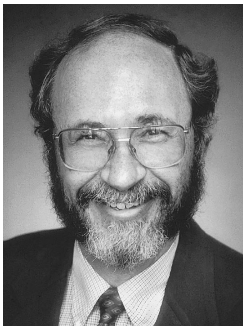
People

Bernard Moss receives a distinguished achievement award



Bernard Moss has been awarded the Tenth Annual Bristol-Myers Squibb Award for Distinguished Achievement in Infectious Disease Research. Moss, Chief of the Laboratory of Viral Diseases at the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases (NIAID) was chosen for this award because of his research that led to the development of strategies for exploiting viruses as research tools and as carriers for recombinant vaccines.

As a young scientist, Moss discovered the structure of function of the methylated 'cap' that forms the end unit of mRNA and, together with others, showed that this structure was a vital component of mRNA in all eukaryotic cells and most viruses. One of his best-recognized accomplishments was development of the vaccinia virus (used to irradicate smallpox) as a vector system that can be used to express genes of other organisms. Moss is now currently working to develop an AIDS vaccine.

Moss was elected to the National Academy of Sciences in 1987, to the American Academy of Microbiology in 1996 and was President of the American Society of Virology in 1994. Moss has also received many awards including the Public Health Service Distinguished Service Medal, the Dickson Prize For Medical Research, the Invitrogen Eukaryotic Expression Award, the ICN International Prize for Virology and The Taylor International Prize in Medicine.

Bristol-Myers Squibb presents distinguished achievement awards for each of seven medical research areas. The winners of the other categories in 2000 were:

- David H. Beach (Mitotix, Cambridge, MA, USA) and Charles J. Sherr (St Jude Children's Research Hospital, Memphis, TN, USA) for cancer research;
- George A. Bray (Louisiana State University Medical Center and Pennington Research Center, Baton Rouge, LA, USA) for nutrition research;
- Klaus Kuettner (Rush Medical College, Chicago, IL, USA) and Robert B. Salter (University of Toronto, Canada) for orthopaedic research;
- Thomas M. Jessell (Columbia University College of Physicians and Surgeons, New York City, NY, USA) for neuroscience research;
- Jan L. Breslow (The Rockefeller University, New York City, NY, USA) for cardiovascular research; and
- Ronald M. Evans (The Salk Institute, La Jolla, CA, USA) for metabolic research.

Hood and Hunkapiller receive Edman Award

Leroy Hood (founder of the Institute for Systems Biology, Seattle, WA, USA) and his colleague, Michael Hunkapiller, have been named as co-recipients of the 2000 Edman Award. The award from the International Association of Protein Structure Analysis and Proteomics was awarded to Hood and Hunkapiller for their pivotal advances in molecular biotechnology over the past two decades, enabled by their work to develop gas-phase sequencing technology.

The Award was named after Pehr Edman, who created the world's first automated protein-sequencing device in 1967. Hood and Hunkapiller built on this invention and created the automated gas-phase gene sequencer that solved several of the limitations of Edman's device, such as the need to have very high concentrations of the protein being studied. When presented with the award, Hood said: 'It was a real honor to be recognized with Mike Hunkapiller by an association that brings together some of the world's greatest talents in proteomics.'

In 1992, believing an interdisciplinary approach to biology was key, Hood persuaded Bill Gates to help him establish the cross-disciplinary Department of Molecular Biotechnology at the University of Washington (WA, USA) as William Gates III Professor of Biomedical Sciences. However, because the University could not afford to fund the development of a new Institute, Hood left the University of Washington to establish the non-profit research organization, the Institute for Systems Biology, in January 2000. Hood has also played a role in creating biotechnology companies, including Amgen and Applied Biosystems. Hunkapiller was a former student of Hood's at the California Institute of Technology before joining Applied Biosystems in 1983, where he is now President.

Three new Vice-Presidents for Dynavax

Dynavax Technologies (Berkeley, CA, USA) have named three new Vice-Presidents to try to strengthen their management resources before entering new products into clinical trials later this year. Robert Lee Coffman has taken up the post of Vice-President and Chief Scientific Officer, Stephen F. Tuck is Vice-President of Biopharmaceutical Development and Gary Van Nest as Vice-President of Preclinical Research.

Coffman has significant expertise in immunology and is, therefore, hoped to help in the development of new applications for their lead technology platform for the treatment of allergies, inflammation-mediated diseases, infectious diseases and cancer. Coffman was previously working for DNAX Research Institute as a Distinguished Research Fellow. Together with Tim Mosmann, he shared the William S. Coley Award for Research in Immunology for their discovery of the Th1 and Th2 subsets of T lymphocytes.

Tuck was previously Senior Director of Biopharmaceutical Development, after having come from Chiron Corporation. Nest joined Dynavax in 1997 as Senior Director of Preclinical Development after working for Chiron in several positions including Acting Head of Vaccine Research.

Non-Executive Director for Adaptive Biosystems

Sandy Primrose has recently been appointed as Non-Executive Director of Adaptive Biosystems (Luton, UK). Primrose is currently a director of several biotechnology companies and serves on the board of the CAMR. His previous positions include, Director of Biotechnology at G.D. Searle and several senior management positions at Amersham International (now Nycomed Amersham).

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