



Ron Rubenstein, MD, PhD  
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Ronald C. Rubenstein, MD, PhD, is a Professor of Pediatrics at the Washington University School of Medicine in St. Louis, where he is also Chief of the Division of Allergy and Pulmonary Medicine and holds the Robert C. Strunk Endowed Chair for Lung and Respiratory Research. Dr. Rubenstein's research interests focus on novel therapeutic strategies for Cystic Fibrosis (CF), with a central hypothesis that drugs or small molecules can affect repair of function of mutant CFTR proteins. Dr. Rubenstein's work with one such agent, Sodium 4-Phenylbutyrate (4PBA), provided a critical proof of concept that served as a foundation for the development of now approved highly effective modulator therapies such as Orkambi, Symdeko and Trikafta. His laboratory's present research focuses on the mechanisms by which the biogenesis of CFTR and other epithelial ion channels and secreted proteins relevant to CF are regulated by a novel 4PBA-regulated chaperone of the endoplasmic reticulum, ERp29; this work has been funded by the NIH, CF Foundation (CFF) and American Heart Association. Dr. Rubenstein remains active in clinical trials that aim to translate this approach to CF therapeutics into useful therapies, as well as in research that aims to understand the mechanisms underlying the development of CF-related diabetes and the risk factors for aminoglycoside-induced hearing loss in CF. He is also a Member of the CFF's Medical Advisory Council and Chair of the CFF Clinical Research Committee, serving in this role since 2003. Through this work, Dr. Rubenstein is both an advocate for people with CF, and a mentor and teacher for dozens of trainees and junior faculty as they develop their careers.