSERM Commission in charge of Molecular Biology and Genetics (CSS-1) (1983-1986) and member of the scientific council of the Curie Institute (1988-1996). President of the French Commission of Biomolecular Engineering, in charge of evaluating all programs of field tests of genetically modified plants, microorganism release ;transgenic animals outside the laboratories ; use of vaccine ; drugs and foods obtained by genetic engineering and intended for veterinary usage ; gene therapy (1988-1997). President of the advisory board of the Jacques Monod Institute (1990-1994), member of the French Genetic Engineering Committee (1990-1996), member of the Committee for strategic orientation in Research, appointed by the Prime Minister of France (1992-1995), vice-president of the scientific council of the National Ligue against Cancer (1991-1994), member of the National Advisory Ethics Committee (since 1992), member of the Research Committee of Ecole Polytechnique (1997-2003), Chairman of the Bioscience High Level Group of the European Commission (DG12) (2000-2002), Member of the Scientific Council of the Aventis Pharma Society (2000-2004).

Axel Kahn



Other Scientific Activities

Advisory board of the European Journal of Biochemistry (1994-1997)

Editor-in-chief of „Medecine-sciences“ (1986-1997), member of the Advisory board (since 1998).

Academies, scientific societies

Corresponding member of the French Academy of Sciences (1990), Member of the European Molecular Biology Organization (EMBO), member of the Royal Society of Biochemistry - UK- (1995), Member of the American Society for Biochemistry and Molecular Biology (ASBMB), USA (1997), Member of the American Society of Gene Therapy (2000), Member of the American Diabetes Association (2000), Member of the European Academy of Science, art and letters (2001).

Distinctions and Awards

- Laureate of the „Concours Général“ (1961), Laureate of the National Academy of Medicine (1964), MD thesis, silver medal (1974), Prize of the French Academy of Sciences (Dr. et Madame Henri LABBE) (1989), Chevalier of the National Order of Merit - Prize „du rayonnement français“, Silver medal of the French National Center for - Scientific Research (CNRS), Medal „de la Francophonie“ of the French Academy (1990), Jean Bernard Prize for scientific communication (1996), prize of the French Association for therapeutic research (1998), prize Benjamin Delessert (1999). Editorial Prize from the Medical Press (2002)
- Doctor honoris causa of the „Université Catholique de Louvain“ (1994), and of the University of Liège (2007) (Belgium). Doctor honoris causa of the University of Montréal (1998), the University Laval

of Québec (2003), and of the University of Sherbrooke (2006) (Canada)

- Chevalier of National Order of Merit (1990), Chevalier of the Legion of Honour, (1995) - Chevalier of Arts and Letters, (1998), Officer of the Agricultural Merit (2001), Officer of the Legion of Honour (2004), Commander of the National Order of Merit (2008)

Scientific publications

More than 600 publications in pair-reviewed international journals. In particular, publications in Nature, Nature Genet., Nature Med., Cell, J. Biol. Chem., Embo J., J. Cell. Biol., Oncogene, Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. USA, J. Mol. Biol., Nucleic Acids Res., Mol. Cell. Biol., Genomics, J. Clin. Invest., Eur. J. Biochem.

Other Publications

Society and Biological Revolution : For an Ethics of Liability (in French)- INRA Editions, Paris, 1996.

Certified copies : the question of cloning (in French) - Editions NIL, Paris, 1998.

Which place for human beings ? Plea for a modern humanism - (in French) - Editions NIL, Paris, 2000.

The Future is not written – Axel Kahn – Albert Jacquard – (in French) – Editions Bayard, Paris, 2001.

Reasonable and human (in French) - Editions Nil, Paris, 2004.

Bioethics and freedom – Axel Kahn – Dominique Lecourt PUF, collection Quadrige/Essais, Paris, 2004.

Like two brothers – Axel Kahn – Jean-François Kahn – (in French) – Editions NIL, Paris 2006

The man, this thinking reed. Essay on the roots of the human nature - Axel Kahn - (in French) - Editions NIL, Paris, 2007

The man, the Good, the Evil – (in French) - Editions Stock, Paris, 2008

The ultimate freedom – (in French) - Editions Plon, Paris, 2008

In addition, numerous chapters of scientific books, articles in generalist and scientific Press. Public conferences, radio and TV participations on medical and ethical issues.

