



Dr. Erkki Ruoslahti is Emeritus Distinguished Professor and former president/CEO of Sanford Burnham Prebys Medical Discovery Institute in La Jolla, California. He received his M.D. and Ph.D. degrees from The University of Helsinki. Dr. Ruoslahti is a pioneer in the field of cell adhesion.

He was one of the discoverers of fibronectin, and he subsequently discovered the integrin-binding tri-peptide motif RGD and integrins that recognize this motif in fibronectin and other adhesive proteins. RGD became a basis for anti-platelet and anticancer drugs and has had a major impact in various biotechnology applications, such as tumor targeting and design of biocompatible coatings. His recent work has focused on specific vascular addresses and targeted delivery of drugs to sites of disease. Tumor-penetrating peptides discovered recently in his laboratory are in clinical trials as enhancers of drug delivery to tumors.

Dr. Ruoslahti is a member of the U.S. National Academy of Sciences, National Academy of Medicine, American Academy of Arts and Sciences and EMBO. He is the recipient of the Gairdner International Award, Clowes Award, Pasarow Award, Jacobaeus Prize, and the Japan Prize. Dr. Ruoslahti has published more than 500 papers and is inventor of about 150 patents.

Dr. Ruoslahti has more than 30 years of experience with the biotech and pharmaceutical industries. He is a founder of a number of biotech companies. He is currently serves as Executive Chairman of Cend Therapeutics Inc. and AivoCode Inc.