

Prof. Dr. René Sylvain Kahn

Professor René Sylvain Kahn was born in 1954 in Amsterdam, The Netherlands. He graduated in 1983 from the School of Medicine, University Groningen. He completed his residency program in neurology and psychiatry in the Netherlands, then he moved to New York, where he lived and worked between 1985 and 1993. He was member of the faculty at Mount Sinai School of Medicine, New York, NY. Professor Kahn returned to the Netherlands in 1993, where he was appointed as Head of the Department of Psychiatry of the University Medical Center Utrecht. Under his leadership the departments of adult psychiatry and child- and adolescent psychiatry were united speeding up much needed developmental research in this field. In 2002 responding to new challenges he became chair of a newly organized Division of Neuroscience at the University Medical Center Utrecht, combining the departments of psychiatry, child and adolescent psychiatry, neurology, neurosurgery, neurophysiology, pharmacology and rehabilitation medicine. Since 2013 Professor Kahn is the Director of the Brain Center Rudolf Magnus in Utrecht, which is one of the leading brain research centers of the world.

Professor Kahn main research focus has been on imaging in schizophrenia. His work significantly contributed to a better understanding of the developmental and degenerative changes of the brain in schizophrenia. His list of publications at the end of 2013 included 645 papers, 38 books and bookchapters and in October 2014 Scopus displayed more than 24000 citations to his publications and a Hirsch index of 80.

Professor Kahn has been chair, member of the leading bodies or member of prestigious Dutch, UK, European and other scientific organizations, just to give a few examples: European College of Neuropsychopharmacology, Neuroscience and Mental Health Board, Medical Research Council, United Kingdom, Scientific Advisory Group, CNS, European Medicine Agency and he is the current president of the Schizophrenia International Research Society.

Professor Kahn has been involved in the research and educational activities of the Semmelweis University for more than 17 years. He helped in training our young researchers in Utrecht. These programs resulted in knowledge and research technology transfer primarily in imaging and genetics of schizophrenia and ADHD. He has been regularly lecturing at CME events of our University and conferences in Budapest e.g. he was one of the plenary lecturers of the conference "Neuropsychiatric disorders, with particular attention to depression, anxiety and schizophrenia." which was the main scientific event of the Hungarian EU presidency. He participated in a number of full day workshops on different research topics and helped in linking our research efforts to mainstream European research.

The Netherlands has today the highest number of psychiatric research papers per capita in the world. The Department of Psychiatry and Psychotherapy of the Semmelweis University recently became a leading clinical research center nationally and regionally. None of these achievements would have been possible without the contributions of René Kahn.

The Senate of Semmelweis University decided to award the title of Honoris Causa to Professor Kahn following on the proposal of Professor István Bitter in 2014.