

Biographical Description for The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History with Dr. Cato T. Laurencin

PERSON

Laurencin, Cato T.

Alternative Names: Dr. Cato T. Laurencin;

Life Dates: January 15, 1959-

Place of Birth: Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, USA

Work: Farmington, CT

Occupations: Surgeon

Biographical Note

Orthopedic surgeon and professor Dr. Cato Laurencin was born on January 15, 1959, in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, to Dr. Helen Moorehead-Laurencin and Cyril Laurencin. He received his B.S.E. degree in chemical engineering in 1980 from Princeton University and his M.D. degree from Harvard Medical School and his Ph.D. degree in biochemical engineering and biotechnology from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology in 1987. He completed his residency in orthopedic surgery at the Harvard Combined Orthopedic Surgery Program and his fellowship in sports medicine at the Hospital for Special Surgery in New York City.

Dr. Laurencin began his teaching career in 1981 at Harvard University in cellular biology, microbiology, and genetics. He joined MIT as an instructor of biochemistry in the Minority Introduction to Engineering and Science Program in 1985 and instructor of physiology in the Introduction to Health Sciences Program in 1986. He then worked as a surgical house officer at Pennsylvania Hospital. In 1988, he returned to Harvard Medical School and MIT in various teaching and research capacities. He became the chief resident in orthopedic surgery at Harvard Medical School and Beth Israel Hospital in 1993. In 1994 Dr. Laurencin became a research professor of chemical engineering and materials engineering at Drexel University and an associate professor of orthopedic surgery at the Allegheny University School of Medicine. In 1998, he became a professor at the Medical College of Pennsylvania–Hahnemann School of Medicine. Dr. Laurencin became vice chairman and clinical professor of orthopedic surgery and director of shoulder surgery at the Drexel University School of Medicine in 2002. He became a professor of chemical and biomedical engineering and of orthopedic surgery at the University of Virginia in 2003. Dr. Laurencin joined the University of Connecticut in 2008 as professor of biomedical engineering, materials science and engineering, and chemical and biomolecular engineering and a distinguished professor

of orthopedic surgery, becoming a University Professor in 2011, when he also became director of the Raymond and Beverly Sackler Center for Biomedical, Biological, Physical, and Engineering Sciences. He also founded Soft Tissue Regeneration, Inc. (later Biorez), that year and the Connecticut Institute for Clinical and Translational Science in 2009, later the Connecticut Convergence Institute for Translation in Regenerative Engineering, of which he is CEO. Dr. Laurencin co-edited the 2013 textbook Regenerative Engineering and has served as editor-in-chief of Regenerative Engineering and Translational Medicine.

Dr. Laurencin's awards include the Presidential Faculty Fellowship Award presented by President Bill Clinton, the Presidential Award for Excellence in Science, Math, and Engineering Mentoring presented by President Barack Obama, the American Institute for Medical and Biological Engineering's Pierre Galletti Award, the National Organization of Black Chemists and Chemical Engineers' Percy Julian Medal, the National Medal of Technology and Innovation presented by President Barack Obama, the National Academy of Engineering's Simon Ramo Founders Award and the National Academy of Medicine's Walsh McDermott Medal, and the Spingarn Medal from the NAACP. He is a member of the American Academy of Orthopedic Surgeons, the National Academy of Sciences, the American Academy of Arts and Sciences, and the National Academy of Engineering and a fellow of the Biomedical Engineering Society.

Dr. Laurencin and his wife, Cynthia Laurencin, live in Connecticut. They have three children.

Dr. Cato Laurencin was interviewed by The HistoryMakers on April 7, 2022.

Related Entries

Central High School [STUDENTOF]
[from ? to ?]

Diploma

Princeton University [STUDENTOF]
[from ? to ?]

B.S.E

Harvard Medical School [STUDENTOF]
[from ? to ?]

M.D.

Massachusetts Institute of Technology [STUDENTOF]
[from ? to ?]

Ph.D.

Harvard Medical School [EMPLOYEEOF]
[from 1988 to 1989]

Research Fellow, Children's Hospital Medical Center, Department of Surgery

Massachusetts Institute of Technology [EMPLOYEEOF]
[from 1988 to 1993]

Instructor of Biochemical Engineering, Division of Health Sciences and Technology

Massachusetts Institute of Technology [EMPLOYEEOf]
[from 1993 to 1994]

Research Scientist, Division of Health Sciences and Technology

Drexel University [EMPLOYEEOf]
[from 1994 to 2003]

Various

Drexel, MCP-Hahnemann and Allegheny (Clinial) [EMPLOYEEOf]
[from 1994 to 2003]

Various

University of Virginia [EMPLOYEEOf]
[from 2003 to 2008]

Various

The University of Connecticut [EMPLOYEEOf]
[from 2008 to ?]

