

## About Colin Blakemore

Colin Blakemore took up the post of Professor of Neuroscience & Philosophy and Director of the Centre for the Study of the Senses at the School of Advanced Study, University of London, in October 2012. He is also Emeritus Professor of Neuroscience at the University of Oxford and holds Emeritus Professorships at Warwick, Peking Union Medical College and the Duke-NUS Graduate Medical School in Singapore.

Colin graduated with a First in Medical Sciences at Cambridge and did a PhD in Physiological Optics at the University of California, Berkeley. After working for 11 years in the University of Cambridge, he moved to Oxford as Waynflete Professor of Physiology in 1979, and from 1990-2003 he was also Director of the Oxford Centre for Cognitive Neuroscience. He has Doctor of Science degrees from both Oxford and Cambridge. His research has been concerned with many aspects of vision, development, plasticity of the brain and neurodegenerative disease. He has been a Visiting Fellow or Professor in France, China, Singapore, Italy, the Czech Republic, Japan, Canada, New Zealand, the Netherlands and the USA – including a number of visits to the Salk Institute as a Visiting Fellow and a year as Regents' Fellow at UC Davis. From 2003-2007 he was Chief Executive of the UK Medical Research Council.

Colin has been President of the British Neuroscience Association, the Physiological Society and the Biosciences Federation (now the Society of Biology). He is a Fellow of the Royal Society and the Academy of Medical Sciences and an Honorary Fellow of the Royal College of Physicians, the British Pharmacological Society, the Society of Biology, the Royal Society of Medicine and the British Association for the Advancement of Science. He is a Member of Academia Europaea and the European Academy of Sciences and Arts, and a Foreign Member of several academies of science, including the Royal Netherlands Academy, the National Academy of Sciences of India and the Chinese Academy of Engineering. He holds ten Honorary Degrees. In 2012 he won the People's Republic of China Friendship Award, China's highest honour for a foreigner.

He has won several prizes for his work, including the Robert Bing Prize for Neurology and Neurophysiology (Swiss Academy of Medical Sciences), the Prix du Docteur Robert Netter (Académie Nationale de Médecine, France), the Osler Medal (Royal College of Physicians), Alcon Prize (Alcon Research Institute), "for research relevant to clinical ophthalmology", the Baly Gold Medal (Royal College of Physicians), the BioIndustry Association Award "for

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outstanding personal contribution to bioscience”, the Edinburgh Medal (City of Edinburgh), the Harveian Oration (Royal College of Physicians), the Ferrier Prize & Lecture (The Royal Society) and the Ralph Gerard Prize “for outstanding contributions to the field of neuroscience” (Society for Neuroscience).

In addition to his academic career, Colin Blakemore has devoted a substantial fraction of his time to public engagement. He has written a number of books about science for the popular market, including *Mechanics of the Mind* (American Library Journal list of best scientific and technical books) and *The Mind Machine* (runner-up for the Science Book Prize). He has made some 700 radio and television broadcasts, including the 1976 BBC Reith Lectures, a 13-part series on brain and mind for BBC2, and the Royal Institution Christmas Lectures. He has written for most British national newspapers and writes an occasional Opinion column, as well as book reviews, for *The Times*. He was President of the British Association for the Advancement of Science (now the British Science Association) in 1997-8 and he is Honorary President of the Association of British Science Writers. In 1978, he won the Phi Beta Kappa Award in Science “for contribution to the literature of science”, in 1990 the John P McGovern Science and Society Medal, and in 1989 the Royal Society's Michael Faraday Prize. He was closely involved in the establishment of the European Dana Alliance for the Brain, which is committed to public communication about research on the brain.

In 1978-9, he was Lethaby Professor at the Royal College of Art. Since 1983 he has been Honorary President of the World Cultural Council, and from 2014 he will be President. From 1994-8 he was a Fellow of the World Economic Forum. He chaired the Royal Society's recent review of neuroscience and public policy, *Brain Waves*, which included reports on the implications of brain research for education, the Law and conflict. He is currently Chair of the General Advisory Committee on Science at the Food Standards Agency, a Commissioner of the UK Drug Policy Commission and a member of Legal & General's Longevity Science Advisory Group. He works for a number of UK charities: he is President of the Motor Neurone Disease Association and Brain Tumour UK, Vice-President and Trustee of the PSP Association, and Vice-Patron of SANE. He chairs the Selection Committee for the €1 million *Brain Prize*.