



AWARD 2021

EUROPE



Prof. Per Ole Iversen

Professor Per Ole Iversen, an internationally renowned clinician, academician and a devoted researcher, was trained as a medical doctor and graduated from the Faculty of Medicine at the University of Oslo, Norway in 1990. His research work started as a medical student in the mid-1980s at the Department of Physiology, University of Oslo under the supervision of Professor Gunnar Nicolaysen. The doctoral dissertation in 1992 dealt with the regulation of blood flow within single-skeletal muscles. He then continued with a post-doc period between 1994 and 1996 at the Hanson Center for Cancer Research in Adelaide, Australia led by Professor Angel Lopez. The topic of work there was molecular and biological studies of hematopoietic cytokines and their receptors. In the following years, he mainly concentrated on leukocyte biology, with the main emphasis on studies concerning blood cell formation under normal conditions and in malignancy. In this work, he used a wide range of methods, both molecular biological and the use of animal models in addition to human studies. Concomitantly with the research, he qualified as a specialist in internal medicine and hematology. So, in 2003 he was appointed as a Professor of Medicine at the University of Oslo ([https://www.med.uio.no/imb/english/people/aca/](https://www.med.uio.no/imb/english/people/aca/peri/index.html)

[peri/index.html](https://www.med.uio.no/imb/english/people/aca/peri/index.html)) and as a Consultant in Hematology at Oslo University Hospital. During his work as a hospital doctor, Professor Iversen has had a special interest into nutrition-related challenges that recipients of allogeneic stem cell transplantation face, in particular related to their nutritional status and quality of life. Another aspect of his clinical work relates to the increasing number of patients with inherited red cell blood diseases.

In the last two decades, he has engaged much in projects rooted in Southern and Eastern Africa, and he has also lived on the African continent for two years (2007-2008 in Cape Town, South Africa and 2018-2019 in Dar-es-Salaam, Tanzania). The main focus of his research has been to optimize nutritional status among vulnerable populations, in particular mothers and their small children. These projects have often been linked to the Right to Adequate Food, as outlined by the United Nations. In line with this, he headed the organizing of an international masters' program involving academic institutions in South Africa, Uganda and Norway. In this program, nutrition was linked to governance and the right to adequate food. In recent years, he has also taken a substantial interest in similar research also in Sierra Leone, Kenya, Rwanda and Malawi.

As of today, the largest and longest project is based in Uganda (see: <https://www.med.uio.no/imb/english/research/projects/chmudev-study>). To get more engaged in the nutritional challenges faced by the impoverished populations in sub-Saharan Africa, he has worked as a hospital doctor both in Kampala, Uganda (Mulago Hospital) and in Dar-es-Salaam, Tanzania (Muhimbili National Hospital), volunteering for the NGO Health Volunteer Overseas.

He now has a rather broad clinical and research-related background in physiology, hematology and nutrition.

Moreover, he has been Principal Investigator or co-Investigator on projects supported by several public and private Norwegian and international grants as well as participated in projects with support from the EU.

Professor Iversen has been selected by IRPC for the World Scientists Forum International award "Eminent Scientist of the Year 2021" based on his clinical experience, academic expertise in internal medicine and physiology and research excellence. His service in underdeveloped countries like Uganda has been especially noted by the award selection committee of International Research Promotion Council.