

Dr. Ricordi completed high school with a perfect score and all graduate and post-graduate studies with the highest scores and honors in Milan, Italy. After medical school, board certification and military service as a medical officer in the Italian Air Force, he moved to Washington University in St. Louis, Missouri, where he received an NIH Research Trainee Award (1986-1988) working with islet cell transplant pioneer Prof. Paul E. Lacy. Dr. Ricordi subsequently spent four years (1989-1993) with transplant pioneer, Prof. Thomas E. Starzl, as Director of Cellular Transplantation at the University of Pittsburgh Transplantation Institute. Since 1993, he has been working at the University of Miami (UM) where at the age of 35 he became one of the youngest full professors with tenure and director of a Center of Excellence. He is now the Stacy Joy Goodman Professor of Surgery, Distinguished Professor of Medicine, Professor of Biomedical Engineering, and Microbiology and Immunology at the University of Miami (UM), Florida, where he serves as Director of the Diabetes Research Institute (DRI; www.diabetesresearch.org) and the Cell Transplant Program.

Acknowledged by his peers as one of the world's leading scientists in diabetes cure focused research and cell transplantation, Dr. Ricordi is well-known for inventing the machine that made it possible to isolate large numbers of islet cells (insulin-producing cells) from the human pancreas and for performing the first series of successful clinical islet transplants that reversed diabetes after implantation of donor purified islets into the liver of recipients with diabetes. The procedure is now used by laboratories performing clinical islet transplants worldwide. Dr. Ricordi has also developed highly innovative strategies with the objective to transplant cells and organs without the continuous requirement for anti-rejection drugs.

Dr. Ricordi was president of the Cell Transplant Society (1992-94), co-founder and chairman of the National Diabetes Research Coalition (Chairman 1997), co-founder and president (1999-2001) of the International Association for Pancreas and Islet Transplantation (IPITA), and a member of the council of The Transplantation Society (2002-2008). He also served on the council of the American Society of Transplant Surgeons (2000-2002), on the National Institutes of Health (NIH-NIAID) Expert Panel on clinical approaches for tolerance induction, on the FDA Biologic Response Modifiers Advisory Committee, on the NIH/NCRR Islet Cell Resources (ICRs) Executive Committee, on the NIH-NIDDK Strategic Planning Committee and on the NIH-NIAID Expert Panel on Transplantation Research. He has also been serving on several NIH study sections, including Surgery, Anesthesia and Trauma, the General Clinical Research Centers, Small Business Innovative Research, the Immune Tolerance Network, in addition to serving as a reviewer for several international funding agencies.

Dr. Ricordi is currently serving as Chairperson of the NIH funded Clinical Islet Transplantation (CIT) Consortium, which standardized cell manufacturing protocols across centers in North America and Europe and just completed the first multicenter FDA Phase III trial towards a BLA application for what could become the first biologically active cell product approved in the US by the FDA.

Dr. Ricordi has received numerous honors and awards, including the 2001 Nessim Habib World Prize in Surgery (University of Geneva) for developing a technology that significantly contributed to the advancement of a surgical field. He was awarded the 2002 Outstanding Scientific Achievement Award and delivered the Lilly Lecture at the 2002 Congress of the American Diabetes Association. He also delivered the opening plenary (Galileo Lecture) at the European Association for the Study of Diabetes (EASD) Congress in Rome (2008). In 2009 Dr. Ricordi was Knighted by the President of the Republic of Italy in the highest Order of the Republic (the Order of Merit) with the Knighthood decoration of Cavaliere Ufficiale and in 2010 he was only surgeon and one of the few ever inducted into the Association of American Physicians (AAP). In 2011 Dr. Ricordi received the D-Life's Top Award for making the biggest difference in diabetes in 2010 (international web-based public vote competition).

Dr. Ricordi is currently serving on the editorial boards of CellR4 (Editor-in-Chief; www.cellr4.org) and Cell Transplantation (Co-Editor-in-Chief). He has served also on the boards of the American Journal of Transplantation (Associate Editor), Transplantation, Transplantation Proceedings, Tissue Engineering, and Graft (Editor-in-Chief, 1998-2002).

Since 2004, Dr. Ricordi has been serving as Chairman of the Board of ISMETT (Mediterranean Institute of Transplantation and Advanced Therapies; <http://www.ismett.edu>). He was appointed President of the Ri.MED Foundation by the Italian Prime Minister in July 2013 (<http://www.fondazionerimed.eu>). Ri.MED represents one of the largest European investments in Biomedical Research, Biotechnologies and Regenerative Medicine.

Dr. Ricordi also serves as President of The Cure Alliance (www.thecurealliance.org) and Chairman of the Diabetes Research Institute Federation (www.diabetesresearch.org), coordinating and promoting cure focused research at over 24 leading institutions worldwide, while further developing Telescience platform technologies to eliminate geographic barriers to scientific collaboration. These initiatives now allow scientists and project teams from around the world to synergize efforts and work together like if they are in the same physical space.

Dr. Ricordi has authored over 700 scientific publications, and as an inventor, he has been awarded 19 patents.

Diabetes Research Institute

<http://www.diabetesresearch.org>

The Cure Alliance

<http://www.cellr4.org>