

Josep A. Planell – a Biographical sketch

Prof. Josep A. Planell is the rector of the Universitat Oberta de Catalunya, appointed for a seven-year mandate.

Josep A. Planell Estany (Barcelona, 1951) graduated in Physics from the University of Barcelona in 1975, and earned his doctorate in Material Sciences from Queen Mary University of London in 1983. Since 1992 he has been full professor in the Material Science and Metallurgy Department of the Barcelona School of Industrial Engineering at the Universitat Politècnica de Catalunya (UPC).

Dr. Planell, who's main research interests are biomaterials and tissue engineering for regenerative therapies, founded and ran the Institute for Bioengineering of Catalonia (IBEC - established in December 2005, it is linked to the UPC and to the University of Barcelona).

In 2001 he was awarded the Catalan government's Distinction for the Promotion of University Research. In 2006 he received the City of Barcelona Award in the technological research category. In 2013 he was bestowed the George Winter Award, the highest European recognition for outstanding research contribution to the field of biomaterials.

He has been member of the Catalan Royal Academy of Doctors since 2006 and is an elected member of Barcelona's Royal Academy of Arts and Sciences.

Prof. Planell has also been Vice President of the European Society for Biomaterials, editor of the *Journal of Materials Science: Materials in Medicine* and is and has been member of the editorial board of numerous scientific journals, the most recent being *Advanced Biomaterials and Devices in Medicine*.