

Eli Keshet – Professor of Molecular Biology, The Hebrew University of Jerusalem

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Prof. Keshet earned B.Sc and Ph.D. degrees from the Hebrew University of Jerusalem. He conducted a post-doctoral research at the laboratory of Prof Howard Temin (University of Wisconsin, USA) studying the roles of retroviruses in cancer causation. He was a visiting scientist at the US National Cancer Institute, The Curie Institute in Paris and was a consultant to a number of national and international pharmaceutical companies.

Prof. Keshet's research at the Faculty of Medicine of the Hebrew University which he joined in 1982 focus on the vascular system and the complex processes of its generation (Angiogenesis) and maintenance. His breakthrough research gained seminal insights on the factor promoting the formation of new blood vessels and controlling their survival, namely, the factor known as Vascular Endothelial Growth Factor (VEGF). His findings contributed to development of new treatments for cancer and blinding eye diseases distinguished by unwarranted growth of blood vessels. Other studies of Prof. Keshet uncovered the underlying mechanisms of retina and brain diseases effecting premature newborns caused by vascular injuries.

Prof. Keshet's studies were published in the leading literature and are among the most cited in the field. He won several prizes, including the E.M.E.T prize (2006), The Rothchild Prize (2014) Teva Founders Prize (2015) and the Beneditt Merit Award for cardiovascular research (2015).