Jean-Paul Clozel

Jean-Paul Clozel is a cardiologist educated in France, with further training in pharmacology and physiology at the University of Montreal, Canada, and the University of California, San Francisco. After eleven years as a clinician, he decided to move to applied research. During his 12 years at F. Hoffmann-La Roche Ltd, he was responsible for the selection of the first T-channel blocker. He also participated in the characterization of renin inhibitors as well as several endothelin receptor antagonists such as bosentan and clazosentan. Overall, the group he was heading discovered seven compounds that entered clinical trials.

During his 25-year-career in cardiology, he has published widely in peer-reviewed medical and scientific journals. At the same time, his passion has remained unchanged: being involved as closely as possible in bringing innovative medicine to “his” patients. He has developed various, novel experimental models allowing the differentiation of these drugs, work honoured with the 1997 Hoffmann-La Roche Research Prize. In 2007, he was appointed professor at the Collège de France in Paris, France (Chair of Technical Innovation).

At the end of 1997, Jean-Paul founded Actelion, together with his wife, Martine, and work colleagues and friends Walter Fischli, Thomas Widmann and André J. Mueller. First mainly focusing on Research and Development, he became CEO of the company to bring Actelion to the public in April 2000.

A key achievement of Jean-Paul is building Actelion from a start-up to a multi-billion market capitalization company in a highly competitive and complex sector. Jean-Paul has been the driving force that enabled Actelion to become one of the biotechnology industry’s most recognized global success stories.