

Tony Kouzarides

Professor
The Gurdon Institute
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Personal Profile

I was born in Cyprus and I went to school in Famagusta.
My house was situated next to the city's football club.

He left Cyprus in 1974 and did his PhD at the University of Cambridge. He continued this work at the MRC Laboratory of Molecular Biology in Cambridge as a postdoctoral scientist. He then went to New York to extend his postdoctoral work at New York University Medical Center after which he returned to Cambridge to lead a research group and has been at the Gurdon Institute since 1991. He is a founder of Chroma therapeutics, a UK based cancer drug discovery company which has as its focus enzymes that modify chromatin. He is a founder and director of AbCam Ltd, an antibody reagents company.

He was elected member of the European Molecular Biology organization in 1998 and the British Academy of Medical Sciences in 2001.

As a student in high school he was never sure what he wanted to study. He was very good at mathematics and physics but wanted to do something different. He considered studying computers.

A vocational guide once visited his school and he asked what his opinion was about computers. The guide said that computers were meant for bigger countries, not for Cyprus. Marios is glad to have proven this advisor wrong.

Research Profile

He is interested in understanding how cancer works. He is trying to discover new genes that cause cancer.

Recent worldwide research has now helped identify epigenetics – the transfer of information pertinent to regulation of genes which is not only in the DNA itself but in the proteins which it is folded on called nucleosomes. The nucleosome is decorated with many different types of modification. These can potentially effect any biological process that involves the manipulation of DNA such as transcription, repair and replication. His lab is involved in identifying and characterising the biological role of these modifications. Many of the pathways that lead to the modification of histones are deregulated in cancer so they are keen to understand how misregulation generates uncontrolled growth of the cell.

Other interests

Tony loves travelling and of course spending quality time with his family.

Relevant Links or info

For further information about Chroma therapeutics view <http://www.chromatherapeutics.com/>

For further information about AbCam Ltd view <http://www.abcam.com/>