Philip Ballard is Professor of Pediatrics at the University of California, San Francisco, and Emeritus Professor of Pediatrics at the University of Pennsylvania and the Children's Hospital of Philadelphia. He graduated from Earlham College (Indiana) and obtained his MD and PhD in biochemistry from the University of Chicago. After Pediatric residency training at Stanford and UCSF and postgraduate science at NIH, he joined Pediatrics and the CVRI as a faculty member in 1972. Together with Roberta Ballard, Phil developed a neonatal fellowship training program at Mt. Zion Hospital San Francisco in collaboration with UCSF Neonatology and the CVRI over the next 19 years. Subsequently, they led the neonatology program at the Children's Hospital of Philadelphia (CHOP) and the University of Pennsylvania for 15 years as Chief and Director of Research, respectively. The Ballards were jointly awarded the Pediatric Academic Society's Maureen Andrew Mentoring award in 2013 in recognition of mentoring activities over their careers. Phil pursued a research career in lung developmental biology within Neonatology and has been continuously funded by the NIH for 45 years. His laboratory provided early evidence regarding the mechanism of glucocorticoids to accelerate fetal lung maturation, profiled and characterized lung genes that are hormonally regulated, studied surfactant biosynthesis and function, and investigated inherited disorders of surfactant. In translational studies associated with trials of glucocorticoids, thyrotropin releasing hormone, inhaled nitric oxide and late surfactant therapy in premature infants, his laboratory in collaboration with Roberta Ballard's clinical team established circulating levels of betamethasone and documented in vivo biological responses to the different interventions that have been studied for prevention of bronchopulmonary dysplasia. Recently, he has examined anti-inflammatory responses to budesonide both in vitro and in animals using surfactant as a delivery vehicle and has initiated genomic, proteomic and metabolic studies of premature infants. Currently, Phil and Roberta are continuing their long-term collaboration with ongoing data analysis, clinical trial design, and pilot trials.