Various

National Society of Black Engineers [MEMBEROf]
[from 1977 to 1979]

Chairman, Academics Committee

Hinton-Wright Biomedical Science Society [MEMBEROf]
[from 1984 to 1993]

Steering Committee Member, Co-Founder

Black Graduate Students Association [MEMBEROf]
[from 1982 to 1987]

Member

Minority Introduction to Engineering and Science (M.I.T.E.S.) Program [MEMBEROf]
[from 1985 to 1987]

Member, Admissions Committee

Minority Summer Science Program [MEMBEROf]
[from 1988 to 1992]

Member, Admissions Committee and Mentor

National Medical Association [MEMBEROf]
[from 1990 to ?]

Various

Boston Marathon [MEMBEROf]
[from 1991 to 1992]

Medical Staff

Boston Museum of Science [MEMBEROF]

[from 1991 to ?]

'Scientist in Residence" Black Achievers in Science Series

Ford Foundation Fellowship Program [MEMBEROF]

[from 1991 to 1992]

Planning Committee Member

National Science Foundation [MEMBEROF]

[from 1993 to ?]

Various

St. John's University Basketball Team [MEMBEROF]

[from 1993 to ?]

Medical Staff

St. John's University Football Team [MEMBEROF]

[from 1993 to ?]

Medical Staff

New York Mets Baseball Team [MEMBEROF]

[from 1993 to ?]

Medical Staff

Allegheny University of Health Sciences Special Emphasis Group [MEMBEROF]

[from 1994 to ?]

Various

Pennsylvania State Athletic Commission [MEMBEROF]

[from 1994 to ?]

Boxing Physician

USA Boxing [MEMBEROF]

[from 1994 to 1997]

Physician

Community College of Philadelphia [MEMBEROF]

[from 1994 to 1997]

Team Physician

Philadelphia Special Olympics [MEMBEROF]

[from 1995 to 1998]

Physician Volunteer

Society for Biomaterials [MEMBEROF]

[from 1996 to ?]

Various

U.S. Delegation to South Africa in Biomedical Engineering [MEMBEROF]

[from 1996 to ?]

Delegate

Eisenhower Foundation [MEMBEROF]

[from 1997 to ?]

Member

American Academy of Orthopaedic Surgery [MEMBEROF]

[from 1997 to ?]

Various

Food and Drug Administration [MEMBEROF]

[from 1997 to ?]

Various

New Jersey State Boxing Commission [MEMBEROF]

[from 1998 to ?]

Ringside Physician

American Society for Testing and Materials [MEMBEROF]

[from 1998 to ?]

Member, F-04 Committee

American Academy of Orthopaedic Surgeons [MEMBEROF]

[from 1997 to ?]

Various

Vanderbilt University Biomedical Engineering Research Center [MEMBEROF]

[from 1998 to ?]

Advisory Committee Member

Medical Society of Eastern Pennsylvania [MEMBEROF]

[from 1999 to 2001]

Various

National Institutes of Health [MEMBEROF]

[from 1999 to ?]

Various

Drexel Synergy Grant Program [MEMBEROF]

[from 1999 to 2001]

Reviewer

Gladden Orthopaedic Surgery Society [MEMBEROF]

[from 2000 to ?]

Chairman, Research Committee

Ben Franklin Technology Partnerships (Eastern Pennsylvania) [MEMBEROF]

[from 2000 to 2003]

Member, Biomedical Technology Evaluating Committee

MCP - Hahnemann School of Medicine [MEMBEROF]
[from 2000 to 2003]

Various

Drexel University [MEMBEROF]
[from 2001 to ?]

Various

Gentis Solutions [MEMBEROF]
[from 2002 to ?]

Scientific Advisory Board Member

University of Virginia Health System [MEMBEROF]
[from 2003 to ?]

Various

University of Virginia [MEMBEROF]
[from 2003 to ?]

Various

Massachusetts Institute of Technology [MEMBEROF]
[from 2003 to ?]

Various

Kuros AG [MEMBEROF]
[from 2004 to ?]

Member, Scientific Advisory Board

Neurosciences Institute [MEMBEROF]
[from 2004 to ?]

Member, Steering Committee

Coulter Foundation [MEMBEROF]
[from 2005 to ?]

Member, Early Career Translational Research Panel

Israel Binational Science Foundation [MEMBEROF]
[from 2005 to ?]

Ad Hoc Reviewer United States

Institute of Medicine [MEMBEROF]
[from 2004 to ?]

