

Boris Hinz - short profile – January 2024



Boris Hinz is the Keenan Research Chair in Fibrosis Research at St. Michael's Hospital and University of Toronto Distinguished Professor in Tissue Repair and Regeneration. He is appointed with the Faculties of Dentistry, Medicine, and Biomedical Engineering. Dr. Hinz holds a PhD degree (1998) in Cell Biology and Theoretical Biology from the University of Bonn, Germany. From 1999 to 2002, he was postdoctoral fellow with Dr. Giulio Gabbiani, Department of Experimental Pathology, University of Geneva, Switzerland. Dr. Hinz then moved to lead a research group at the Ecole Polytechnique Fédérale de Lausanne (EPFL), Switzerland, joining Cell Biology, Biophysics, and Bioengineering. He was nominated Maître d'enseignement et de recherche (Assistant Professor level) in 2006 and was hired by the University of Toronto in 2009 as Associate Professor appointment (now Full Professor) in the Faculty of Dentistry.

Dr. Hinz is secretary and inaugural board member of the Canadian Connective Tissue Society, board member of the International Dupuytren Society and the Canadian Dupuytren Society. He has been president and board member of the European Tissue Repair Society and was board member of the Wound Healing Society. He is Editor-in-Chief (basic science) of the journal "Wound Repair and Regeneration", Section Editor of the "Journal of Investigative Dermatology", Associate Editor of "Biochemistry and Cell Biology", and editorial board member of "Matrix Biology", and 'Experimental Dermatology'.

Dr. Hinz studies the role of contractile myofibroblasts in physiological tissue repair and in causing pathological tissue fibrosis. The findings of his lab are published in peer-reviewed journals, including Cell, Nat. Mater., Nat. BME, Cell Stem Cells, Nat. Med., Nat Commun., Science Sig., Curr. Biol., J. Cell Biol., Stem Cells, Cell Reports, Stem Cell Reports, J. Clin. Invest., Nat. Immunol., PNAS, Cardiovascular Res., J. Cell Sci., Biomaterials, Biophys. J., Am. J. Pathol., and the J. Invest. Dermatol., receiving >35,500 citations with an h-index of 79 (Google Scholar). He published 150 peer reviewed articles, 15 book chapters, edited 2 books, and was invited to >325 seminar and conference talks plus >380 congress abstracts presented by his trainees.

His research led to the creation of two startup companies specialized in anti-fibrotic coatings for silicone implants and novel "soft" cell culture devices. Dr. Hinz' research is currently funded by a multi-project Foundation Grant from the Canadian Institutes of Health Research (CIHR), CIHR operating funds, the Canada Foundation for Innovation (CFI), the Ontario Research Foundation (ORF), and MITACS (Mathematics of Information Technology and Complex Systems).