

## **PROF. OLAVI PELKONEN**

**Olavi Pelkonen** had his medical and scientific training at the University of Oulu, Faculty of Medicine and was awarded MD and PhD degrees in 1973. He was a post-doctoral fellow at the National Institutes of Health, Bethesda, Maryland (1976-1977). Thereafter, he was a visiting professor in Spain, UK and Australia for short periods. He participated, also as a working group leader, in European Union COST Actions (since 1986 until 2009), Marie Skłodowska-Curie Training programmes and in Framework Programme consortia (since 1991, also as a coordinator of a project). He has >400 original and review articles in international scientific journals, mainly on various aspects of drug and carcinogen metabolism, especially by cytochrome P450 enzymes, and its regulation by genetic and environmental factors and he was a 'HighlyCited Researcher in pharmacology and toxicology' (ISI-Thomson). Furthermore, the Oulu Department of Pharmacology and Toxicology was evaluated to belong to the highest 1 % among such departments globally (ISI-Thomson 2004). Professor Pelkonen's scientific parameters: number of the scientific citations: over 20,000; Hirsh index: 77.

Olavi Pelkonen has also participated in international academic and society functions in e.g. IUPHAR (general secretary of a section), Nordic Society of Pharmacology, EUFEPS etc. He has been member/rapporteur/chair in several evaluation and/or advisory groups for research assessment exercises (Finland, Estonia, Romania, Hong Kong, Australia) and in search committees for scientific directors (Finland, Sweden, Australia, Czech Republic).

Olavi Pelkonen has got several awards for his work. In 1993, he gave The Oswald Schmiedeberg Lecture at the University of Tartu. In 2007, he was awarded The Bo Holmstedt Memorial Lecture Award by EUROTOX. In 2010, he was a plenary lecturer in IUPHAR WorldPharma2010 Congress in Copenhagen. In 2014, he was awarded the Nordic Prize of Basic and Clinical Pharmacology and Toxicology. He has got several national awards for achievements in research, teaching and scientific education as well as for functions in national societies in pharmacology, toxicology, or medicine.

Since his retirement in 2010, Olavi Pelkonen has continued his research work at national and EU level and in expert tasks and duties, especially in connection with EU and international agencies. Most notably, he served as a toxicological expert at EMA between 2005 and 2016 and now as a Panel member at EFSA since 2015 (now until 2021).

Last but not least, Olavi Pelkonen has taught and guided students of medicine, dentistry and natural sciences as well as supervised and mentored research PhD students over several decades. Several PhD students have achieved high academic positions, including 8 professors of pharmacology and/or toxicology thus far. For educational work he has got the highest awards from his own 'Alma mater' (University of Oulu) and from the National Society of Medical Research and Education 'Duodecim'.