

Professor Harald zur Hausen was born at the 11th of March, 1936 in **Gelsenkirchen**, Germany. He is married, has three children, all boys. He was enrolled in the **University of Bonn** as a medical student in 1955, and continued medical studies in **Bonn, in Hamburg, and Düsseldorf**. He graduated in medicine at the **University of Düsseldorf in 1960**.

His professional career started with internships in Wimbern, Isny, Gelsenkirchen and Düsseldorf. He became a Research Fellow in the Institut für Hygiene und Mikrobiologie, University of Düsseldorf, and from 1966 to 1969 he has been a **Fellow at the Division of Virology, in the Children's Hospital of Philadelphia, USA**. *This was the laboratory of Gertrud and Werner Henle, the pioneers of Epstein-Barr virus research*. After returning to Germany Dr. zur Hausen became a Senior Scientist and Privat-Dozent at **Institut für Virologie, University of Würzburg**. *He continued his research on Epstein-Barr virus, the first human tumor virus, and described the presence of Epstein-Barr virus DNA in anaplastic nasopharyngeal carcinomas*. In 1972 he became the Chairman and Professor of Institut für Klinische Virologie at University of Erlangen-Nürnberg. In 1977 he has been appointed the same job at the Institut für Virologie, Zentrum für Hygiene, in University of Freiburg. *In the seventies Dr. zur Hausen started to focus on the potential association of human cancers with papillomaviruses and explored this idea in a systematic manner. These pioneering studies were acknowledged, finally, by the Nobel Prize for Physiology and Medicine awarded to Professor zur Hausen in 2008*. In 1983 he has been elected the Chairman of the Management Board and appointed the Scientific Director of the German Cancer Research Center in Heidelberg. He retired in May 2003, and since then acts as Professor emeritus.

Professor zur Hausen has been appointed to be member or chair of several important scientific organisations, like programs of the German Science Foundation, the Mott - Committee, the Assembly of the General Motors Cancer Research Foundation (New York), the Board of the Robert-Koch-Stiftung, the Council of the International Union against Cancer (UICC), the Organization of European Cancer Institutes (OECI), Vice-President of the Academia Europaea, Member of the European Board of Directors of the Human Genome Organization (HUGO), Member of the Scientific Advisory Board of the Imperial Cancer Research Center (ICRF) in London, Vice-President of the LEOPOLDINA, German Academy of Natural Sciences and Medicine, Member of the Board of Directors, International Union against Cancer, Geneva, Switzerland.

He has been awarded by several prizes, like the Robert-Koch Prize and Medal, the Schaudinn-Hoffmann Plakette, the Lila Gruber Award for Cancer Research of the American Academy of Dermatology (Las Vegas, USA), the Charles S. Mott Prize, General Motors Cancer Research Foundation (Washington, D.C., USA), the German Cancer Award, the Martinus-Willem Beijerinck Medal of the Netherlands Academy of Sciences, the Emil-von Behring Prize, the Gregor-Mendel Medal of University of Prague, the Prize of the Panamerican Society for Clinical Virology (Clearwater, USA), the Prince Mahidol Award (Bangkok, Thailand), the Lifetime Achievement Award, American Association of Cancer Research (San Diego, USA). He holds several Honorary Degrees, Honorary and Elected Memberships.

He is the author of more than 300 publications.

Professor Harald zur Hausen was awarded in **2008 with the Nobel prize for Physiology and Medicine**, for his discovery of human papillomaviruses causing cervical cancer.