

Agenda

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 24, 2007

DoubleTree Hotel, Rockville, Maryland

- 6:00 p.m. Cash bar & hors d'oeuvres
- 6:45 p.m. Dinner
- 7:45 p.m. Opening Remarks: Dr. Duane Alexander
- 8:00 p.m. Introduction of Honoree: Dr. Gilman Grave
- 8:10 p.m. Presentation of Award
Honoree Remarks: Dr. Stanley Cohen
- 8:20 p.m. Closing Remarks: Dr. Duane Alexander

HALL OF HONOR

NICHD 2007

STANLEY COHEN, P.H.D.

Vanderbilt University

■ *For his landmark discovery of epidermal growth factor and its cellular receptor, which play key roles in development and provide novel targets for chemotherapy*

Although he credits “a group effort” for many of his achievements, Dr. Stanley Cohen spearheaded research that elucidated how cell growth and differentiation is regulated. With his colleague, Dr. Rita Levi-Montalcini, he isolated nerve growth factor (NGF) and created antibodies that inhibited the growth factor’s activity. Building on this finding, Dr. Cohen then discovered, isolated, purified, and sequenced epidermal growth factor (EGF), a protein that stimulates the growth of epithelial and other cells and enhances certain developmental growth cascades. He then went on to identify the target receptor for EGF and the mechanism of its action, providing a breakthrough in understanding how signals from outside a cell reach the inside of a cell. These discoveries enabled scientists to further explore the cell growth process and provided new receptor targets for interventions, such as chemotherapy.

Dr. Cohen earned his bachelor’s degree in biology and chemistry from Brooklyn College, which he explains that he could attend only because of the college’s no-tuition policy. He earned his master’s degree in zoology from Oberlin College, and then his doctorate in biochemistry from the University of Michigan. After gaining research experience in the fields of pediatrics and biochemistry at the University of Colorado, Dr. Cohen moved to Washington University’s department of zoology, where he did his pioneering work with Dr. Levi-Montalcini. Dr. Cohen accepted his first teaching position in 1959 as assistant professor of biochemistry at Vanderbilt University. It was during his more than 30 years at Vanderbilt that he made so many significant discoveries related to EGF. He retired from the Vanderbilt faculty in 2000 as the Distinguished Professor Emeritus of Biochemistry.

In 1986, Dr. Cohen and Dr. Levi-Montalcini earned both the Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine and the Albert Lasker Basic Medical Research Award for their discoveries related to growth factors. Other highlights of his career include being elected to the National Academy of Sciences in 1980 and the American Academy of Arts and Sciences in 1984, and receiving numerous other honors and awards.



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