



CHAPTER 8

Awards and Lectures

Over the last sixty-nine years, the American College of Gastroenterology has developed a comprehensive program to acknowledge outstanding individuals who have made contributions to the College and to GI patient care. The College's awards programs as well as its special invited lectureships serve to recognize some of the leaders in the field of clinical gastroenterology.

The Awards Committee solicits recommendations from the ACG membership for all awards. In May the Awards Committee meets and develops its recommendations based upon those nominations and others that are received. In turn, the recommendations of the Awards Committee are discussed and acted upon by the Board of Trustees. Similarly, invited guest lecturers are suggested by the president and the chairs of the annual postgraduate course. The appreciation and admiration of one's peers is one of life's finest honors, and the caliber of the awardees and special guest lecturers that have been selected each year certainly reflects the highest level of quality in the GI field. (See Appendix X for a complete list of all award recipients and special Lecturers.)

Awards

Early History: Focus on Authors

In 1946 an annual prize was inaugurated for the best unpublished paper on gastroenterology or an allied subject as determined by a board of impartial judges. Later, another award was instituted for the best paper published in the journal in every twelve-month period. In 1973 the award for the best unpublished paper was discontinued and the one for the best published paper became the Rorer Award, which continued into the early 1990s. Richard H. Marshak, MD, College president in 1972–73 and a renowned radiologist, established an award in 1974 for the best radiological paper published in the journal. It is unclear why this award was discontinued.

Berk/Fise Clinical Achievement Award

The Berk/Fise Clinical Achievement Award (formerly the ACG Clinical Achievement Award, established in 1987) is presented to not more

than one member or fellow in any year and is made in recognition of distinguished contributions to clinical gastroenterology over a significant period of time. In addition to a career of distinguished clinical practice of gastroenterology, specific criteria include contributions to patient care, clinical science, clinical education, technological innovation, and public and community service. The award's first recipient was Leonidas Berry, MD.

Samuel S. Weiss Award

The Samuel S. Weiss Award was established as a service award in commemoration of Samuel S. Weiss, whose efforts and initiative resulted in the establishment of the ACG in 1932. It is presented periodically, and not necessarily annually, to a fellow of the College in recognition of outstanding career service to the organization. The first recipient of this award was Milton J. Matzner, MD, past president (1964–65) and former editor of *The American Journal of Gastroenterology* (1965–72).

The Master Award

ACG initiated its Master Award in 1989 to recognize individuals with a lifetime of achievements in and commitment to clinical gastroenterology. The criteria require that nominees be at least fifty years of age and preclude election of anyone currently holding or who within the past two years had held an elected office in the College. Its first recipients in 1990 were J. Edward Berk, MD; Leonidas H. Berry, MD; Edwin M. Cohn, MD; Angelo Dagradi, MD; David Dreiling, MD; Burton Korelitz, MD; F. Warren Nugent, MD; William S. Rosenthal, MD; Mitchell Spellberg, MD; Frederick Steigmann, MD; and Joseph E. Walther, MD.

Awards in Recognition for Excellent Papers or Posters

The College gives several awards recognizing excellence in research reports. In 1978 the Auxiliary established a lecture to be presented annually by an outstanding woman in the field of digestive diseases. This program eventually evolved into two awards for the best abstract or free paper as selected by the Annual Meeting Program Committee, with one award going to the best paper by an ACG member and the second for the best paper by a trainee. In 1986 the annual Lawlor Award, which provides travel expenses and a stipend for the best paper presented by a resident, was established in memory of Smith-Kline executive Edward Lawlor. Merck Senior Fellow awards were initiated in 1988 to honor the best paper or poster by fellows-in-training; the program eventually transitioned to the current AstraZeneca Senior Fellows award, which is presented to twelve trainees annually.



William D. Carey, MD, becomes a Master in 1999.

Lectures

Baker Presidential Lectureship

This lectureship was established in 1974 by the family of the late Dr. Henry Baker, the first chair of the Board of Governors (1954–55) and president of the College from 1960 to 1961. The Baker lecturer, chosen by the president and subject to approval of the Educational Affairs Committee and the Board of Trustees, must be a member of the College with a distinguished career in teaching and investigation. The award's first recipient was F. Warren Nugent, MD, and the award was presented annually until 2004.

The J. Edward Berk Distinguished Lecturer

Established in recognition of the significant contributions made by J. Edward Berk, MD, MACG, to clinical gastroenterology during his long and distinguished clinical and academic career, the J. Edward Berk Distinguished Lecture was formerly known as the Stuart Lecture, inaugurated in 1968 and supported by Stuart Pharmaceuticals. When that company left the GI field, the lecture became the ACG Distinguished Lecture and then was renamed in honor of Dr. Berk in 1997. The president nominates the individual selected to deliver the lecture, and the nomination is subject to the approval of the Board of Trustees. The award's first recipient was David A. Dreiling, MD.

Dr. David Graham presents President Reagan with ACG's Distinguished Service Award accompanied by Edward L. Cattau, Jr., MD, FACG, in recognition of Reagan's role in raising visibility of colorectal cancer.



David Y. Graham Lectureship

The David Y. Graham Lectureship was established in 2004 in recognition of the many contributions to clinical gastroenterology by David Y. Graham, MD, MACG, who gave the inaugural presentation. Otsuka America Inc. and Meretek Diagnostics Inc. donated funding to make the lectureship possible.

David Sun Lectureship in Postgraduate Education

The David Sun Lectureship in Postgraduate Education honors Dr. David Sun, an outstanding gastroenterologist and investigator who died at the peak of his career. The lecturer is chosen by the course directors of the postgraduate program, subject to the approval of the Educational Affairs Committee and the Board of Trustees. The award's first recipient was J. Edward Berk, MD, who, along with Mrs. Sun, was instrumental in establishing the honor.