

Solomon A. Berson Medical Alumni Achievement Awards for 2006

On Alumni Day, April 22, 2006, alumni and faculty of the School of Medicine were recognized for their outstanding achievements. The awards were presented by Dean Robert M. Glickman, M.D., who greeted more than 400 alumni and guests.

AWARD IN BASIC SCIENCE

RONALD HOFFMAN, M.D. ('71), currently serves as Director of the Cancer Center and the Eileen Hendrik Professor of Oncology at the University of Illinois. He has made landmark contributions to our understanding of stem cell biology and blood cell development. Among them are his defining of immune mechanisms at progenitor cell level that cause aplastic anemia; and identification of the key regulatory factors for erythropoiesis and megakaryopoiesis. He holds a U.S. patent on methods to increase the number of blood stem cells by special culture techniques, and thus has paved the way for the potential of stem cell therapy to transform medical therapy through cell and tissue regeneration.

AWARD IN HEALTH SCIENCE

JEROME LOWENSTEIN, M.D. ('57), Chief of the Nephrology Division, has been a member of the faculty of the School of Medicine for nearly 30 years. Director of the Program for Humanistic Medicine, the first of its kind in the world, he is nationally and internationally recognized for his dedication and commitment to humanism. He personifies the humanistic physician,

and has inspired an entire generation of medical students and house staff to follow in his footsteps to become caring healthcare professionals.

AWARD IN CLINICAL SCIENCE

BERNARD COHEN, M.D. ('54), is the Morris B. Bender Professor of Neurology at Mount Sinai School of Medicine. Dr. Cohen has spent his research career studying eye movements and the vestibular system of animals and humans. He was the first to demonstrate the eye movements and patterns of eye muscle activation that are produced by individual semi-circular canals. He also discovered velocity storage, a process in the vestibular system that is responsible for important characteristics of the vestibulo-ocular reflex (VOR).

FACULTY MEMBER INDUCTED AS HONORARY MEMBER OF THE CLASS OF 2006

JAN T. VILCEK, M.D., PH.D., Professor of Microbiology, has served on the faculty of the School of Medicine

for more than 40 years. He is the co-inventor of Remicade, a monoclonal antibody directed against TNF that has revolutionized the treatment of rheumatoid arthritis and other inflammatory diseases. Last year, he made the School of Medicine an extraordinary gift of \$105 million—the largest sum ever donated to the School, and one of the largest ever given to a school or healthcare institution in New York City.

JULIA ZELMANOVICH YOUNG ALUMNI AWARD

FELICIA M. T. LEWIS, M.D. ('98), was the recipient of the Julia Zelmanovich Young Alumni Award for general excellence. Since July 2004 she has been serving as an Epidemic Intelligence Service Officer for the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). A volunteer in Haiti and Madagascar, she is also participating in epidemiology research with the Philadelphia Department of Public Health and the CDC. ●