



Prof. Maria Leptin

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Prof. Maria Leptin received her PHD in 1983 for work on B cell activation carried out at the Basel Institute for Immunology under the supervision of Fritz Melchers. She switched to the study of development in *Drosophila* when she joined the laboratory of Michael Wilcox at the Medical Research Council's Laboratory of Molecular Biology (LMB) in Cambridge, UK, for her postdoctoral work on *Drosophila* integrins. After a research visit at the lab of Pat O'Farrell at the University of California San Francisco (UCSF), where she began her work on gastrulation, she spent the years from 1989 to 1994 as a group leader at the Max Planck Institute in Tübingen. In 1994, she became Professor at the Institute of Genetics University Cologne.

In January 2010, Maria Leptin became the Director of EMBO and established a research group in Heidelberg at the European Molecular Biology Laboratory (EMBL). The group studies the development of complex cell shapes in the respiratory system of *Drosophila* and the role of RNA localisation in generating such cell shapes. Professor Leptin is an elected member of EMBO and the Academia Europaea. She also serves on the editorial boards of *Developmental Cell*, *Developmental Biology* and on advisory boards of several academic institutions. She chairs one of the evaluation panels for ERC Advanced Investigator Grants.