

Philip Ashton-Rickardt, Chair in Immunology, Imperial College Administration

Professor Philip Ashton-Rickardt received his PhD from the University of Edinburgh on vaccines to Hepatitis B virus. He left for the USA as an MRC Travelling Post-doctoral Research at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. Here he demonstrated that T-lymphocytes are intrinsically reactive to normal cells, which explains the causes of some autoimmune diseases. While on the faculty at the University of Chicago, he made major discoveries in understanding immunological memory. In 1999, he showed that memory T-lymphocytes are derived from cell destined to die and so must escape death to survive. In 2000, he was awarded the Presidential Early Career Award for Scientists and Engineers by President William Clinton in recognition of this work. At Imperial College London he has established new programs to identify targets that control the development of beneficial and disease causing memory T lymphocytes.