

2022 Mildred S. Christian Career Achievement Award Winner

Ruth A Roberts, PhD, ATS, FBTS, ERT, FRSB, FRCPath

Professor Roberts received her BSc in Biochemistry and her PhD in Medical Oncology from the University of Manchester, UK before conducting postdoctoral research with Cancer Research UK. In 1990 Ruth joined Zeneca Central Toxicology Laboratory as Head of Cancer Biology where she worked with her team to elucidate the mechanisms of rodent nongenotoxic hepatocarcinogenesis.

In 2002 Ruth joined Aventis in Paris, France as Director of Toxicology with responsibility for the drug project portfolio and for molecular toxicology approaches to problem solving. In 2004 Ruth joined AstraZeneca as Director of Toxicology, progressing to be Global Head of Regulatory Safety where she oversaw multiple drug projects at all stages of development. In 2015 Ruth left AstraZeneca to cofound ApconiX, an integrated toxicology and ion channel company that brings together a team of world-renowned nonclinical safety experts with over 300 years of drug discovery and development experience. ApconiX has now grown to more than 45 scientists working with academia, government and industry to help guide science-led decision making at all stages of drug discovery and development. In 2016, Ruth was appointed Chair and Director of Drug Discovery at Birmingham University, UK where she leads the Birmingham Drug Discovery Hub, translating academic innovation into patient benefit.

Professor Roberts is former president of EUROTOX, former president of the British Toxicology Society (BTS) and was elected fellow of the Royal College of Pathologists in 2012 and of the Royal Society of Biology in 2014. She is currently Vice Chair of the Health and Environmental Science Institute (HESI) Board and has co-chaired the HESI Biomarkers of Neurotoxicity scientific committee since its inception in 2015. She has been active in the Academy of Toxicological Sciences since 2005 first as a fellow, then as a board member and then as president between 2018 and 2019.

Professor Roberts was the recipient of the SOT Achievement award in 2002, the EUROTOX Bo Holmstedt Award in 2009 and the SOT 2018 Founders award, given in recognition of outstanding leadership in fostering the role of toxicological sciences in safety decision making. With >150 publications in peer reviewed journals, she is committed to developing and implementing science-led approaches to drug discovery and development and is especially interested in ensuring that academic research achieves its translational potential.