A household name in Cardiology, Eugene Braunwald was born to Jewish parents on August 15, 1929. He received his medical education at New York University and later on did his Residency at the John Hopkins Hospital. While he was in New York he decided that cardiology was to be his calling. He served as Chief of Cardiology and Clinical Director at the National Heart, Lung and Blood Institute. He founded the Department of Medicine at the University of California, San Diego and from 1972 to 1996 he chaired the Department of Medicine at Brigham and Women’s Hospital.

He also attended many Cardiology courses in Mexico City, saying that, “We have the technology but they have the practice. The best book of cardiology is the patient itself.”

He is the author of over 1200 peer-reviewed publications and editor of the “Braunwald’s Heart Disease” which is in its 9th Edition. The latter is looked on as the “Cardiology Bible” by all students.

He was instrumental in running the TIMI (Thrombolysis in Myocardial Infarction) trial. This trial was responsible for laying the concept that thrombosis superimposed on atherosclerosis was responsible for myocardial infarction.

In 1966 he was awarded the Jacob Medallion by the Mount Sinai Alumni for “Distinguished achievement in the field of Medicine or extraordinary service to the Hospital, the School or the Alumni.”

In 1996 Harvard created the Eugene Braunwald Professorship in Medicine and in 1999 the American Heart Association established the Annual Eugene Braunwald Academic Mentorship Award.

In 2004 Dr. Braunwald became the first winner of the Libin/AHFMR Prize for Excellence in Cardiovascular Research. On May 5th 2010 he received an honorary degree from the University of Rochester.

He is the only Cardiologist who is a member of the National Academy of Sciences. He has received numerous honours and awards including the Distinguished Scientist Award of the American College of Cardiology, Research Achievement, and Herrick Awards of the American Heart Association, the Williams Award of the Association of Professors of Medicine, and the Kober medal of the Association of American Physicians. He is the recipient of thirteen honorary degrees from distinguished universities throughout the world.

Harvard University created the Eugene Braunwald Professorship in Medicine. The living Nobel Prize winners in medicine voted Dr. Braunwald as “the person who has contributed the most to cardiology in recent years”. In 1998 Science Watch listed Dr. Braunwald as the most frequently cited author in Cardiology. The Brigham and Women’s Hospital dedicated a research facility as the “Eugene Braunwald Research Center”.

He is married and has three daughters. He is an avid fan of classical music.