

Prof. Reisner is a world leader in transplantation immunology, and a pioneer in bone marrow transplantation (BMT) in patients lacking a matched donor. Two major milestones of his research have already been translated into clinical achievements. His studies resulted in protocols for the first successful mis-matched BMT in a SCID baby (“bubble child”), establishing the methodology for saving hundreds of patients over the years. More recently, he developed procedures for overcoming rejection of mis-matched BMT in leukemia patients by the use of megadose stem cell transplants, facilitated by a unique ‘veto’ mechanism, extensively studied by Reisner. Over the past decade, Reisner demonstrated that another type of veto cell, expanded ex-vivo, offers exciting possibilities for safer transplants in elderly patients with hematological malignancies, and for treatment of non-malignant diseases for whom current protocols are not justified due to their toxicities. A clinical trial headed by Reisner, using this approach is now in progress at MD Anderson Cancer Center in Houston .

In parallel, Reisner recently discovered and characterized a multi-potent lung stem cell, which could potentially be used to attain lung regeneration for treatment of different lung diseases .

Reisner received his PhD with distinction from the Weizmann Institute (1978). Following a post-doctoral fellowship at Sloan Kettering, he returned to the Weizmann in 1981, where he served as the head of the Immunology Department from 2005-2014. In 2003 the World Technology Network recognized Reisner as “one of the top five people in the field of Health and Medicine whose work is of the greatest likely long-term significance” and in the same year, he received an Honorary Degree in Medicine from the University of Perugia, Italy. In 2005, he was the first elected president of the Israel Stem Cell Society.

Reisner’s achievements have been recognized by many awards, including the Mortimer M. Borton Award for outstanding research by the American Society for Blood and Marrow Transplantation in 1996, the Rappaport prize for excellence in biomedical research in 2014, the DKMS Germany Mechtild Harf Science Award in recognition of distinguished pioneers in the field of hematopoietic stem cell transplantation (2018), and the EMET Prize in Bio-Medicine (2019)