

## **Mariusz Ratajczak biography**

Mariusz Ratajczak (MAHR' -ee-oozh RAT' -uh-chek), a dual citizen of the United States and Poland, has studied the biology of stem cells for nearly 25 years.

Director of the stem cell biology program at the University of Louisville's James Graham Brown Cancer Center since 2001, he also serves as a professor in the university's microbiology and immunology department. Before joining U of L, he worked for 11 years at the University of Pennsylvania, first as a senior research investigator and later as associate research professor in pathology and laboratory medicine.

In Poland, he was board-certified in internal medicine in 1986 and worked as associate professor and research fellow at the Center for Clinical and Experimental Medicine at the Polish Academy of Sciences in Warsaw until he moved to the United States.

Ratajczak holds an M.D. from the Pomeranian School of Medicine and a Ph.D in experimental hematology and D.Sci. in bone marrow transplantation from the Polish Academy of Sciences. His research in the United States, funded primarily by the National Institutes of Health, is focused on the spread of soft tissue tumors and lung cancer. He also has studied the role of certain proteins in leukemia and the molecular basis of rare blood disorders that can develop into leukemia.

Ratajczak's awards include the Annual Award and Medal of Sniadecki from the Polish Academy of Sciences in 2005 as well as the Individual Award for Scientific Achievement in 2004 and Nicolaus Copernicus Award in 1980, both from the Polish Ministry of Health. He received the Chad Kopple Spirit Award from the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society in 2002 and was made an honorary member of the Polish Society of Cytobiology and Histochemistry in 2001.

He has been a grant reviewer for the National Heart, Lung and Blood Institute in the areas of stem cell therapy and the study of hemostasis and thrombosis.

He belongs to the International Society of Experimental Hematology, American Society for Cancer Research, American Society of Hematology, Polish Medical Society and two Polish Academy of Sciences committees, one focusing on molecular pathology and another focusing on experimental hematology.

He has published more than 200 peer-reviewed papers and is editor-in-chief of the Central European Journal of Biology, associate editor of *Folia Histochemica et Cytobiologica*, section editor of *Leukemia* and editorial board member of *Stem Cells and Experimental Hematology*.