The Gold-Headed Cane Award is given in recognition of long-term contributions in pathology, including meritorious research, outstanding teaching and general excellence. The ASIP Meritorious Awards Committee believes that few pathologists in the last half of the 20th Century have had more distinguished careers or more influence on biomedical science than Peter C. Nowell, MD. His work on chromosomes and cancer, beginning in the 60's with the discovery of the Philadelphia chromosomes in chronic myelogenous leukemia, has changed the way we think about cancer.

Among his awards are the Mott Prize of the General Motors Cancer Research Foundation, election to the Institute of Medicine, the 3M Life Sciences Award of the Federation of American Societies for Experimental Biology, and ASIP’s Rous-Whipple Award.

His easy going, self-effacing style and willingness to help young academic pathologists and researchers has benefitted our discipline enormously. Dr. Nowell is Professor of Pathology at the University of Pennsylvania School of Medicine.