Various

Osteotech Company [MEMBEROF]
[from 2006 to ?]

Various

Ladies Professional Golf Association [MEMBEROf]
[from 2007 to ?]

Member, Medical Advisory Board

Soft Tissue Regeneration [MEMBEROf]
[from 2008 to ?]

Member, Board of Directors

University of Connecticut Health Center [MEMBEROf]
[from 2008 to ?]

Various

University of Connecticut [MEMBEROf]
[from 2008 to ?]

Various

National Research Council [MEMBEROf]
[from 2010 to ?]

Report Review Committee, Controlling Cost Growth of NASA Earth and Space Science Missions

National Academy of Engineering [MEMBEROf]
[from 2011 to ?]

Various

Biomedical Engineering Society [MEMBEROf]
[from 2010 to ?]

Various

Materials Research Society [MEMBEROf]
[from 2014 to ?]

Various

American Institute of Chemical Engineers [MEMBEROf]
[from 2015 to ?]

Various

State of Connecticut [MEMBEROf]
[from 2017 to ?]

Commissioner of Boxing

Women 100 [MEMBEROf]
[from 2019 to ?]

Advisory Committee Member

Roundtable on Black Men and Black Women in Science, Engineering and Medicine [MEMBEROf]
[from 2019 to ?]

Chair

Society for Science & The Public [MEMBEROf]
[from 2019 to ?]

Honorary Board Member

African Academy of Sciences [MEMBEROf]
[from 2011 to ?]

Various

The HistoryMakers [MEMBEROf]
[from 2019 to ?]

Member, MedicalMakers Advisory Board

American Society of Anesthesiologists [MEMBEROf]
[from 1982 to ?]

Fellow

The International Cord Blood Society [MEMBEROf]
[from 1996 to ?]

Founding Member

Osteonics Corporation [MEMBEROf]
[from 1996 to ?]

Scientific Advisory board

Central High School [MEMBEROf]
[from 1997 to ?]

Board of Managers

American Orthopaedic Society for Sports Medicine [MEMBEROf]
[from 1998 to ?]

Elected Member

American College of Surgeons [MEMBEROf]
[from 1998 to ?]

Fellow

International Union of Biomaterials Societies [MEMBEROf]
[from 1999 to ?]

International Fellow, Biomaterials Science and Engineering

American Institute for Medical and Biological Engineering [MEMBEROf]
[from 1999 to ?]

Various

Pfizer Inc. [MEMBEROf]
[from 2001 to ?]

Various

United States Olympic Training Center [MEMBEROf]
[from 2002 to ?]

Physician

The Franklin Institute [MEMBEROF]
[from 2002 to 2003]

Member, Committee on Sciences & Arts

African Institute of Science and Technology [MEMBEROF]
[from 2004 to ?]

Member, African Scientific Committee

National Science Foundation [MEMBEROF]
[from 2006 to ?]

Member, Committee for the Directorate of Engineering

American Academy of Nanomedicine [MEMBEROF]
[from 2006 to ?]

Fellow

7th International Symposium on Ligaments and Tendons [MEMBEROF]
[from 2007 to ?]

Member, International Program Committee

Anesiva Corporation [MEMBEROF]
[from 2007 to ?]

Chair of the Shoulder Advisory Board

National Academy of Medicine [MEMBEROF]
[from 2007 to 2008]

Various

Golden Key International Honour Society [MEMBEROF]
[from 2011 to ?]

Elected Member

National Institute of Biomedical Imaging and Bioengineering [MEMBEROF]
[from 2011 to 2015]

Member, Advisory Council

American Chemical Society [MEMBEROF]
[from 2014 to ?]

Elected Fellow

Indian National Academy of Sciences [MEMBEROF]
[from 2015 to ?]

Fellow

Chinese Academy of Engineering [MEMBEROF]
[from 2015 to ?]

Academician and Member

Indian Academy of Engineering [MEMBEROF]
[from 2016 to ?]

Fellow

Connecticut Children's Medical Center [MEMBEROF]
[from 2017 to ?]

Various

National Academy of Inventors [MEMBEROF]
[from 2017 to ?]

Various

Harvard Medical School [MEMBEROF]
[from 2018 to ?]

Member, Visiting Committee

Conference on Definitions in Biomaterials [MEMBEROF]
[from 2018 to ?]

Executive Committee Member

Alpha Omega Alpha Honor Society [MEMBEROF]
[from 2019 to ?]

Faculty Member, University of Connecticut Chapter

American Academy of Arts and Sciences [MEMBEROF]
[from 2019 to ?]

Elected Member

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