

Asifa Akhtar, Dr., Prof.

German

Institution: Max Planck Institute of Immunobiology and Epigenetics, Stübeweg 51, 79108 Freiburg

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Position: Director of Max Planck Institute of Immunobiology and Epigenetics, Vice President of Biology & Medicine Section of the Max Planck Society

Academic education including academic degrees

1990 – 1993 Bachelor in Science (B.Sc.) (First Class Degree); University College London (UCL), UK

Scientific graduation

1993 – 1997 Doctor of Philosophy (PhD), Imperial Cancer Research Fund (ICRF), London, UK

Employment

Since 2020 Vice President, Biology and Medicine Section, Max Planck Society

2015 – 2017 Managing Director, Max Planck Institute of Immunobiology and Epigenetics, Freiburg

Since 2013 Director, Department of Chromatin Regulation, MPI-IE, Freiburg

2009 – 2013 Max Planck Investigator, MPI-IE, Freiburg

2001 – 2009 Group Leader, European Molecular Biology Laboratory (EMBL), Gene Expression Program, Heidelberg

1999 – 2000 Postdoctoral Research Scientist, Adolf-Butenandt Institute, Department of Molecular Biology, Munich

1997 – 1999 Postdoctoral Research Scientist, EMBL Heidelberg

Other activities, awards and honours

2023 International Ellis Island Medal of Honor

2022 Christa Seric-Geiger Prize

2021 Gottfried Wilhelm Leibniz Prize

Since 2020 Board member of DFG-SFB1425

Since 2019 Vice Speaker and board member of DFG-SFB1381

2019-2021 Elected Chair of the Perspectives Committee for the Biomedical Section, Max Planck Society

2019 Elected Member of Leopoldina National Academy of Sciences

2017 Wilhelm Feldberg Prize

Since 2015 Elected member of the Intersectional Board of the Scientific Council, Max Planck Society

Since 2014 Elected member of Max Planck Perspective Committee

2013 Elected EMBO Member

2013 Awarded FEBS National Lecture

2012 – 2020 Co-speaker and board member for DFG-SFB992

2010 – 2015 Co-coordinator of the EU FP7-funded Network of Excellence “EpiGeneSys”

2008 European Life Science Organization (ELSO) Early Career Award

2006 – 2009 Member of EMBL Standing Advisory Committee.

2004 – 2009 Board member and elected representative of the Newly Established Teams (NET) in the EU FP6 funded “Epigenome” Network of Excellence.

2002 – 2009 Member of EMBL Graduate Student Committee and EICAT Committee.

2002 – 2009 Member of EMBL monoclonal antibody user committee.

2002 – 2004 EMBO YIP PhD student course. Evaluated as the best lecturer.

1993 Lilian Clarke Prize (UCL) - Best Biology student; Joan-Haxesman Prize (UCL) - Best project; Elizabeth Graham Hocart Prize (UCL) - Most recommended student by external examiners; Certificate of Merit (UCL) - Academic Achievements.