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For Immediate Release…

American Society for Investigative Pathology (ASIP) to Award Samuel W. French, MD the 2014 Gold-Headed Cane Award

Bethesda, MD - Dr. Samuel W. French, of Harbor-UCLA Medical Center, will receive the 2014 ASIP Gold-Headed Cane Award. This is the most definitive honor granted by ASIP to a member, in recognition of long-term contributions to pathology, including meritorious research, outstanding teaching, excellence in the field, and leadership in pathology.

Dr. French is a renowned expert in pathology of the liver and his research includes the pathogenesis of alcoholic and liver disease. Dr. Emanuel Rubin of Thomas Jefferson University (a previous recipient of the Gold-Headed Cane) states that Dr. French was “one of the pioneers in establishing the nature of the liver cell cytoskeleton and the pathogenesis of Mallory bodies.” Dr. Rubin further explains that these findings by Dr. French “may play an important role in cell damage produced by alcohol consumption.” Along with all of these accomplishments, Dr. French continues to work as a surgical pathologist, which Dr. Rubin regards as remarkable feat. Dr. Rubin further lauds Dr. French as a “distinguished teacher, whose lectures are models of organization and clarity.”

Dr. Jonathan Braun of the University of California, Los Angeles, praises Dr. French’s publication record, which includes “490 publications between 1960 to present day, including 7 that received over 100 citations.” Dr. Braun notes that Dr. French has had many leadership roles throughout his career. Dr. French has served as Department Chair at the University of Ottawa, Harbor General Hospital, and
Martinez VA Medical Center. For the past decade, Dr. French has served as Director of Anatomic Pathology at Harbor-UCLA Medical Center, where he undertook the roles of residency director and scientific officer. Dr. Braun acknowledges Dr. French’s continued devotion to mentorship by specifically stating that “he has directly mentored 25 postdoctoral and graduate students, and 73 pathology residents.”

Dr. Hideo Itabashi of the UCLA School of Medicine puts great emphasis on Dr. French’s character and his dedication to his field. Dr. Itabashi explains that what he admires most about Dr. French is his “low-key humanism.” Dr. French’s many accomplishments and attributes are summed up perfectly by Dr. Itabashi who states “one need not refrain from panegyrics when announcing Dr. French’s dedication to long hard hours in the research laboratory, his dedication to pathology, his earnest teaching of residents and students, his compassion for his patients and residents, and, at the same time, carrying more than his share of the service work as the Chief of Anatomic Pathology and Surgical Pathology.”

Dr. French attended the University of California, Berkeley, followed by medical school at the University of California, San Francisco, where he received an M.D. He has served as the Chief of the Division of Anatomic Pathology at Harbor-UCLA Medical Center as well as Chairman of the Anatomic Pathology Elective for UCLA 4th year medical students since 1990. Dr. French has been a member of ASIP since 1963.

Dr. French will be presented with the Gold-Headed Cane, a mahogany cane with a 14-karat gold head and engraved band, at the ASIP Annual Meeting at Experimental Biology 2014 in San Diego, California on Monday, April 28, 2014 during the ASIP Membership Business Meeting and Awards Presentation.

About the American Society for Investigative Pathology
The American Society for Investigative Pathology (ASIP) is a society of biomedical scientists who investigate mechanisms of disease. Investigative pathology is an integrative discipline that links the presentation of disease in the whole organism to its fundamental cellular and molecular mechanisms. It uses a variety of structural, functional, and genetic techniques and ultimately applies research findings to the diagnosis and treatment of diseases. ASIP advocates for the practice of investigative pathology and fosters the professional career development and education of its members. ASIP is a member of the Federation of American Societies for Experimental Biology (FASEB – www.faseb.org), a coalition of 26 independent societies that plays an active role in lobbying for the interests of 115,000 biomedical scientists.

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