



Yosef Yarden

Yosef Yarden is professor in the Department of Biological Regulation at the Weizmann Institute of Science, Rehovot. He received his BSc in biology and geology (cum laude) at the Hebrew University, Jerusalem, Israel in 1979, and his PhD at the Weizmann Institute in 1985. He trained at Genentech Inc. in San Francisco and in the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (Cambridge, MA) before establishing his own research laboratory in 1989 at the Weizmann Institute. Recently, Dr. Yarden has completed a 6-year service as Dean of the Feinberg Graduate School. Currently, he serves as Chair of the National Committee on Biotechnology and Chair of the Research Committee of the Israel Cancer Association. In the past he served as Vice President for Academic Affairs of the Weizmann Institute of Science, Dean of the Faculty of Biology and Director of the M.D. Moross Cancer Research Institute.

Dr Yarden's research career has been devoted to understanding the biological roles for hormone-like molecules, called growth factors. These molecules instruct embryonic development and they continue to function in adulthood, for example in wound healing and in breast development. Yarden has been involved in many crucial discoveries that unraveled the roles for growth factors in cancer. He pioneered the isolation of several growth factors and also their receptors, namely cell surface proteins that transfer the instruction for cell division. Yarden's extensive research on the structure and function of growth factor receptors has lead to their recognition as targets for cancer therapy. Indeed, over the last decade several efficacious anti-cancer drugs have been developed against growth factors and their receptors.

Yarden has received numerous awards for his work, including the H. Dudley Wright Research Award in Biomembranes, the Somech Sachs Prize in Chemistry, the Andre Lwoff Prize, the Lombroso Award for Cancer Research, the Michael Bruno Prize of Yad Hanadiv Fund, the Teva Founders' Prize, the EMET Prize of the State of Israel, the MERIT Award of the U.S. National Cancer Institute and the Hamilton Fairley Award of the European Societies of Medical Oncology. Yarden is a member of the Israel Academy of Sciences and Humanities, the European Molecular Biology Organization and the Asia-Pacific International Molecular Biology Network.