

António Coutinho

Director, Instituto Gulbenkian de Ciência, Oeiras, Portugal

Director, CNRS Laboratoire Européen Associé “Tolérance Naturelle”

Research Director at the CNRS, France

António Coutinho, received his MD from Lisbon Medical School (1970), and his PhD in Medical Microbiology from the Karolinska Institute in Stockholm (1974), where he became Associate Professor in Immunology (1974); he has been Professor and Head of the Department of Immunology at Umeå University Medical School (1979-84), elected Professor of General Pathology at the University of Geneva (1982), and appointed Professor of Immunology at Lund University (1987), having held positions at the Swedish Cancer Society (Research Assistant: 1974-5), the Swedish Medical Research Council (Special Investigator: 1978), and at the Basel Institute for Immunology, in Switzerland (Member: 1975-1979). From 1982 to 1998, António Coutinho was the Head of the Immunobiology Unit at the Pasteur Institute in Paris, where he also served as Head of the Immunology Department (1991-1994) and in the Graduate Course Committee. He was appointed Director of the Advanced Studies at the Gulbenkian Science Institute in 1991, where he launched and conducted, from 1993 to 2000 the Gulbenkian PhD Programme in Biology and Medicine; he now chairs the Advisory Committee of the Gulbenkian PhD Programme in Biomedicine. In 1998, he accepted responsibilities as Director of the Gulbenkian Institute with the mission to restructure it and implement a new organizational and thematic model, having thus resigned from the Pasteur Institute. In 1999, he was appointed Director of a “Laboratoire Européen Associé” created by the CNRS (France) at the Gulbenkian Institute.

Beyond a considerable number of students and scientists educated in the various laboratories that Antonio Coutinho has directed, 25 of his own students received PhDs in various European Universities. He has published some 450 papers in immunology and biology journals, and has maintained an intense activity as lecturer in conferences, scientific meetings, and courses in Europe, USA, Japan and Latin America, having been Visiting Professor at various Universities in Europe (Karolinska Institute, Stockholm University, Umea University, Autonomous University of Madrid, University of Pierre and Marie Curie, in Paris) and in America (MIT, University of S. Paulo), recently also in the context of the Gulbenkian Professorships in Biology at the Federal Universities of Rio de Janeiro and Minas Gerais, in Brazil. He is or has been Editor (Annales de l'Institut Pasteur, Scandinavian Journal of Immunology, Proceedings of the Royal Society B (London), International Immunology), or member of Editorial Boards (Cellular Immunology, Current Opinion in Immunology, European Journal of Immunology, Immunobiology, Immunological Reviews, Journal of Autoimmunity,

Journal of Molecular and Cellular Immunology, Journal of Theoretical Biology) of a dozen international scientific journals, he serves or has served in Scientific Committees or Advisory Boards of various Institutes or organizations in Europe, America and Japan (Max-Planck Institute for Immunobiology (D), Institute of Molecular and Cellular Embryology of the Collège de France (F), International Union of Immunological Societies, Human Frontiers Science Program, Etablissement Français des Greffes (F), Jean Brachet Foundation (B), Fundação Calouste Gulbenkian (P), IBET (P), Instituto Nacional de Administração (P), Immunet (CA), FIP (USA), Pasteur-Mérieux (P), Shyonogi Biomedical Research (USA), Linden Biotechnologies (USA), Instituto Nacional de Ciencias Medicas y Nutricion (MEX), Riken Institute of Immunology and Allergy (J)). He is a member of EMBO (member of the EMBO Council from 2000), of IMBO and of ENII (of which he was the first President), of several European and American scientific societies, having been recently elected to Chair XLII of the Portuguese Academy of Medicine.

Antonio Coutinho has contributed to several topics in immunology (lymphocyte activation and population dynamics, genetics of development and organization of the immune system, tolerance and autoimmune diseases) and in general problems in biology (auto-organization and networks). His scientific activity has been distinguished with international prizes (Fernstromska Priset, Sweden, 1981; FEBS Anniversary Prize, 1982; Premio Gulbenkian de Ciência e Tecnologia, Portugal, 1987; Prix Behring-Metchnikoff, France, 1990; Prix Lacassagne du College de France, 1995), and honors (Ordem do Cruzeiro do Sul, Brazil; Chevalier de la Légion d'Honneur, France).

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