

First KIA Laureate Applied Research

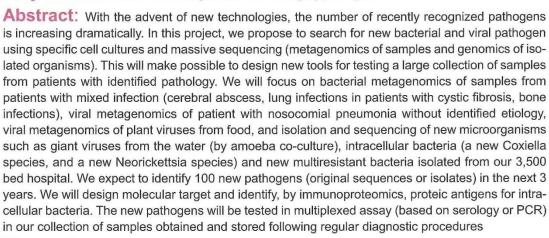


Nationality: FrenchDate of birth: 1952

Position: Professor and Director of Laboratory

Scientific affiliation: Faculty of Medicine and Timone Hospital, Marseille, France

Project title: Clinical microbiogenomics of emerging pathogens



Biography: Prof. Raoult run the leading world laboratory for intracellular bacteria, have 1380 references in Pubmed, run the largest clinical microbiology laboratory in France and has been the mentor of many students. He was first to grow T. whipplei and in vitro and many rickettsiae, he described first many rickettsial diseases. Prof. Raoult, Md-PhD, was first trained in internal medicine then in tropical medicine and infectious diseases. He is a rickettsiologist, ie a microbiologist able to grow very fastidious organism. As such he participates to the discovery of several new species and diseases including R. africae and African tick bite fever, R. slovaca, R.mongolotimonae and R. aeschlimanii. He described new techniques to grow fastidious bacteria that allows the first reproducible growth of several bacteria such as R. felis and T. whipplei. He participated to the discovery /first description of over 60 pathogens. He also described diagnostic tools (including serology and PCR) and antibiotic susceptibility testing of these organisms. He proposed new therapeutic strategies for rickettsial diseases and specifically Q fever. Recently, he reported the complete genome sequence of Rickettsia conorii, Rickettsia felis and T. whipplei and the discovery of the biggest virus identified to date (Mimivirus). He also reported the isolation of new microorganisms, resisting to water amoebae, as pneumonia agents. He developed the use of dental pulp to identify the agent of ancient diseases including plague and typhus. He received several awards in France, the excellence award of the ESCMID 2002 and Trop Medecine award of Royal Academy of Belgium and give the Smadel lecture at the IDSA in 2003. He is full professor of medicine and was president of Marseille's University for 5 years. He was the consellor of the french ministry of health for infectious diseases and bioterrorism for 2 years. He lead french National Reference Center for Rickettsial diseases and a WHO reference center for arthropod borne bacterial diseases. He wrote most of the chapters on Rickettsial diseases in reference books (Bergey's Manual, Harrisson, Mandell). A bacterial genus Raoultella was created in his honor.