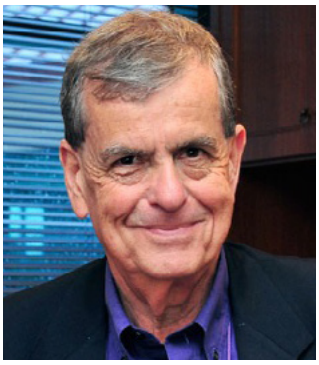
AARON CIECHANOVER



Aaron Ciechanover is an Israeli biologist and Distinguished Research Professor at the Technion, awarded the 2004 Nobel Prize in Chemistry for the discovery of ubiquitin-mediated protein degradation—the process by which cells tag unwanted proteins for destruction.

ACADEMIC AND PROFESSIONAL CAREER

Born in Haifa in 1947, Ciechanover developed an early fascination with biology before earning his M.D. from the Hebrew University of Jerusalem in 1973. After national service as a military physician, he pursued doctoral studies at the Technion, receiving his D.Sc. in 1981. Working with colleagues in Israel and the United States, he helped uncover the ubiquitin system: the process by which cells mark defective or unneeded proteins with a small protein called ubiquitin, signaling them for breakdown. This discovery overturned the prevailing assumption that protein degradation was largely passive, revealing instead a tightly regulated system essential to cell division, DNA repair, immune defence, and protein quality control.

After postdoctoral training at MIT, Ciechanover returned to Israel in 1984 to establish his own laboratory at the Technion, where he has remained ever since. His research expanded understanding of how ubiquitination governs the degradation of key regulatory proteins, with major implications for cancer, neurodegenerative disease, and drug development. The insights emerging from his laboratory reshaped modern cell biology and opened new avenues for treating diseases rooted in faulty protein regulation.

For this work, Ciechanover shared the 2004 Nobel Prize in Chemistry with Avram Hershko and Irwin Rose. He has also received the Albert Lasker Award for Basic Medical Research (2000), the EMET Prize (2002), and the Israel Prize (2003), among many other honors, and is a member of numerous scientific academies worldwide.

A committed advocate for science education, Ciechanover lectures worldwide and continues to mentor young researchers, emphasizing curiosity, rigor, and persistence as the foundations of discovery. He remains an active voice in public discussions about the value of basic research and its long, often unpredictable path toward real-world impact.

AWARDS AND HONOURS

2016 – Member, German Academy of Sciences Leopoldina.
2011 – Humboldt Research Prize, Alexander von Humboldt Foundation.
2009 – Honorary Doctorate in Science, University of Cambodia.
2008 – Honorary Doctor of Science (Hon. D.Sc.), National Cheng Kung University (Taiwan).
2006 – Sir Hans Krebs Medal.
2005 – Golden Plate Award, American Academy of Achievement.
2004 – Nobel Prize in Chemistry, shared with Avram Hershko and Irwin Rose, for the discovery of ubiquitin-mediated protein degradation.
2003 – Israel Prize in Biology.
2002 – EMET Prize.
2000 – Albert Lasker Award for Basic Medical Research.

Academy Memberships

- Israel Academy of Sciences and Humanities
- Pontifical Academy of Sciences
- National Academy of Sciences of Ukraine
- Russian Academy of Sciences
- Foreign Associate, United States National Academy of Sciences