

Prof. Susan M. Gasser

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Susan M. Gasser graduated with honors in biophysics at the University of Chicago. In 1982, she obtained her doctorate in biochemistry from the University of Basel.

In 1986, she started her own research program on chromatin and chromosome organization in yeast at the Swiss Institute for Experimental Cancer Research (ISREC), combining genetics, microscopy and biochemical approaches. In 2001, she was appointed full professor at the University of Geneva. And for 15 years, from 2004 to 2019, she was the director of the Friedrich Miescher Institute for Biomedical Research. She was a molecular biology professor at the University of Basel until 2021 and works as a visiting professor at the University of Lausanne since January 2020.

Susan Gasser was a member of the Swiss National Science Foundation's (SNSF) Research Council for nine years, as well as the vice-president and president of the European Molecular Biology Organization (EMBO) Council. She chaired the Commission on Gender Equality of the SNSF from 2014 to 2019. Since 2017, she is a member of the ETH Board, which strategically supervises Switzerland's leading technology schools (EPFZ and EPFL). She is also a member of the Swiss Science Council, which advises the government on strategic issues related to science and technology.

She is a member of scientific boards in several European research institutes, such as the Francis Crick Institute in London and the European Molecular Biology Laboratory (EMBL) in Heidelberg. She has been elected to the Académie de France, the EMBO, the American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS), and the Swiss Academy of Medical Sciences. She has received numerous scientific awards, among others the Swiss Latsis Prize in 1991, the Otto Naegeli Prize for Biomedical Research in 2006, the Prix International de l'INSERM in 2011, the FEBS | EMBO Women in Science Award in 2012, as well as honorary doctorates from the University of Lausanne and the Charles University in Prague.