



ELIZABETH G. NABEL, M.D.
Director, National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute, NIH

Elizabeth G. Nabel, Director of the National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute (NHLBI) of the National Institutes of Health, joined the NHLBI in September 1999 as the Institute's Scientific Director of Clinical Research. Previously she had been Chief, Division of Cardiology, Director, Cardiovascular Research Center, and Professor of Internal Medicine and Physiology at the University of Michigan.

Dr. Nabel is a board certified cardiologist who has taken care of many patients with cardiovascular disease, including women with heart disease.

A native of Minneapolis, Minnesota, Dr. Nabel received her medical education at Cornell University Medical College before moving to Brigham and Women's Hospital and Harvard University where she completed an internship and residency in internal medicine and a clinical and research fellowship in cardiovascular medicine. She joined the faculty at the University of Michigan in 1987 as an Assistant Professor of Medicine, and rose through the ranks becoming Director of the Cardiovascular Research Center in 1992, Professor of Internal Medicine and Physiology in 1994, and Director of the Division of Cardiology in 1997. While at the University of Michigan, she became known for her research in the field of vascular biology and molecular cardiology and for her gene transfer studies of the cardiovascular system.

Dr. Nabel has had a long-standing interest in genetic and cellular therapies for cardiovascular disease, having developed techniques for the introduction and expression of recombinant genes into blood vessels *in vivo*. Her group has conducted a number of basic studies, investigating the expression and function of growth factor, cytokine, and cell cycle genes in the vasculature. These basic studies led to several clinical gene therapy trials of cardiovascular diseases in the United States and Europe.

Dr. Nabel's career has intertwined basic research and translation to clinical medicine and practice. She has been a champion of the concept "from bench to bedside." Her current research interests are focused on the regulation of vascular growth and the molecular genetics of vascular diseases. Dr. Nabel has investigated the regulation of smooth muscle cell growth by cell cycle regulatory proteins, a process important for the development of atherosclerosis and restenosis. Her Vascular Biology Lab at NHLBI has characterized the role of the cyclin-dependent kinase inhibitors on vascular proliferation, inflammation and progenitor cells using a variety of genetic tools. These proteins are important negative regulators of vascular

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smooth muscle cell growth and vascular inflammation, and work from her lab has opened up new avenues for therapeutic targets in the vasculature. She is also conducting clinical studies examining genomics and proteomics in vascular diseases, such as one study of in-stent restenosis.

The Vascular Biology Lab has published more than 200 papers and Dr. Nabel has mentored 42 students and fellows associated with her lab.

Dr. Nabel has received numerous awards, including the Distinguished Achievement Award from the Basic Cardiovascular Sciences Council of the American Heart Association and the Amgen-Scientific Achievement Award from the American Society for Biochemistry and Molecular Biology. She is an elected member of the American Society of Clinical Investigation, the Association of American Physicians, and the Institute of Medicine of the National Academy of Sciences. In 2001, Dr. Nabel received an honorary doctoral degree from the University of Leuven, Leuven, Belgium.

Dr. Nabel is an editorial board member of *The New England Journal of Medicine*. She has been a reviewing editor for *Science* and an editorial board member of the *Journal of Clinical Investigation*. She also served as a consulting editor for *Circulation*, *Circulation Research*, and *Arteriosclerosis, Thrombosis, and Vascular Biology*.

Dr. Nabel has served on American Heart Association committees including: the Board of Directors; the Scientific Publishing Committee (Chair); the Atherosclerosis, Thrombosis and Vascular Biology Council (Chair); the executive committee of the Basic Cardiovascular Sciences Council, and the Science Advisory and Coordinating Committee. Other national and international leadership roles include President of the North American Vascular Biology Organization, Councilor of the American Society of Clinical Investigation, member of the Board of Directors for the Keystone Symposium, member of the Scientific Advisory Board of The Stanley J. Sarnoff Endowment for Cardiovascular Science, and as a member of the membership committee of the Institutes of Medicine. She has also served on international advisory committees including the Center for Transgene Technology and Gene Therapy and the Center for Molecular and Vascular Biology at the University of Leuven, and the International Vascular Biology Organization.

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