Martha Furie, PhD, Recipient of the 2017 ASIP Robbins Distinguished Educator Award

Dr. Martha Furie, Professor of Pathology and Molecular Genetics and Microbiology at the Stony Brook University School of Medicine, is the 2017 recipient of the ASIP Robbins Distinguished Educator Award, which is named in honor of Dr. Stanley Robbins (1915-2003), formerly of Boston University and Brigham and Women’s Hospital. Dr. Robbins was a pioneer of pathology education and a member of ASIP for over 50 years. This award, partially supported by an unrestricted educational grant from Elsevier, an ASIP Corporate Partner, recognizes individuals whose contributions to education in pathology have had a manifest impact at a regional, national, or international level.

Dr. Elizabeth Unger, of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, praises Dr. Furie’s dedication to teaching introductory pathology at Stony Brook University since 1988. Dr. Unger states, “A generation of nursing students at Stony Brook University were first introduced to pathology through the introductory course that [Dr. Furie] has directed.” Dr. Furie has been a lecturer in General Pathology for Stony Brook University medical and dental students as well. Dr. Unger also goes on to highlight Dr. Furie’s years of service and commitment to ASIP in many leadership roles, including President (2011-2012). Dr. Furie has also co-organized and co-chaired the ASIP Scientific Sleuthing of Human Disease for High School Teachers and Students in 2008 and from 2011-2016 and is currently the ASIP representative to the Experimental Biology Board as well as Senior Associate Editor of The American Journal of Pathology.

Dr. Kenneth Shroyer, of Stony Brook University, highlights Dr. Furie’s federally funded research “that has advanced our understanding into the pathogenetic mechanisms that underlie host responses to infection by Francisella tularensis.” Dr. Furie has reported her findings in over 50 peer-reviewed, high impact scientific journals. Dr. Shroyer continues his praise of Dr. Furie’s work at the national level: “Dr. Furie has been a member of 24 NIH/NIAID Special Emphasis Panels ad hoc study sections for review of applications pertaining to biodefense/emerging infectious diseases, microbial pathogenesis and innate immunity/inflammation.”

Dr. Richard Mitchell, of Harvard Medical School, and a former recipient of the ASIP Robbins Distinguished Educator Award, acclaims Dr. Furie’s teaching skills: “Her talks on inflammatory cell recruitment at sites of injury remain for me the gold standard that I aspire to in my own lectures.” Dr. Mitchell also highlights Dr. Furie’s committed service and leadership to ASIP on the Program Committee, Education Committee, and as President.
Dr. Furie received her PhD from the Rockefeller University in 1980. She has been an ASIP member since 1992.

Dr. Furie will receive the Robbins Distinguished Educator Award at the PISA 2016 meeting in Houston, Texas and will receive this award on Saturday, October 22, 2016 during the ASIP Business Meeting and Awards Presentation.