

Prof. Roy Chemaly: Exceptional Leader in the Field of Infectious Diseases

Prof. Roy Chemaly (FM, 1992) is a prominent figure in healthcare, serving as a physician and an Adjunct Professor of medicine. His career is marked by a combination of clinical proficiency, academic dedication, and significant contributions to the field of infection management at both local and international levels. Currently, he serves as the Chair of the Department of Infectious Diseases, Infection Control, and Employee Health at the University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center in Houston, USA. Throughout his academic journey, he has focused on researching viral infections in immunocompromised patients, with a particular emphasis on those undergoing hematopoietic cell transplantation (HCT) for malignant hematologic disorders. Chemaly is widely recognized as an expert in clinical and translational virology among immunocompromised patients.

Having earned his medical degree from the USJ Faculty of Medicine (FM) in 1992, Chemaly underwent training in infectious diseases and medical microbiology at the Cleveland Clinic University in Ohio. He also holds a Master of Public Health degree from Northeast Ohio Medical University in Rootstown. He is a certified professional in infectious diseases and has certifications from the American Board of Internal Medicine, with a specialization in infectious diseases. His dedication to medical excellence is evident through his accreditations from the American Board of Medical Quality.

Prof. Chemaly actively engages in the medical sphere, having held diverse academic positions, including Adjunct Associate Professor at Baylor College of Medicine. He currently serves as the Chair of the Study Group for Respiratory Viruses (ESGREV) within the European Society for Clinical and Microbiology and Infectious Diseases (ESCMID). Furthermore, he co-chairs the Infection and Immune Reconstruction Working Committee for both the American Society for Transplantation and Cellular Therapy (ASTCT) and the Center for International Blood and Marrow Transplant Research (CIBMTR). Chemaly is also a founding member and former Chair of the Transplant Infectious Diseases Special Interest Group of ASTCT. Additionally, he is a Steering Committee Member of the Transplantation Association Virus Infection (TAVI) Forum, which includes representatives from the FDA, EMA, and experts from national and international academic institutions. Moreover, he is the President Elect of the International Immunocompromised Host Society (ICHS).

Recognized for his notable achievements, Chemaly has been honored with numerous awards, including the Samuel J. Hassenbusch, M.D., Ph.D., Leadership and Institutional Service Award, as well as the Gerald P. Bodey, Sr., Distinguished Professorship Award, both from the University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center. Additionally, he was honored with the UT Healthcare COVID-19 Hero, UT System Chancellor's Council Executive Committee in Austin, Texas.

As a prolific author, Chemaly has made significant contributions to numerous publications focused on the treatment and prevention mechanisms of viral infections. He played a key role in drafting and updating practice guidelines for respiratory viruses, including the Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome Coronavirus 2 (SARS-CoV-2), in leukemia patients for three major professional societies: ASTCT, ESCMID and the 8th European Conference on Infections in Leukemia (ECIL-8).

His work is featured in various prestigious peer-reviewed journals, such as the New England Journal of Medicine, Blood, the Journal of Infectious Diseases, Clinical Microbiology and Infection, and Clinical Infectious Diseases.