



**Stephan R. Targan, MD**

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Dr. Targan began his career at UCLA School of Medicine in 1978. In 1992, he moved his laboratories and practice to establish the IBD Center at Cedars-Sinai, which has grown from eight to more than 130 members today.

Dr. Targan has cared for thousands of IBD patients from California and around the world. He has trained four generations of medical students, interns, residents and fellows. It has been said that every patient with IBD and every physician treating patients with IBD has been impacted or influenced by Dr. Targan's work.

Dr. Targan is a proponent of integrated science leading to personalized medicine. He is considered the originator of the concept of disease heterogeneity in IBD and the identification and use of biomarkers to stratify phenotypically distinct subpopulations for diagnosis, prognosis and targeted therapeutic selection in IBD.

Targan is credited with the discovery that TNF- $\alpha$  is elevated in Crohn's disease mucosa. This finding was subsequently translated to clinical studies of therapeutic TNF- $\alpha$  suppression reported in a landmark clinical trial reported in the *New England Journal of Medicine* and mark the advent of the age of biologic therapy for IBD.

In seminal work, Dr. Targan demonstrated that TL1A is central to protection against invading pathogens and to generation/perpetuation of inflammation and fibrosis in IBD. He has shown that blocking TL1A ameliorates inflammation and reverses fibrosis and this molecule is being tested as a new IBD therapeutic.

In an innovative collaboration with Cedars-Sinai Regenerative Medicine Institute, genotype specific human intestinal organoids are being generated from stem cells and used in a novel technology to assess impact of gene defects on the gut.

In 2013, Dr. Targan established the Drug Discovery and Development Unit (IBD3) at Cedars-Sinai. IBD3 is the only such unit embedded within an academic research program. Independently and with industry, IBD3 identifies therapeutic targets and accelerates the development process by defining patient populations most likely to benefit from target manipulation. Dr. Targan is a founder of two successful pharmaceutical companies.

Dr. Targan has achieved singular success in receipt of continuous extramural funding for his research and is among the top 5% of all NIH funded investigators. With well over 300 peer-reviewed articles, Dr. Targan has published in nearly every influential scientific journal, including *The New England Journal*, *Science* and *Nature*.

Dr. Targan received the CCFA's Scientific Achievement award in 2009, and was named a Cedars-Sinai Pioneer in Medicine in 2014.

In 2017, Dr. Targan was awarded the Sherman Prize for Excellence in Crohn's and Colitis for his exceptional and pioneering achievements.