



**Prof. Dr. Rakesh Kukreja, PhD**  
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Dr. Rakesh Kukreja is Eric Lipman Distinguished Chair in Cardiology and tenured Professor in the Department of Internal Medicine at Virginia Commonwealth University, Richmond Virginia. His research is focused on cardioprotective signaling in the setting of cardiac preconditioning, ischemia/reperfusion injury, Type II diabetes and cancer drug toxicity. He was the first to demonstrate the cardioprotective effect of PDE5 inhibitors including sildenafil (Viagra) against ischemia/reperfusion injury, heart failure and doxorubicin-induced cardiomyopathy. These pioneering investigations led to several clinical trials in heart failure and cancer. He has published over 250 papers, reviews, editorials and presented more than 200 abstracts at the national and international meetings. In addition, Dr. Kukreja has authored 2 books, 17 book chapters, received 2 patents and several invention disclosures. He serves or served on the editorial board of many prominent journals including the Circulation Research (12 years), American Journal of Physiology (22 years+), Journal of Molecular and Cellular Cardiology, Molecular Pharmacology, PLOS One, Cardiovascular Drugs and Therapy etc. Dr. Kukreja's papers have been cited >17,100-times and his H-Index is 74. He has been invited to give lectures at many prominent universities (e.g., Harvard, Johns Hopkins, Emory, University of Virginia, Columbia, Cedars-Sinai Hospital, UCLA, LSU, University of Texas, University of Louisville, just to name a few), pharmaceutical companies (Bayer, Pfizer, Alnylan,), AHA Scientific Sessions and many national and international meetings all across the world.

Dr. Kukreja has received numerous prestigious awards including Virginia's Outstanding Scientist of the Year award, MERIT Award from the National Heart, Lung and Blood Institute of NIH, Norman Alpert Award from the International Academy of Cardiovascular Sciences and Ken Bowman Award from the Institute of Cardiovascular Sciences, University of Manitoba, Winnipeg. Most recently he was honored with the American Physiological Society's highly prestigious Carl J. Wiggers Award for life-time contributions in cardiovascular sciences.