

2006 Awards Presented at ACMG Meeting in San Diego

Several awards were presented during the American College of Medical Genetics meeting in San Diego this past March. They include:

Distinguished Public Service Award-ACMG presented its first award for distinguished public service to **George Cunningham, MD, MPH, California State Department of Health Services, Richmond, California**, during the Public Health Genetics Special Interest Group Forum in honor of his dedication to genetic services and public health newborn screening.

Tm Bioscience and ACMGF Award: “Promoting Safe and Effective Genetic Testing and Services”-Tm Bioscience and the American College of Medical Genetics Foundation (ACMGF) joined together again to award one ACMG member \$100,000 for a one year project. The award is aimed at promoting the safe and effective integration of genetic testing and services into healthcare, including the development of research guidelines and will begin on or before September 1, 2006. The 2006-2007 award recipient is **Kathleen S. Arnos, PhD, Gallaudet University**. The purpose of Dr. Arnos’ project is to develop and implement a nationwide distance learning/continuing education program in genetics for health care professionals affiliated with Early Hearing Detection and Intervention (EHDI) programs.

Genzyme/ACMGF Clinical Genetics Fellowship in Biochemical Genetics-The Genzyme/ACMGF Clinical Genetics Fellowship in Biochemical Genetics Award Program was designed to support the sustainable development of clinically interested and qualified Clinical Geneticists with expertise in biochemical genetics. The award provides for the sponsorship of a trainee’s first year of fellowship following residency in a genetics fellowship on biochemical genetic diseases. The purposes of the program are to advance education, research and standards of practice in medical genetics; develop and expand clinical and laboratory expertise in medical genetics in the United States; initiate and develop a broad-based infrastructure for industry funding of high quality projects in the fields of medical genetics. The 2006-2007 award recipient is **Raymond Yu-Jeang Wang, MD, Cedars-Sinai Medical Center**. Dr. Wang’s Fellowship will be devoted to a study of Fabry disease with specific aims of the project to further characterize the natural history and response to therapy of Fabry disease in females and to evaluate the safety, tolerability, pharmacokinetics, and pharmacodynamics of an oral medication, AT1001, in patients with selected missense mutations in α -Gal A.

March of Dimes Colonel Harland Sanders Award Presentation-Through its Colonel Sanders Memorial Campaign, established in 1979, Kentucky Fried Chicken has contributed more than \$5.5 million toward March of Dimes programs to prevent birth defects. In 1986, the March of Dimes sponsored the first award for lifetime achievement in research and education in the genetic sciences. The March of Dimes was pleased to present the 2006 March of Dimes/Colonel Harland Sanders Award for lifetime achievement in the field of genetic sciences to **Kurt Hirschhorn, MD, Mount Sinai School of Medicine, New York, NY**.

Previous winners of the Colonel Harland Sanders Award include:

- 2005 Peter S. Harper, MD
- 2004 Francis S. Collins, MD, PhD
- 2003 David Valle, MD
- 2002 Arthur L. Beaudet, MD
- 2001 Uta Francke, MD
- 2000 Michael M. Kaback, MD
- 1999 Barton Childs, MD
- 1998 James V. Neel, MD
- 1997 David L. Rimoïn, MD, PhD
Charles R. Scriver, CC, MDCM
- 1996 Arno G. Motulsky, MD
- 1995 Charles J. Epstein, MD
- 1994 Judith G. Hall, MD
- 1992 Arthur Robinson, MD
- 1991 John M. Opitz, MD
- 1990 Hans Zellweger, MD, FRS, RSC
- 1989 Robert J. Gorlin, DDS, MS, DSc
- 1988 Victor A. McKusick, MD
- 1987 F. Clarke Fraser, MD, PhD, DSc
- 1986 Joseph Warkany, MD, DSc

2006 March of Dimes Samuel Pruzansky Memorial Lecture-The Samuel Pruzansky Memorial Lectureship was established in memory of the founder and director of the world's first center for craniofacial anomalies, and is sponsored by the March of Dimes Birth Defects Foundation. The 2006 recipient was **David C. Page, MD, Whitehead Institute, MIT; Howard Hughes Medical Institute, Winchester, Massachusetts**

Dr. Pruzansky was an internationally renowned research scholar, clinician, and teacher who served as Acting Chief of the Clinical Investigations Branch of the National Institute of Dental Research from 1953 to 1955. In 1959, under the Institute's auspices, he chaired the Gatlinburg Conference, the definitive meeting on craniofacial anomalies.

