

## **Prof. Michel Revel**

Michel Revel (born 1938 in France) has M.D. and Ph.D. degrees. In 1968, he joined the Weizmann Institute of Science, Rehovot, Israel, where he has been a full Professor since 1973, heading for several periods the Departments of Virology and of Molecular Genetics. He is an emeritus Professor since 2010. Prof. Revel is best known for his work on the mechanism of action of interferon and the cloning of the genes for human interferon beta (IFN- $\beta$ ) and interleukin-6 (IL-6). He developed the first efficient genetic engineering production of a protein (IFN- $\alpha$ ) in animal cells (CHO cells). He was Chief Scientist of InterPharm (Serono group), which produced the recombinant IFN- $\alpha$  (Rebif), a leading drug for treatment of Multiple Sclerosis, now 20 years in the market and sold in 90 countries by Merck Kga. Since 2010, Prof. Revel is co-founder and Chief Scientist of Kadimastem, an Israeli company producing human tissues by differentiation of pluripotent stem cells (ESC). The first product of Kadimastem, AstroRx, has just been approved for clinical trial in Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis (ALS). Kadimastem also develops ESC-derived islet-like cells for the treatment of diabetes. Prof. Revel has received the Israel Prize for Medicine in 1999 and the Emet Prize in 2004. He was elected at the Israel National Academy of Science and Humanities in 2005. He served as chairman of the National Biotechnology Committee of Israel (1999-2002), and chairman of the National Bioethics Committee (2004-10). Prof. Revel has published 3 books and over 220 peer-reviewed scientific articles. His bioethics writings, emphasizing viewpoints of the Jewish tradition are at: [//bioethics.academy.ac.il](http://bioethics.academy.ac.il).