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Investigating the Mechanisms of Disease
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**Vinay Kumar, M.B.B.S., M.D., FRCPath Receives the 2009
ASIP Robbins Distinguished Educator Award**



One of three newly established meritorious awards in 2009, the Robbins Distinguished Educator Award is named for Dr. Stanley Robbins, who was a pioneer of pathology education and a member of ASIP for over 50 years at the time of his death in 2003. This award, partially supported by an unrestricted 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. Vinay Kumar, Chair of the Department of Pathology at the University of Chicago, is the first recipient of this award.

As a scientist, Dr. Kumar was at the forefront of the research that led to the identification of Natural Killer (NK) cells. He not only was a pioneer in the field, but also has continued, through the years, to be a major contributor of studies that characterized and better defined the identity of NK cells and their role in transplantation and infections.

Dr. Kumar's most visible contribution to the teaching of Pathology is as a co-author and now lead author, of Robbins and Cotran Pathologic Basis of Disease and Robbins' Basic Pathology, as well as other books in this series. His involvement in these books spans more than twenty years and much of their success can be attributed to him. Dr. Abul K. Abbas, M.D., Professor and Chair of the Pathology Department at the University of California San Francisco, who has also worked on this project, remarks, "His ability to balance fundamental principles and new advances has made him a remarkably successful "torch-bearer" for the Robbins and Cotran legacy."

In addition to his tireless efforts to these leading textbooks, Dr. Kumar has been an outstanding hands-on teacher of Pathology. He served as the Ashworth Professor of Pathology at the University of Texas Southwestern Medical School from 1986 to 1994, and later as the Vernie A. Stembridge Chair in Pathology from 1994 to 2000. Here, Dr. Kumar developed an innovative Pathology course that became a model for interactive teaching. He received numerous teaching awards while in Dallas, and because of his leadership role, he was appointed Associate Dean for Medical Education, a position he maintained while supervising an active, NIH-funded research group. Since his appointment as Chair of the Department of Pathology at the University of Chicago in 2000, Kumar has re-invigorated the department, strengthened its faculty and residency program and enhanced its educational and research activities. Thanks to Dr. Kumar's efforts, the Residency Training Program at the University of Chicago is among the best in the country.

Dr. Kumar is past president of ASIP and past member of the APC Council, working with dedication to define the goals of these societies and developing educational opportunities for their members. It is also important to note that, since 2006, Dr. Kumar has been a member of a unique AAMC-HHMI committee charged with ensuring strong basic science in medical curricula. He is the only pathologist on the committee and plays a leadership role in this national initiative.

Dr. Kumar received his B.Sc. from Fergusson College, Poona University, India, his M.B.B.S. (equivalent to MD in the United States) from Punjab University Medical College, Amritsar, India and his M.D. in pathology (equivalent to PhD in the US) at All India Institute of Medical Sciences, New Delhi. After completing his residency training in anatomic pathology and hematology at the All India Institute of Medical Sciences, Dr. Kumar emigrated to the United States and began his academic career at the Boston University School of Medicine in 1972.

Dr. Kumar received the Robbins Distinguished Educator Award on Monday, April 20 at the ASIP Awards and Business Meeting.