During the course of his academic career at the University of Illinois, Dr. Pruzansky was Associate Director of the Cleft Palate Clinic, which, in 1967, was expanded to become the first Center for Craniofacial Anomalies, with Dr. Pruzansky as its founding director. A visiting professor at many universities here and abroad, consultant to crippled children's programs, and active member of numerous NIH scientific committees, Dr. Pruzansky also was president of the American Cleft Palate Association, the Teratology Society, and the International Society for Craniofacial Biology. He participated in various birth defects meetings, including the first conference on the subject at Johns Hopkins University. An avid and long-time supporter of the March of Dimes, he served as Chairman of the Medical Advisory Committee of the Chicago chapter.

In addition to receiving many awards and honors, Dr. Pruzansky was the first non-surgeon invited to deliver the V. H. Kazanjian lecture in plastic surgery at New York University. A memorial volume, "Craniofacial Dysmorphology: Studies in Honor of Samuel Pruzansky," was published as a tribute to his achievements.

ACMG Award Presentations (continued)

Previous Pruzansky Memorial Lecturers and their affiliations at the time of the award are listed below.

- 2005 Irene H. Maumence, MD, Johns Hopkins Hospital, Baltimore, MD
- 2004 Robert J. Gorlin, DDS, University of Minnesota, Minneapolis, MN
- 2003 Christine Petit, PhD, Institut Pasteur, Paris, France
- 2002 James F. Gusella, PhD, Massachusetts General Hospital East, Charlestown, MA
- 2001 Eric N. Olson, PhD, University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center, Dallas, TX
- 2000 Douglas C. Wallace, Emory University School of Medicine, Atlanta, GA
- 1999 Huntington F. Willard, PhD, Case Western Reserve Univ. School of Med., Cleveland, OH
- 1998 Henry A. Erlich, PhD, Roche Molecular Systems, Alameda, CA
- 1997 Connie Eaves, PhD, Terry Fox Laboratory, Vancouver, BC, Canada
- 1996 Clifford J. Tabin, PhD, Harvard Medical School, Boston, MA
- 1995 Savio L. Woo, PhD, Ctr for Gene Therapy, Baylor College of Medicine, Houston, TX
- 1994 Scott F. Gilbert, PhD, Swarthmore College, Swarthmore, PA
- 1992 Grant Sutherland, PhD, DSc, Adelaide Children s Hospital North Adelaide, Australia
- 1991 D. Carleton Gajdusek, MD, Natl Inst. of Neuro. Disorders and Stroke, Bethesda, MD
- 1990 Francis S. Collins, MD, University of Michigan Medical School, Ann Arbor, MI
- 1990 Lap-Chee Tsui, PhD, Hospital for Sick Children, Toronto, Ontario, Canada
- 1989 Louis M. Kunkel, MD, Harvard Medical School, Boston, MA
- 1988 Elizabeth D. Hay, MD, Harvard Medical School, Boston, MA
- 1987 Drew Noden, MD, Cornell University, Ithaca, NY
- 1986 Sir Andrew Hurley, OM, FRS, Trinity College, Cambridge, United Kingdom

ACMG Electronic Newsletter

The new ACMG Electronic Newsletter, *The ACMG Medical Geneticist* released its first issue in March. The newsletter will be sent quarterly to all ACMG members updating them on committee activities, ACMG meetings and activities of the college. This is a service only available to members of ACMG. The next issue will be released in June.

Save the Date: March 22-25, 2007; Nashville, TN

The 2007 Annual Clinical Genetics Meeting will be held March 22-25, 2007 at the Renaissance Nashville Hotel and Convention Center in Nashville, Tennessee. The 2007 Program Committee is already working diligently to select topics for concurrent and plenary sessions. The 2007 Call for Abstracts will be released to members this fall.