Bart Staels

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Bart Staels, PhD., is professor ('classe exceptionnelle') in the faculty of pharmacy at the University of Lille 2, Lille, France. In January 2007, he became director of the Inserm Unit UMR-S 545 and, in January 2010, of the Inserm Unit UMR 1011 (AERES evaluation A+ , n° 1 by CSS4 Inserm) with laboratories (approx. 75 persons) on the campus of the Institut Pasteur de Lille and the Research Pole of the University of Lille 2, Lille, France.

Pr. Staels earned his doctorate at the Institute for Pharmaceutical Sciences, University of Leuven, Belgium. He completed postdoctoral work at the Metabolic Research Unit, University of California, San Francisco and was postdoctoral research fellow of the Reverse Cholesterol Transport/Atherosclerosis Project, BioAvenir, Vitry sur Seine, France.

Pr. Staels is a member of learned societies such as the European Atherosclerosis Society, the International Atherosclerosis Society (Distinguished Fellow), the Nouvelle Société Française d'Athérosclérose, the Société Française de Diabète, the American Heart Association (Premium Professional Silver Heart Member), the American Diabetes Association and European Association for the Study of Diabetes. He is past-president of the Nouvelle Société Française d'Athérosclérose (NSFA; 2009-2011). Pr. Staels is also co-founder of the biotechnology company Genfit SA, and president of its Scientific Advisory Board. He is co-founder and board member of the European Genomic Institute for Diabetes (EGID). He was appointed European corresponding member of the National Academy of Pharmacy in June 2011 and Senior Member of the Institut Universitaire de France in October 2011.

Pr Staels has been awarded the Young Investigator Award of the European Atherosclerosis Society, the Bronze Medal of the CNRS and the Lifetime Achievement Award of the British Atherosclerosis Society, the pharmaceutical "Barré" 2007 prize from the Faculté de Pharmacie of Montreal, and the French "JP Binet" prize from the Fondation pour la Recherche Médicale, Paris, in

2011. He is also recipient of the 2012 "Distinguished Leader in Insulin Resistance" award from the International Committee for Insulin Resistance (ICIR) presented during the 10th Annual World Congress on Insulin Resistance, Diabetes & CVD in Los Angeles, CA, November 2012.

Pr. Staels' research focuses on molecular pharmacology of cardiovascular and metabolic diseases, including dyslipidemia and type 2 diabetes. He particularly studies the role of nuclear receptors (such as the PPARs, FXR, Rev-erbα and RORα) in the control of inflammation and lipid and glucose homeostasis as well as the transcriptional mechanisms involved. Pr. Staels was among the first to identify a crucial role for the nuclear receptor PPARα in the control of lipid and glucose metabolism as well as cardiovascular function in humans. He elucidated the action mechanism of the fibrate class of drugs that are currently used in the treatment of lipid disorders and worked also on the action mechanism of the glitazones, a class of anti-diabetic drugs. His work has identified the PPAR transcription factors as potential drug targets for the treatment of diabetes, dyslipidemia, cardiovascular disease and NAFLD, which contributed to the development of several novel therapeutic compounds, one of them is currently in phase IIb of clinical development.

To date, Pr. Staels has published more than 330 original papers. He has also authored more than 178 review articles and contributed to several book chapters. He received the ISI citations award (citation number of 31607; h-index factor of 92 and average citation of 48/article). Based on the French 2007 Necker Institute dossier, Pr.Staels was between 2000-2005 among the 35 french researchers with the highest publication volume.

Pr. Staels is also reviewer for numerous international journals and has been invited speaker at many prestigious international meetings, including the IAS, AHA, ADA and IDF. He contributed to the organization of congresses such as the "International Symposia on PPARs", the NSFA annual congress and was chairman the 2007 and 2012 Keystone Symposia on "Metabolic Syndrome" and "Genetic and Molecular Basis of Obesity and Body Weight Regulation".