Distinguished Visitor Programme

Professor Sir Ravinder Maini
Emeritus Professor of Rheumatology, Kennedy Institute of Rheumatology, Imperial College
London

Biography

Sir Ravinder has a long and distinguished medical career and his research interests encompass immunotherapy, autoantibody production, measurement and pathogenesis. He is currently Emeritus Professor of Rheumatology at Imperial College, University of London, UK, Trustee of the Kennedy Institute of Rheumatology, London, UK and Emeritus Honorary Consultant Physician at Charing Cross Hospital, Hammersmith Hospitals Trust, London, UK. He is a Fellow of the Academy of Medical Sciences, was Knighted in 2003 and won the Crafoord Prize from the Swedish Academy of Sciences in 2000. He is member of a number of prestigious international societies, committees and clubs, co-edits Arthritis Research and has published over 400 articles in refereed journals and invited reviews.

Lecture Abstract

25 Nov 2004, 30 Biopolis Way, Matrix Building, Level 4, Theatrette 3A, Singapore 138671, 6.15 pm - 7.15 pm

"Targeting TNF: A Biological Therapeutic Solution to Crippling Arthritis"

Rheumatoid arthritis, a painful disabling disease associated with premature death, affects 0.5 to 1% of the adult population worldwide and is recalcitrant to therapy. We were able to demonstrate that blocking TNF, a member of the family of immune molecules known as cytokines, with highly specific monoclonal antibodies in experiments in the laboratory and clinic, had a profound anti-inflammatory and joint protective effect. These studies led to the development of biologically engineered TNF blocking drugs by the pharmaceutical industry, which have been shown to be effective in reducing pain and swelling of joints, improving the quality of life and preventing damage to joint structures. Long-term repeated administration is required and over half a million patients have been treated. Anti-TNF is also effective in the treatment of other inflammatory diseases of the skeleton, skin and blood vessels. Although established as a new class of block buster drugs for chronic disease, the current high cost and safety monitoring by skilled physicians restricts widespread access.