



Richard R. Ernst

Prof. Dr Richard R. Ernst was director of the Laboratory of Physical Chemistry at the Swiss Federal Institute of Technology (ETH) Zurich until he retires in 1998.

He was born in 1933 in Winterthur, Switzerland. In 1962, he finished his studies at the ETH Zurich with a dissertation on nuclear magnetic resonance (NMR) in the discipline of physical chemistry. In 1963 he joined Varian Associates in California as a scientist. In 1968 he returned to ETH Zurich and became Full Professor in Physical Chemistry in 1976.

Since 1968, he was head of a research group concentrating on methodological developments in liquid state and solid state NMR. He developed two-dimensional NMR and many novel pulse techniques. He contributed to the development of medical magnetic resonance tomography, and in collaboration with Prof. Kurt Wüthrich to the development of the NMR structure determination of biopolymers in solution.

In addition he was engaged in numerous activities. He was president of the Research Council of ETH Zurich and he is presently, among other duties, a member of the Swiss Science Council, of the COST Committee, of the Foundation Marcel Benoist, of the Hochschulrat of the Technische Universität Munich, and Vicepresident of the Board of Bruker AG, Fällanden. He is on the editorial board of 10 scientific journals.

He received numerous honours, including the Nobel Prize for Chemistry in 1991.