

Short Biography

Pierre J. Magistretti, received his MD in 1979 from the University of Geneva and his PhD in Biology in 1982 from UCSD. He is Professor Emeritus at the Brain Mind Institute at EPFL and at the Departments of Psychiatry at UNIL/CHUV and UNIGE. He is also Distinguished Professor at the Division at Biological and Environmental Sciences and Engineering at KAUST where he has been Dean from 2012 to 2020 and Vice President of Research since 2022. Pierre Magistretti's laboratory has discovered some of the cellular and molecular mechanisms that underlie the coupling between neuronal activity and energy consumption by revealing the key role that glial cells, in particular astrocytes, play in this physiological process. These findings are particularly relevant for understanding the origin of the signals detected by functional brain imaging, and are revealing a role of astrocytes in neuronal plasticity and neuroprotection. He is the author of over 300 publications in international peer-reviewed journals; he is on the Clarivate list of highly cited scientists, with an h-index of 108 and > 52'000 citations. He has given over 70 invited lectures during the past five years. He has been elected at the International Chair 2007-2008 of the Collège de France, Paris. He has been elected in 2021 Foreign Member of Accademia Nazionale dei Lincei, the oldest Academy of Europe (founded in 1603). He is member of Academia Europae and of the Swiss Academy of Medical Sciences. Among other recognitions, Pierre Magistretti has been awarded the Camillo Golgi Medal Award, the Emil Kraepelin Professorship, the Goethe Award of the Canadian Psychological Association, the Ott Prize of the Swiss Academy of Medical Sciences and the IPSEN Foundation Prize. Pierre Magistretti is honorary member of the Chinese Association of Physiological Sciences and a Fellow of the American College of Psychopharmacology. He is the Past-President of the Federation of European Neuroscience Societies (FENS) and Past-President of the International Brain Research Organization (IBRO). He has been on the Board of Trustees of the Human Frontiers Science Program Organization from 2003 to 2020. He is and has been member of several academic scientific advisory boards including the Research Council of the Swiss National Science Foundation. He is the co-founder of two start-up companies based on his research in Switzerland, LynceeTech and GliPharm and one in KSA, NoorDx.