

# **Gary Firestein**

**Director, Altman Clinical and Translational Research Institute at UC San Diego**

La Jolla, CA, US

Dr. Gary Firestein's research interests focuses on the pathogenesis and treatment of rheumatoid arthritis.

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## **Biography**

Dr. Firestein is director of the Clinical and Translational Research Institute and the dean and associate vice chancellor of translational medicine at UC San Diego. Dr. Firestein joined the faculty at UC San Diego School of Medicine as assistant professor of medicine in 1988. Four years later, he was recruited by Gensia, Inc. to be director of Immunology where he supervised drug discovery efforts focusing on the potential role of purines in inflammation. In 1996, he returned to UC San Diego where he served as chief of the Division of Rheumatology, Allergy and Immunology from 1998 until 2010.

Dr. Firestein's research interest focuses on the pathogenesis and treatment of rheumatoid arthritis. He was among the first to map the cytokine profile of RA and demonstrate the dominance of macrophage and fibroblast products. These studies played a pivotal role in the development of highly effective anti-TNF and other anti-cytokine therapies for RA. In 1998, Dr. Firestein received the Carol-Nachman Prize, which is an international award given for outstanding contributions to rheumatology research. In 2006 and 2009, he received the Arthritis Foundation Lee C. Howley Sr. Prize for Arthritis Research and the American College of Rheumatology Distinguished Investigator Award, respectively. Dr. Firestein received the Arthritis Foundation's Jane Wyman Humanitarian Award in 2010 for contributions to rheumatology. He has been elected to the American Society for Clinical Investigation and the Association of American Physicians.

Firestein has written more than 300 articles and chapters and has edited or written several books. He served as the Deputy Editor of Arthritis & Rheumatism and is currently the Editor-in-Chief of the Kelley and Firestein's Textbook of Rheumatology. He was chairperson of the FDA Arthritis Advisory Committee and has served on the Board of Directors of the ACR Research and Education Foundation, the ACR Committee on Research, the Arthritis Foundation Research Committee, the board of directors of the Veteran's Medical Research Foundation and NIAMS Advisory Council. He currently serves on the American College of Rheumatology board of directors.

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## **Areas of Expertise**

Biomarkers, Metalloproteinase and Cytokine Gene Regulation, Epigenetics, Rheumatic Diseases, Rheumatoid Arthritis, Signal Transduction, Translational Medicine

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## **Affiliations**

Clinical and Translational Research Institute (CTRI), FDA Arthritis Advisory Committee

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## **Education**

**John Hokins University**  
M.D. School of Medicine

Harvard College  
A.B.

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## Accomplishments

**Lee C. Howley Sr. Prize for Arthritis Research**  
2016  
Arthritis Foundation

**Distinguished Alumnus Award**  
2012  
Johns Hopkins Alumni Association

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