

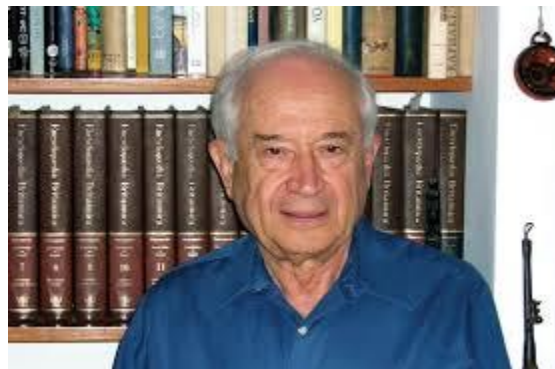
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Raphael Mechoulam is an organic chemist and professor of Medicinal Chemistry at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem in Israel. Ever since his discovery of the human endo-cannabinoid system in the 1960's, and his subsequent nearly 60 years' work identifying cannabis' complementary phyto-cannabinoids, Mechoulam has been widely acknowledged as the 'father of cannabis research'. Mechoulam is best known for his work (together with Y. Gaoni, C. Trips, and S. Benezra) in the isolation, structure elucidation and total synthesis of Δ^9 -tetrahydrocannabinol, the main active principle of cannabis, among numerous other phytocannabinoids. Mechoulam also pioneered the isolation and the identification of the endogenous cannabinoids anandamide from the brain and 2-arachidonoyl glycerol (2-AG) from peripheral organs together with his students, postdocs and collaborators.

He received his M.Sc. in biochemistry from the Hebrew University of Jerusalem (1952), and his Ph.D. at the Weizmann Institute, Rehovot (1958), with a thesis on the chemistry of steroids. After postdoctoral studies at the Rockefeller Institute, New York (1959–60), he was on the scientific staff of the Weizmann Institute (1960–65), before moving to the Hebrew University of Jerusalem, where he became professor (1972) and Lionel Jacobson Professor of Medicinal Chemistry from 1975. In 1994 he was elected a member of the Israel Academy of Sciences, and has been the recipient of numerous other awards and honors, including the Israel Prize in Exact Sciences (2000), the Heinrich Wieland Prize (2004), the Israel Chemical Society Prize for excellence in research (2009), the Rothschild Prize in Chemical Sciences and Physical Sciences (2012), the EMET Prize in Exact Sciences – Chemistry (2012), and the inaugural "Arcview Raphael Mechoulam Lifetime Achievement Award" (2019), an award to carry his name forward for future awardees.

Some of his most recent work includes modifying naturally occurring cannabinoids, such as CBDA, to increase stability, as cannabidiolic acid methyl ester (HU-580) and its potential to have better therapeutic effects. He has over 350 publications.