

Professor Levon M. Khachigian

Professor Levon Khachigian (PhD, DSc) is a NHMRC Senior Principal Research Fellow and Professor of Pathology at the Centre for Vascular Research, The University of New South Wales, Sydney. His research has manifestly increased our understanding of the fundamental transcriptional



mechanisms that lead to the inappropriate expression of harmful genes in cells of our blood vessels. He has pioneered the development of novel strategies targeting these key regulatory genes in the context of a myriad of vascular disorders such as arterial thickening, vascular leakage, inflammation, neovascularisation and tumour angiogenesis. He has published over 130 journal articles and book chapters, including key papers in *Science*, *Nature Biotechnology*, *Nature Protocols*, *J Natl Cancer Inst*, and *Nature Medicine*. He is sole editor of two books globally distributed through CRC Press (Florida, USA), including one on cardiovascular disease and another on DNAzymes and related small molecule nucleic acid technologies. He has given >100 invited talks at international and national scientific conferences, university and hospital departments, and companies in the last 5 years. His career research has

attracted substantive peer-reviewed and commercial national and international grant support. This includes consecutive rounds of NHMRC Program Grant funding as CI, and a Cancer Institute NSW Translational Program Grant (lead CI and Program Director) with which clinical trials exploiting his pioneering basic and preclinical DNAzyme work targeting "master molecular regulators" are due to begin in cancer patients in 2009. He has supervised >25 PhD students and his mentorship has been acknowledged by the Inaugural Wakefield Medal for Research Supervision.

His innovative research has been recognised by a number of awards including the Commonwealth Health Minister's Award for Excellence in Health and Medical Research, GlaxoSmithKline Australia Award for Research Excellence, Gottschalk Award from the Australian Academy of Science, Eureka Prize for Scientific Research and Eureka Prize for Medical Research from the Australian Museum, and First Prize in the UNESCO-sponsored Khwarizmi International Award for Science and Technology, presented by the President Khatami of Iran.

Professor Khachigian has also been a major contributor to the broader workings of science on matters of policy, advocacy, consultancy, peer-review, mentorship, and societal service. For example, he sits on the editorial boards of 10 journals including the *American Journal of Pathology* and *Endothelium* (regional editor). He is Chairman of the 15th International Vascular Biology Meeting to be held in Sydney in 2008, and Chairman of the Cardiovascular Section of the 1st International Conference on Drug Design and Discovery, a meeting endorsed by no less than 15 Nobel Laureates, to be held in Dubai in 2008. Professor Khachigian received his BSc with first class honours in biochemistry and PhD in cell and molecular biology from The University of New South Wales, then studied transcriptional control at Brigham and Women's Hospital, Harvard Medical School. In 2004, at age 40 he was appointed Full Professor and was awarded a DSc in cardiovascular pathobiology and translational research (by thesis) from The University of New South Wales.