

Prof. Dr. Mehmet ÖZTÜRK*Professor*

Department of Medical Biology and Genetics

Faculty of Medicine

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Izmir, Turkey.

Field: Molecular Biology and Genetics

Prof. Dr. Mehmet ÖZTÜRK is a Professor of Medical Biology and Genetics at Izmir Tinaztepe University, Faculty of Medicine, Turkey. He completed his undergraduate studies at the Faculty of Pharmacy, Gazi University, Turkey and his PhD at the Faculty of Pharmacy, Paris University, France. Between 1985 and 1992, he worked as a Post-Doctoral Fellow, then as Assistant Professor of Biochemistry at Harvard Medical School and Massachusetts General Hospital in the USA.

In 1992, he became the Founding Director of the Molecular Oncology Laboratory at Leon Bérard Cancer Center in Lyon, France, and worked as INSERM Research Director at the same center between 1992-1995. In 1995, he was invited to Bilkent University to establish the Department of Molecular Biology and Genetics where he served as director until 2007. Between September 2013 and February 2018, he worked as the Founding Director of Izmir International Biomedicine and Genome Institute affiliated to Dokuz Eylül University. He transformed this institution into Izmir Biomedicine and Genome Center (IBG), which is Turkey's first national public research institution in the field of health in 2018 and directed IBG until 2021 before joining Izmir Tinaztepe University.

His seminal research work is on genetic causes of human cancer, including inherited and carcinogen-induced genetic mutations causing childhood cancers and liver cancer, respectively. As a Pharmacist specializing in Molecular Biology, Prof. Öztürk has worked for many years for the production of biotechnological drugs based on gene engineering and recombinant proteins. His high impact research, including over 100 articles, referenced more than 9100 times (H-factor: 44), and nearly 10 patents, have made him a world known scientist.

Prof. Öztürk was presented with the 'Cecile Cerveux Cancer Award' in France. He also received 'Golden Mortar Award' and 'TÜBİTAK-TWAS Science Award' in Turkey. The Department of Molecular Biology and Genetics that he created at Bilkent University received 'Vehbi Koç Award'. Furthermore, Prof. Öztürk is an elected member to several science academies including EMBO, TWAS and Turkish Academy of Sciences.