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*Investigating the Mechanisms of Disease*

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**Charleen T. Chu, MD, PhD will Receive the 2010 Outstanding Investigator Award**



**Dr. Charleen Chu**, Associate Professor of Pathology and Ophthalmology at University of Pittsburgh, is the recipient of the 2010 Outstanding Investigator Award. This prestigious award recognizes mid-career investigators with demonstrated excellence in research in experimental pathology.

Dr. Chu's research centers on the role of kinases in age-related neurodegenerative diseases with an emphasis on mitochondrial dysfunction and macroautophagy. As related by Dr. Kevin Roth of Department of Pathology at the University of Alabama, Birmingham, "Dr. Chu has made major contributions to our understanding of neurodegenerative disease pathogenesis particularly in the area of Parkinson's Disease...Her work has dramatically advanced the concept that altered subcellular compartmentalization of activated signaling proteins regulates the cellular response to neuronal injury. Her most recent work on the role of autophagy and autophagic stress in neurodegenerative disease pathogenesis is truly

pioneering."

Dr. George Michalopoulos of University of Pittsburgh School of Medicine states that Dr. Chu, in addition to her superb scientific achievements, "has demonstrated truly exceptional commitment to the advancement of experimental pathology through innovative educational programs at institutional and national levels," including her involvement in several ASIP activities including Courses, mentoring activities, committees, and the Summer Academy. She also spearheaded the Pathologist Investigator Residency Research Training (PIRRT) program at University of Pittsburgh to promote research as a career track among pathology residents, which has doubled in size since its inception. Dr. Michalopoulos goes on to describe Dr. Chu as "an energetic, dynamic and truly outstanding investigator."

Dr. Chu is Associate Professor of Pathology, director of the Ophthalmic Pathology Service, and co-director of the Pathologist Investigator Residency-Research Training (PIRRT) program at the University of Pittsburgh School of Medicine. Dr. Chu obtained her AB (Biology) from Harvard University, followed by MD, PhD (Pathology-Biochemistry) and post-graduate training (Anatomic Pathology, Neuropathology, Ophthalmic Pathology) at Duke University.

Dr. Chu presented her award lecture on "Parkinson's Disease: Converging Insights from Toxin and Genetic Models" on Monday, April 26, 2010 at the ASIP Annual Meeting in Anaheim, CA and received the Outstanding Investigator Award later that day at the ASIP Awards and Business Meeting.