

# OLE HOLGER PETERSEN



Ole Holger Petersen is a Danish physician and physiologist who is currently a professor at Cardiff University, UK. He was the very first in the world to use the patch clamp technique on epithelial cells.

## ACADEMIC AND PROFESSIONAL CAREER

- since 2017 Professor of Physiology and Director of the Academia Europaea – Cardiff Knowledge Hub, Cardiff School of Biosciences, Cardiff University, Wales, UK
- 2010 - 2017 Medical Research Council Professor at Cardiff School of Biosciences, Cardiff University, Wales, UK
- 2010 - 2015 Director and Head of Cardiff School of Biosciences, Cardiff University, Wales, UK
- 1998 - 2009 Medical Research Council Professor at the University of Liverpool, England, UK
- 1981 - 2009 George Holt Professor of Physiology at the University of Liverpool, England, UK
- 1981 - 1998 Chairman of Department of Physiology, University of Liverpool, England, UK
- 1975 - 1981 Symers Professor of Physiology at the University of Dundee, Scotland, UK
- 1972 Habilitation (Dr. Med.) University of Copenhagen, Denmark
- 1969 Promotion (Cand. Med. [MBChB]) University of Copenhagen, Denmark
- 1961 - 1969 Medical student at University of Copenhagen, Denmark

During his research he revealed the mechanisms by which secretion from exocrine glands are controlled. He pioneered single channel current recording in epithelial cells, characterizing several types of calcium-activated ion channels important for fluid secretion. He discovered hormone-evoked local calcium signals and showed that they controlled both fluid and enzyme secretion. More recently, he has discovered how certain alcohol metabolites evoke excessive calcium release from intracellular stores, thereby initiating pancreatitis, a human disease in which the pancreas digests itself and its surroundings. He has defined the intracellular receptor mechanisms responsible for alcohol-related pancreatitis and shown how they can be blocked.

He was the very first in the world to use the patch clamp technique on epithelial cells. Notably, his research decisively accelerated the spread of the patch clamp technique, for which Erwin Neher and Bert Sakmann were awarded the Nobel Prize in 1993.

He is the former Vice-President of the Academy of Europe, currently he is the Academic Director of the Cardiff University - Academia Europaea Knowledge Hub.

## AWARDS AND HONORS

- 2022 Palade Prize
- 2020 Academia Europaea's Gold Medal 'for his contribution to European Science'
- 2018 American Physiological Society's Walter B Cannon Memorial Award Lecturer
- 2017 Honorary Member of the German Society for Gastroenterology
- 2015 Honorary Member of The Physiological Society (UK)
- 2013 American Physiological Society's Horace W Davenport Distinguished Lectureship.
- 2013 Honorary President and Keynote Lecturer at the 37th International Congress of Physiological Sciences (IUPS), Birmingham, England, UK
- 2010 Member of the German National Academy of Sciences Leopoldina
- 2010 Lifetime Achievement Award, European Pancreatic Club
- 2008 Appointed Commander of the Order of the British Empire by Queen Elizabeth II for 'Services to Science'
- 2004 Honorary Member of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences
- 2003 J.E. Purkyne Honorary Medal for 'Merit in the Biological Sciences' from the Academy of Sciences of the Czech Republic
- 2001 Fellow of the Royal College of Physicians London
- 2000 Fellow of The Royal Society
- 1998 Fellow of the Academy of Medical Sciences (UK)
- 1994 NOVO Nordisk Foundation's H.C. Jacobaeus Prize
- 1991 The Physiological Society's Annual Review Prize
- 1988 Member of the Royal Danish Academy of Sciences & Letters
- 1988 Founding member of Academia Europaea