



**Dick Heinegård**, M.D., Ph.D., received his training in medicine and in science largely at the Lund University; for a year he was a visiting scientist at the Kennedy Institute of Rheumatology in London and at the NIH in Bethesda. In 1974, he received his Ph.D. from Lund University and appointed as professor of medical and physiological chemistry at the Department of Experimental Medical Science, Lund University, Sweden, in 1983. During 1985 and 1994, he was chairman of the Department and during 1998

and 2004 he was director of the national program on research on inflammation. Dick Heinegård has received several scientific awards including the Steindler award presented by the Orthopedic Research Society, the EULAR (European league against rheumatism) award, the basic science award by the Osteoarthritis Research Society International, as well as number of awards in Scandinavia including the Jahre prize for medical research for his work. A major research interest of Dick Heinegård, evolved over the years, is to understand the biology and pathology of diseases involving the musculo-skeletal system, particularly with regard to cartilage (including the intervertebral disc), bone and tendon. In this work he has identified, purified, characterized and determined primary sequences for a number of extracellular matrix proteins, including those interacting specifically with cell surface receptors. In subsequent work posttranslational modifications and their roles in functions of proteins have been characterized. A major focus currently is to understand and identify functional domains of the proteins and their roles in matrix assembly, in modulating cellular activities and how and by which enzymes they are targeted in matrix breakdown, both in normal turnover and in pathology. Recent work includes the use of fragments of matrix molecules as molecular markers of disease processes, particularly in joint disease and also how such fragments activate innate immune responses. He has published some 290 peer-reviewed primary papers in science and 50 book chapters/reviews. He was the president of the International Society for Matrix Biology during 1999-2000. Dick Heinegård has served or serves as an editor as well as on editorial boards for several journals in general biochemistry as well as in the field of connective tissue biology and pathology.