



## **Professor Paul Workman FRS FMedSci**

### **Harrap Professor of Pharmacology and Therapeutics**

**Centre for Cancer Drug Discovery | The Institute of Cancer Research, London | 15 Cotswold Road | Sutton | SM2 5NG UK**

Professor Paul Workman is internationally renowned for his research on the discovery of personalized molecular cancer medicines. He is an enthusiastic advocate of 'drugging the cancer genome' and he also conceptualized the biomarker-led 'Pharmacological Audit Trail' approach to clinical drug development. He has been instrumental in the discovery and development of numerous cancer drugs. With experience across academia, the biotech industry and pharma, Professor Workman was, from 2014-2021, Chief Executive and President of The Institute of Cancer Research, London.

Professor Workman completed his BSc in Biochemistry at the University of Leicester UK (1973) and his PhD in Cancer Pharmacology at the University of Leeds UK (1977). In 1976 he moved to the Medical Research Council's Clinical Oncology Unit at the University of Cambridge UK where he established his preclinical and clinical cancer pharmacology laboratory. Following a brief sabbatical at Stanford University and Stanford Research International in Palo Alto, California USA (1990), Professor Workman was appointed in 1991 as Cancer Research Campaign Professor of Experimental Cancer Therapy and Director of Laboratory Research in the Department of Medical Oncology, Beatson Laboratories, University of Glasgow UK. In 1993, Professor Workman moved to a senior scientific leadership position at Zeneca Pharmaceuticals, where he was Head of the Cancer Research Bioscience Section and oversaw the biology of the project that delivered the EGFR inhibitor gefitinib (Iressa), subsequently approved in non small cell lung cancer

In 1997, Professor Workman moved to ICR as Harrap Professor of Pharmacology and Therapeutics to take over and build up what became the Cancer Research UK Cancer Therapeutics Unit (now the Centre for Cancer Drug Discovery) and held the position of Director for nineteen years until 2016. Under his leadership, the Unit has identified 20 clinical drug candidates since 2005, progressed eleven of its drugs into Phase I clinical trials, and has seen its prostate cancer drug abiraterone (Zytiga) approved by the US FDA, European Medicines Agency and NICE. He also played a leading role in the discovery of the AKT inhibitor capivasertib which was recently shown to double progression free survival in a Phase III trial in ER+ breast cancer.

Professor Workman has successfully built a series of multidisciplinary drug discovery and development teams in the academic, biotechnology company and pharma sectors. Through this experience he has been able to combine the best elements of each of these environments. The drug development candidates and chemical probes his team have discovered include pathfinding inhibitors of the protein kinase and PI3 kinase families of signaling enzymes, the HSP90 molecular chaperone and the HSF1 transcription factor pathway. Professor Workman is also a serial scientific entrepreneur. He was a scientific founder of Chroma Therapeutics and Piramed Pharma (acquired by Roche), serves as an adviser to and collaborator with multiple biopharma companies and is a Science Partner at Nextech Invest. He has won numerous awards for his research and was elected as a Fellow of the Royal Society (the UK's national academy of science), the Academy of Medical Sciences, Royal Society of Chemistry, Royal Society of Biology, Royal Society of Medicine, European Academy of Cancer Sciences and American Association for the Advancement of Science, and he was awarded a CRUK Life Fellowship. In addition, Professor Workman serves as Executive Director of the non-profit Chemical Probes Portal and he writes, lectures and blogs about cancer drug discovery.