

Peter Palese is Professor of Microbiology and Chair of the Department of Microbiology at the Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai, New York. His research is in the area of RNA-containing viruses with a special emphasis on influenza viruses. Specifically, he established the first genetic maps for influenza A, B, and C viruses, identified the function of several viral genes, and defined the mechanism of neuraminidase inhibitors (which are now FDA-approved antivirals). He developed the field of reverse genetics for negative strand RNA viruses, which allows the introduction of site-specific mutations into the genomes of these viruses. This technique is crucial for the study of the structure and function relationships of viral genes, for investigation of viral pathogenicity, and for development and manufacturing of novel vaccines. At present, Palese's group works with Adolfo García-Sastre and Florian Krammer on the development of a universal influenza virus vaccine. Palese was a recipient of the Robert Koch Prize in 2006, a recipient of the European Virology Award (EVA) in 2010, a recipient of the 2012 Sanofi-Institut Pasteur Award, and the awardee of the 2015 Beijerinck Virology Prize of the Royal Netherlands Academy of Arts and Sciences. Palese is a Member of the German National Academy of Sciences, a corresponding Member of the Austrian Academy of Sciences and he is a Member of the National Academy of Sciences, a Member of the National Academy of Medicine (IOM) and a Fellow of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences.