

Biographical Note: Modified 4 April 2010

Sir Tom Blundell FRS FMedSci

Tom Blundell is Director of Research and Professor Emeritus In the Department of Biochemistry, University of Cambridge. Until 2009 he was Sir William Dunn Professor of Biochemistry at the University of Cambridge, and Head of the Council of Biological Sciences in Cambridge. His research is focused on structural biology and bioinformatics and their applications to drug discovery and medicine. Most of his work has been on multi-component protein assemblies – cell surface receptors and intracellular signal transduction enzymes - that mediate cell regulation. He has been interested in how high signal to noise is achieved in Nature by using complex molecular interactions and how understanding the architecture of the assemblies can assist the discovery of new medicines, especially for cancer treatment. More recently he has used structural approaches to understanding *Mycobacterium tuberculosis* with a view to discovering new antimicrobials against TB.

After research and teaching positions in Molecular Biophysics in Oxford and Biochemistry in Sussex Universities, he was appointed in 1976 Professor in Birkbeck College, University of London and in 1989 Honorary Director, Imperial Cancer Research Fund Unit of Structural Molecular Biology. He moved to Cambridge in 1996. Tom Blundell is a member of Academia Europaea, a Fellow of the Royal Society and Fellow of Academy of Medical Sciences. He has Honorary Doctorates from fifteen universities.

Tom Blundell has played an active role in national science policy. In the 1980s, he was a member of the advisory group to the Prime Minister (ACOST). He was Director General, Agricultural and Food Research Council (1991-1994) and founding Chief Executive, Biotechnology and Biological Sciences Research Council, BBSRC (1994-1996), Chairman of the Royal Commission on Environmental Pollution (1998 to 2005) and President of the UK Biosciences Federation between 2004 and 2008. He has been non-executive Chairman of BBSRC since 1 July 2009. He was a Non-Executive Director of Celltech from 1996 to 2005 and has been involved in science advisory roles with Pfizer, UCB and SmithKlyneBeecham. He co-founded Astex Therapeutics which has oncology drugs in early stage clinical trials in USA and UK.