

2011 ARVO Award recipients honored at annual meeting

EurekAlert

Rockville, MD — The Association for Research in Vision and Ophthalmology (ARVO) is pleased to announce its 2011 ARVO Award recipients. These award recipients will be acknowledged at the ARVO 2011 Annual Meeting, May 15, in Fort Lauderdale, Fla.

Proctor Medal: Robert E. Anderson, MD, PhD, FARVO

Mildred Weisenfeld Award for Excellence in Ophthalmology: Paulus TVM de Jong, MD, PhD, FEBOpht, FARVO

Friedenwald Award: James T. Rosenbaum, MD, FARVO

Cogan Award: Andrew J. Fischer, PhD

Kupfer Award: Gullapalli N. Rao, MD

Proctor Medal

ARVO is awarding Robert E. Anderson, MD, PhD, FARVO, of the Oklahoma Health Sciences Center with the Proctor Medal for more than 40 years of research on the advancement of our understanding of the biochemistry and cell biology of photoreceptors. His recent studies show the insulin receptor is present in rod and cone outer segments, is activated by light and protects against stress-induced retinal degeneration; and that mutation in AD Stargardt's Disease is a gene that encodes a fatty acid elongase. Anderson's Proctor Award Lecture has been postponed until the 2012 ARVO Annual Meeting.

Weisenfeld Award and Lecture

ARVO is presenting the 2011 Weisenfeld Award to Paulus TVM de Jong, MD, PhD, FEBOpht, FARVO, of the Netherlands Institute for Neuroscience for his global leadership in retinal diseases over the last 25 years, focusing on the genetic and epidemiologic aspects of retinal diseases and glaucoma. De Jong combined his clinical excellence with proper genetics testing that led him to the identification of several new genes. He will present the Weisenfeld Award Lecture, "Blind spots: Lessons from research in aging macula disorder and glaucoma," at the Annual Meeting on Monday, May 2.

Friedenwald Award and Lecture

ARVO is recognizing James T. Rosenbaum, MD, FARVO, of the Oregon Health and Science University with the Friedenwald Award for his primary responsibility in the initial description of endotoxin-induced uveitis in a rodent model that is standard to

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study innate immunity and intraocular inflammation. Rosenbaum and his collaborators have combined contributions to understanding the pathophysiology of intraocular inflammation with advances in the characterization of many clinical forms of uveitis. Rosenbaum will present the Friedenwald Award Lecture, "Why HLA-B27? A Three-decade Quest," at the Annual Meeting on Tuesday, May 3.

Cogan Award and Lecture

ARVO is recognizing Andrew J. Fischer, PhD, of The Ohio State University with the Cogan Award for his important contributions to the fields of myopia and vision-guided ocular growth, retinal stem cells and retinal regeneration. Fischer has demonstrated that Muller glial cells are the source for retinal regeneration in birds, a finding that motivated research in both the zebrafish and mouse, leading to a better understanding of the regenerative potential for these species. Fischer is delivering the Cogan Award Lecture, Retina-guided Ocular Growth, Muller Glia, Stem Cells and Little Serendipity, on Tuesday, May 3, at the Annual Meeting.

Kupfer Award

ARVO is honoring Gullapalli N. Rao, MD, of LV Prasad Eye Institute with the 2011 Kupfer Award for his outstanding accomplishments as a researcher, ophthalmologist and humanitarian. He is the former president of the International Agency for Prevention of Blindness, an organization founded by Carl Kupfer, MD, for whom the award is named, and is committed to moving forward with the agenda to eliminate avoidable blindness by the year 2020.

About the Awards

Proctor Medal: Established in 1949 as a memorial to Francis I. Proctor, MD, this award honors outstanding scientific research as applied to ophthalmology. It was the first ophthalmology-related award to honor non-clinicians in the field.

Friedenwald Award: Named for Jonas S. Friedenwald, MD, and established in 1957, the award recognizes exceptional scientific research as applied to ophthalmology. His pioneer studies on the pathogenesis of glaucoma, corneal wound healing and diseases of the retina laid the groundwork for future generations of investigators.

Mildred Weisenfeld Award for Excellence in Ophthalmology: As a tribute to Mildred Weisenfeld's contributions to the field, including the founding of Fight for Sight in 1946, the Weisenfeld Award was established in 1986. The award is presented to an individual in recognition of distinguished scholarly contributions to the clinical practice of ophthalmology.

Cogan Award: Established in 1988 to commemorate David G. Cogan, MD, for his outstanding leadership and commitment to advancing the understanding of human eye disease, this award recognizes a researcher who is 40 years of age or younger, and who has made important contributions to research in ophthalmology or visual science.

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Kupfer Award: The Kupfer Award was first presented in 1993 to Carl Kupfer, MD, who served as Director of the National Eye Institute, U.S. National Institutes of Health, for 30 years. This award honors those who have demonstrated distinguished public service on behalf of eye and vision research.

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