

BIOACTIVE LIPIDS IN CANCER, INFLAMMATION, AND RELATED DISEASES

15TH INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE



Dear Fellow Colleagues:

In recent weeks, much of my activities have been connected to the ongoing planning of this 28-year international conference series on Bioactive Lipids in Cancer, Inflammation and Related Diseases, which originally started in Detroit, Mich., with Drs. Larry Marnett, Santosh Nigam and I as the organizers.

We have seen dear friends and colleagues pass through our lifetime, and I reflect on those we were fortunate to know through the Bioactive Lipids conference, including the late Santosh Nigam, John McGiff and Christopher Harris.

I am proud to see that this conference series has grown to be one of the premier lipid meetings in the field. The Eicosanoid Research Foundation has a dedicated Board of Directors committed to ensuring that the science presented is relevant, cutting edge with emerging technology and presented by experts in the field. Equally as important, this forum provides a platform for young investigators, postdoctoral fellows and graduate students to present their work, interact with internationally renowned investigators and further their scientific careers and professional development.

During this longstanding conference series, we have seen colleagues flourish and advance their scientific careers. A good example, in 1999, Dr. Timothy Hla was the recipient of the ERF Young Investigator Award for his work on Structure Function at the University of Connecticut. Years later at the Budapest meeting in 2015, as professor of Pathology and Laboratory Medicine at Weill Cornell Medical College, Dr. Hla was the recipient of the ERF Outstanding Achievement Award for his work in Sphingosine 1- phosphate signaling in vascular and immune systems. Dr. Hla's story is an exemplary illustration of the scientific career advancement that this conference series fosters and supports.

This year's Outstanding Achievement Award focuses on Epoxy Fatty Acids and awards will be presented to Drs. Bruce Hammock, Jorge Capdevila and Darryl Zeldin for their pioneering work in the field. The Outstanding Achievement Awards are sponsored by Avanti Polar Lipids.

I would be remiss if I did not congratulate my dear friend and colleague, Dr. Charles Serhan, who will receive this year's ERF Lifetime Achievement Award for his contributions in the area of Resolvins, Maresins and Protectins and his pioneering work on identifying bioactive mediators and cellular pathways critical in the resolution of inflammatory diseases. This prestigious award is sponsored by Cayman Chemical.

There are three competitions available this year which will yield five awards, including the ERF Young Investigator awards in the areas of Structure Function, Inflammation and Cancer; the Journal of Lipid Research Junior Investigator Award; and the Santosh Nigam Outstanding Young Scientist Award.

To add to the above achievement award competitions, I am pleased to announce that we have an unprecedented number of Travel Award opportunities available for young investigators, graduate students and trainees. There are nearly 40 Travel Awards available through this conference series, and 8 industry travel award competition opportunities posted to the meeting website. I invite you to continue this time-honored tradition of supporting and mentoring the careers of young scientists by encouraging those at your institution to submit an abstract, apply for a travel award and/or achievement award, and participate in what promises to be another outstanding conference in this series.

To learn more about the Achievement Award and Travel Award opportunities available for the 15th International Conference visit the meeting website at www.BioactiveLipids.org.

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