Novartis Award for Hypertension Research
2002

In recognition of outstanding contributions made in hypertension research, the Novartis (formerly Ciba) Award has been presented at the annual meeting of the Council for High Blood Pressure Research since 1975. The Novartis Award continues the tradition of the Ciba Award and the Stouffer Prize, first awarded to Ernst Klenk, MD, and Harry Goldblatt, MD, in 1966. In 2002, the Novartis Award was presented to Drs Gerald F. DiBona and John E. Hall.

Dr Gerald DiBona is professor of internal medicine and physiology at the University of Iowa College of Medicine in Iowa City, Iowa, where he has served since his appointment in 1969. He is also currently foreign adjunct professor at the Karolinska Institute, Stockholm, Sweden. Dr DiBona received an AB in mathematics from Harvard University and his MD cum laude from Tufts University School of Medicine. He received clinical training in internal medicine at the Hospital of the University of Pennsylvania and, subsequently, clinical and research training in medicine and nephrology at the Peter Brent Brigham Hospital and Harvard Medical School.

Dr DiBona’s studies have contributed significantly to understanding the role of the renal nerves in the control of renal function. One of his important early contributions established the relationships among the levels of renal sympathetic nerve activity and the resultant changes in renin secretion, sodium excretion, and renal blood flow. His studies clearly demonstrated that low levels of renal sympathetic nerve activity, which are below the threshold for decreasing renal blood flow, increase renin secretion and decrease sodium excretion. A particularly important aspect of many of his studies is that they were conducted in conscious animals, thus obviating artifacts related to the stress of anesthesia and surgical stress. Studies in conscious animals established the importance of changes in renal nerve activity in the normal regulation of sodium balance during alterations in sodium intake and showed that increased renal sympathetic nerve activity contributes to abnormal sodium retention in edema-forming states such as congestive heart failure, nephrosis, and cirrhosis. His studies also suggest that baroreflex dysfunction might be a causal mechanism that leads to increased renal sympathetic nerve activity in these sodium retaining states.

Dr DiBona is the recipient of numerous awards and honors. He has served as the 73rd president of the American Physiological Society. He served as founding associate editor for Journal of the American Society of Nephrology and as associate editor and editor-in-chief for Hypertension. Among the many awards he has received are these: the Lewis K. Dahl Award from the Council for High Blood Pressure Research, the American Heart Association; the International Research Award, International Society of Hypertension; and the Ernest H. Starling Distinguished Lectureship, Water and Electrolyte Homeostasis Section, the American Physiological Society.

Dr John Hall is the Arthur C. Guyton Professor and Chair of physiology and biophysics, and director of the Center of Excellence in Cardiovascular-Renal Research at the University of Mississippi Medical Center in Jackson, Mississippi. Dr Hall received a BS in biology and chemistry from Kent State University and his doctorate in physiology at Michigan State University. He did postdoctoral training at the University of Mississippi Medical Center before joining the faculty.
Dr Hall’s experimental studies have documented the fundamental role of pressure natriuresis in the long-term regulation of arterial pressure. Many of his studies have demonstrated how abnormalities in intrarenal and systemic mechanisms impact pressure natriuresis and lead to hypertension. He has used elegant experimental techniques to clearly demonstrate that changes in renal perfusion pressure play a major role in the chronic regulation of fluid balance and arterial pressure. Because all forms of hypertension are associated with abnormal pressure natriuresis (sodium balance is achieved at an elevated arterial pressure), his studies are especially important in that they show that impaired pressure natriuresis is a cause and not a consequence of hypertension.

Dr Hall is currently editor-in-chief of Hypertension and former editor-in-chief of the American Journal of Physiology: Regulatory, Integrative and Comparative Physiology. He is currently president of the Inter-American Society of Hypertension, past president of the American Physiological Society, and past chairman of the Council for High Blood Pressure Research. Dr Hall’s awards include the Richard Bright Award and the Marion Young Scholar Award, the American Society of Hypertension; the Harry Goldblatt Award, the American Heart Association; the Merck, Sharp and Dohme International Research Award, the International Society of Hypertension; and Ernest H. Starling Distinguished Lectureship, Water and Electrolyte Homeostasis Section, the American Physiological Society.

**Past Recipients of the Novartis Award**

- 2001 Victor Dzau, MD
- 2000 Hans R. Brunner, MD
- 1999 Jay N. Cohn, MD
- 1998 Haralambos Gavras, MD
- 1997 Richard P. Lifton, MD, PhD
- 1996 Masashi Yanagisawa, MD, PhD
- 1995 Oscar A. Carretero, MD
- 1994 Allen W. Cowley, Jr, PhD
- 1993 Donald D. Heistad, MD

**Past Recipients of the CIBA Award**

- 1988 Robert R. Furchgott, PhD
- 1987 Ferid Murad, MD, PhD
- 1986 Donald J. Reis, MD
- 1985 Maurice B. Burg, MD
- 1984 John C. McGiff, MD
- 1983 E. Eric Muirhead, MD
- 1982 Pierre Corvol, MD
- 1981 Tadashi Inagami, PhD
- 1980 Joel Menard, MD
- 1979 Herbert Simon, MD
- 1978 Edward D. Freis, MD
- 1977 William B. Kannel, MD
- 1976 Bjorn U.G. Folkow, MD, PhD
- 1975 Arthur C. Guyton, MD
- 1974 Karl H. Beyer, Jr, MD
- 1973 James M. Sprague, PhD
- 1972 Louis Tobian, Jr, MD
- 1971 John A. Luetscher, MD
- 1970 James F. Tait, FRS
- 1969 Sylvia A.S. Tait, BSc, FRS
- 1968 Raymond P. Ahlquist, PhD
- 1967 James Q. Black, MD
- 1966 Lewis K. Dahl, MD
- 1965 James O. Davis, MD
- 1964 Walter Kempner, MD
### Past Recipients of the Stouffer Prize

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>recipients</th>
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| 1972 | Vincent P. Dole, MD  
John W. Gofman, MD  
Robert S. Gordon, Jr, MD  
John L. Oncley, MD  
Irvine H. Page, MD  
Sir George Pickering, MD |
| 1969 | Jerome W. Conn, MD  
Jacques Genest, MD  
Franz Gross, MD  
John H. Laragh, MD  
F. Merlin Bumpus, PhD  
W. Stanley Peart, MD |
| 1967 | John W. Cornforth, MD  
US von Euler, MD  
Peter Holtz, MD  
George J. Popjak, MD  
Ernst Klenk, MD  
Harry Goldblatt, MD |
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