

Dr. Abul Abbas to Receive the 2010 ASIP Robbins Distinguished Educator Award



Dr. Abul Abbas, Chair of the Department of Pathology at University of California San Francisco, is the 2010 recipient of the Robbins Distinguished Educator Award. The award is named in honor of Dr. Stanley Robbins (1915-2003), formerly of Boston University and Brigham and Women's Hospital, who was a pioneer of pathology education and a member of ASIP for over 50 years. This award, partially supported by an unrestricted educational grant from Elsevier, an ASIP Corporate Partner, recognizes individuals whose contributions to education in pathology have had a manifest impact at a regional, national, or international level.

Through his laboratory, Dr. Abbas has trained numerous graduate students and postdoctoral fellows over the years. His influence on their education extends beyond the laboratory with several prominent books on Immunology and Pathology. These include Cellular and Molecular Immunology, Basic Immunology, and the Robbins and Cotran Pathologic Basis of Disease (7th and 8th Editions). With these well-respected and widely-adopted texts, Dr. Abbas has contributed substantially to education in immunology and pathology.

According to Dr. Andrew H. Lichtman of Harvard Medical School, the "breadth of Abul's educational activities is enormous, and his accomplishments as an educator in the fields of immunology and pathology are clearly evident...He is always trying to achieve the ultimate goal of imparting knowledge in a way that both informs and inspires his students." While Dr. Abbas teaches with skill and dedication, he engages successfully in his research and clinical activities at the same time.

Dr. Abbas' research is focused on immunological tolerance and autoimmunity. Using transgenic and knockout mice, his laboratory is exploring the mechanisms that maintain tolerance to tissue and systemic self-antigens, and the conditions that lead to the breakdown of self-tolerance and the development of autoimmunity. They are also analyzing the roles of different cytokines and T-cell subsets in autoimmune disease, and in the function of regulatory T-cells.

As stated by Dr. Vinay Kumar of University of Chicago, Dr. Abbas is an "internationally recognized basic immunologist with cutting edge research" and the Chair of one of "the finest pathology departments in the country." Dr. Kumar describes Dr. Abbas as a popular lecturer with "the uncanny ability to blend basic science and clinical medicine...(allowing) him to present to his audience the relevance of science to the practice of medicine."

Dr Abbas received his MBBS (MD equivalent) from the All-India Institute of Medical Science, New Delhi, India, in 1968 in Medicine. After internships and residencies at All-India Institute of Medical Science and Peter Bent Brigham Hospital, he moved on to Harvard Medical School/Brigham and Women's Hospital as an Assistant Professor, Associate Professor and Professor. He was appointed in 1999 as Professor and Chair of the Department of Pathology at University of California San Francisco.

Among his many accomplishments, Dr. Abbas is a past president of the American Society of Investigative Pathology (2003) and was a recipient of ASIP's prestigious Rous-Whipple Award in 2007.

Dr. Abbas will receive the Robbins Distinguished Educator Award at the Awards and Business Meeting at the ASIP Annual Meeting in Anaheim, CA on Monday, April 26, 2010.

Dr. Diane Bielenberg Awarded the 2010 Cotran Established Investigator Award



The 2010 recipient of the Cotran Established Investigator Award is Diane Bielenberg, PhD, of Children's Hospital/Harvard Medical School. This award recognizes early career investigators with demonstrated excellence as an investigator with recently established or emerging independence and with a research focus leading to an improved understanding of the conceptual basis of disease. The award is named in honor of

Dr. Ramzi S. Cotran (1933-2000), a leader of pathology formerly of Harvard Medical School and Brigham and Women's Hospital, and a Past President of ASIP, and is partially supported by an unrestricted educational grant from Elsevier, an ASIP Corporate Partner.

Dr. Bielenberg is interested in cancer biology and the study of metastasis and angiogenesis. Therapies aimed at inhibiting angiogenesis should not only block tumor growth but also metastasis. As stated by Dr. Isaiah Fidler of University of Texas/MD Anderson Cancer Center, Dr. Bielenberg's research deals "with the cross-talk of metastatic subpopulations of cells within specific organ microenvironments that includes organ-specific vasculatures." Her continuing studies show the role of SEMA3F as an endogenous lymphangiogenesis inhibitor. Dr. Fidler feels that Dr. Bielenberg will "continue to make significant contributions to a better understanding of the pathology of cancer."

Dr. Patricia D'Amore of Children's Hospital explains that Dr. Bielenberg "immediately became a valuable member" of their research group upon her arrival at Children's, and she has since "gained a reputation as a dynamic speaker." Dr. D'Amore adds that Dr. Bielenberg has an excellent publication record, she is an outstanding collaborator, and "she will continue to identify important questions in cancer biology and investigate them with the creativity and dedication that she has demonstrated from her first day in the lab."

Dr. Bielenberg received her PhD in cancer biology and cell biology in 1998 from University of Texas Health Science Center/MD Anderson Cancer Center. She then began a postdoctoral fellowship at Children's Hospital/Harvard Medical School, and has since risen to Assistant Professor in 2005.

Dr. Bielenberg will present her award lecture on "Inhibiting the Metastatic Process; Targeting Tumor Angiogenesis and Lymphangiogenesis with Semaphorins" on Tuesday, April 27, 2010 at the ASIP Annual Meeting in Anaheim, CA and will receive the Cotran Established Investigator Award at the ASIP Awards and Business Meeting on Monday, April 26, 2010.