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Claude Lenfant, MD

Dr. Claude Lenfant served as Director of the National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute (NHLBI), a component of the National Institutes of Health (NIH) from July 1982 through August 2003. The Institute's mandate is to improve the public health through research on cardiovascular, lung, and blood diseases, sleep disorders, and transfusion medicine. The Fiscal Year 2003 annual budget was nearly \$2.8 billion.

Prior to his appointment to the position of Director, NHLBI, Dr. Lenfant was director of the NIH Fogarty International Center (1981-1982) and Director of the NHLBI Division of Lung Diseases (1972-1980).

Dr. Lenfant came to the NIH from the University of Washington, Seattle, where he was a Professor of Medicine and Physiology and Biophysics. He received his medical degree from the University of Paris in 1956, and subsequently completed research fellowships at the University of Buffalo (now SUNY at Buffalo) and Columbia University. He holds Honorary Professorships from the National Yang-Ming Medical College, Taipei, Taiwan, from the Universidad Peruana Cayetano Heredia, Lima, Peru, and from the Moscow University, Moscow, Russia. He received Honoris Causa degrees from the State University of New York at Buffalo; Wake Forest University; the University of Modena, Italy; the University of Montpellier, France; and the Medical College of Ohio, Toledo. Dr. Lenfant is the author or co-author of more than 308 publications.

Dr. Lenfant has been recognized, nationally and internationally, for his exceptional leadership and achievements. His honors include receipt of the American Medical Association's Dr. Nathan Davis Award and election to the Institute of Medicine of the US National Academy of Sciences, to the USSR (now Russia) Academy of Medical Sciences, to the French National Academy of Medicine, to the Royal College of Physicians (London) and to the International Academy of Cardiovascular Sciences. He is the recipient of the American Heart Association's Gold Heart Award and the US Presidential Distinguished Executive Rank Award. He received the Award for Services to Human Health from the European Lung Foundation, the Lifetime Achievement Award from the American College of Chest Physicians, and the Outstanding Lifetime Service Award from the American Society of Hematology. He was recently elected Honorary Member of the Latin America Society for Hypertension.

Dr Lenfant is currently the President of the World Hypertension League and in addition works on issues of chronic disease control in developing countries. He also serves as the chair of the Awareness/Dissemination Working Group of the Global Alliance for Chronic Respiratory Diseases of the World Health Organization. He is the Executive Director of the Global Initiative on Chronic Lung Disease (GOLD), the Global Initiative on Asthma (GINA) and the International Coalition for COPD (ICC)