The American Society for Investigative Pathology (ASIP) names Dr. David P. Hajjar, Dean of the Weill Graduate School of Medical Sciences at Cornell University, the winner of the 2003 Chugai Award for Excellence in Mentoring and Scholarship. Dr. Hajjar is recognized for his many significant contributions to the field of vascular biology, as well as acting as a mentor to over 25 prominent scientists throughout the world.

Dr. Hajjar is the fourth scientist to receive the Chugai Award, which was created in 2000 and is generously funded by Chugai Pharmaceutical Co., Ltd. The Award is presented to a member of the ASIP with a distinguished career who exhibits both excellence in mentoring and education, and outstanding research achievements in experimental and investigative pathology.

Nominating Dr. Hajjar for the Chugai Award, Dr. Ralph Nachman, Chairman of the Department of Medicine and Physician-in-Chief at the New York Presbyterian Hospital, noted that Dr. Hajjar was the first researcher to demonstrate that a common pathogen such as herpesvirus can cause major pathophysiologic changes in blood vessels and can cause a predisposition to cardiovascular disease. In particular, Dr. Hajjar showed that herpes viruses are capable of promoting cholesterol accumulation in arteries.

Dr. Aaron Marcus, another colleague at New York Presbyterian Hospital, called Dr. Hajjar a “Renaissance Man” and Dr. Robert Kaner, a former student, remarked “his creativity seemed to ‘spill over’ to the rest of us who were working in his laboratory at the time . . . mainly because of his indefatigable efforts to make us want to succeed. Most often, he would put us first before himself.” Dr. Orli Etingin, a former post-doctoral fellow and now Vice-Chairman in the Department of Medicine at Cornell, observed that Dr. Hajjar’s “outstanding mentoring qualities, scholarship, and integrity [mark him] as one of the best Professors we have today in the field of vascular biology.”

Dr. Hajjar received his B.A. in Biochemistry at American International College in Springfield, Mass., in 1974, and his Ph.D. at the University of New Hampshire in 1978. In addition to serving as Dean for the Graduate School of Medical Sciences at Cornell University, Dr. Hajjar is the Director of the Center of Vascular Biology and the Frank H.T. Rhodes Distinguished Professor of Cardiovascular Biology and Genetics. He is on the editorial board of the American Heart Association's *Arteriosclerosis, Thrombosis, and Vascular Biology Journal*.

“I am delighted to be the 2003 recipient of the Chugai Award for Excellence in Mentoring and Scholarship from the ASIP. Additionally, I am grateful to have had a steady stream of gifted trainees who have contributed intellectually to both the lab environment as well as to our understanding of the pathological basis of disease,” said Dr. Hajjar. “I owe much of my professional success to this next generation of biomedical scientists who have trained in my laboratory, 90 percent of whom continue to conduct funded basic research in the academic arena. I hope that I may be remembered as much for those I have been fortunate enough to train as for the original contributions to my field. I believe The Chugai Award recognizes our collective accomplishments.”