



## Profiles in Preventive Cardiology



– Eugene Braunwald

Referred to as the “father of cardiology”, Dr. Eugene Braunwald is a cardiovascular medicine specialist at Brigham and Women’s Hospital (BWH) and the distinguished Hersey Professor of Medicine at Harvard Medical School (HMS) and faculty dean for academic programs at Partners Healthcare System.

The life of Dr. Eugene Braunwald, a preeminent cardiologist, represents a remarkable journey that began in Vienna, Austria. His family was forced into exile in 1938 by Nazis and settled in the United States. He went on to receive his medical degree from the New York University School of Medicine in 1952. He completed an internal medicine residency at The Johns Hopkins Hospital and a cardiology residency at Mount Sinai Hospital. Dr. Braunwald then completed cardiology fellowships at Columbia University College of Physicians and Surgeons and the National Heart Institute.

Dr. Braunwald has conducted pioneering research on the hemodynamic response to surgical correction of valvular disorders; he also developed pioneering diagnostic techniques and discovered the clinical entity of idiopathic, hypertrophic subacute stenosis. His groundbreaking studies on the role of the autonomous nervous system and its mediators in the physiologic adjustments to heart failure and the mechanisms of

contraction of the normal and failing heart had profoundly influenced present knowledge of the pathophysiology of congestive heart failure. Braunwald also made seminal contributions to the treatment of heart failure, leading to large-scale clinical trials that altered treatment strategies worldwide.

Dr. Braunwald is the founding chairman of the Thrombolysis in Myocardial Infarction (TIMI) Study Group, an academic research organization of BWH and an affiliate of HMS. He was awarded an honorary Medical Doctorate by the University of Vienna in 1995. In 1996, Harvard created the Eugene Braunwald Professorship in Medicine as a permanently endowed chair, and in 1999 the American Heart Association established the annual Eugene Braunwald Academic Mentorship Award.

Professor Braunwald has published more than 1200 scientific papers and around 20 books. He has also served as an editor of Harrison’s Principles of Internal Medicine for 12 editions and is the founding editor of Heart Disease, now in its 10th edition, as well as two prominent cardiovascular textbooks. Dr. Braunwald has provided unprecedented contributions, foremost in cardiovascular research and clinical cardiology. Today, his pursuit of excellence continues in the roles of physician-scientist, academic teacher, editor, and administrator.