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*Investigating the Mechanisms of Disease*  
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**Kojo S. J. Elenitoba-Johnson, MD Receives the  
2012 ASIP Outstanding Investigator Award**



Dr. Kojo Elenitoba-Johnson, Professor of Pathology at the University of Michigan Medical School, is the recipient of the 2012 Outstanding Investigator Award. This prestigious award recognizes mid-career investigators with demonstrated excellence in research in experimental pathology.

Dr. Elenitoba-Johnson's research interests include: biologic events underlying lymphoma pathogenesis and progression; identification of protein substrates of ubiquitin ligases involved in cell cycle deregulation and cancer pathogenesis; development of novel mass spectrometry-based proteomics techniques for large-scale interrogation of complex mixtures; novel molecular technologies for molecular diagnosis of hematopoietic malignancies; identification deregulation of deregulated candidates for growth factor receptors in lymphoma therapy; and proteomic profiling of human malignant tumors. Dr. Elenitoba-Johnson is currently the Director of the Division of Translational Research for the Department of Pathology and the Director of the Molecular Pathology Laboratory.

Dr. Jay Hess, Chair of the Department of Pathology, University of Michigan, states that Dr. Elenitoba-Johnson has “quickly emerged as a leader in translational pathology” and has produced a number of publications that “exemplify (his) pioneering work in this arena.” Dr. Hess also points out Dr. Elenitoba-Johnson’s productivity and competitiveness in his field, his key leadership role in the Department of Pathology as director of Translational Pathology, and his ability to secure significant funding. Dr. Hess says, “Dr. Elenitoba-Johnson has a very unusual combination of intellect, drive, creativity, and interpersonal skills. As an African-American clinician scientist, he also serves as a remarkable role model for underrepresented minorities.”

Dr. Elaine Jaffe of the National Institutes of Health has “the highest regard” for Dr. Elenitoba-Johnson’s diagnostic expertise. She believes he is “an outstanding hematopathologist, and has diagnostic skills far advanced of many individuals with many more years of experience.” Dr. Jaffe “always find his analyses insightful and to the point.” In addition, she states that in his relatively young career, Dr. Elenitoba-Johnson “has a long record of scientific productivity.”

Dr. Nelson Fausto, former Chair of Pathology at University of Washington, commends Dr. Elenitoba-Johnson as “an individual with unusual curiosity and dedication, who was attracted to research.” Dr. Fausto believes that Dr. Elenitoba-Johnson “will continue to build on his accomplishments for many years to come,” and that he is “one of the brightest lights among the new generation of academic pathologists.”

Dr. Elenitoba-Johnson obtained his MD from the College of Medicine, University of Lagos and Lagos University Teaching Hospital in Lagos, Nigeria. He then completed a residency at Brown University School of Medicine and a fellowship at the National Institutes of Health. Prior to joining the University of Michigan Medical School in 2006 where he is now a Professor of Pathology, Dr. Elenitoba-Johnson held academic, administrative, and clinical appointments at University of Utah Health Sciences Center and Brown University School of Medicine.

Dr. Elenitoba-Johnson presented his award lecture, "Lost in Ubiquitination, Found by Mass Spectrometry: Identification of E3 Ligase Substrates Controlling Critical Cellular Events and Cancer," on Saturday, April 21, 2012 at the ASIP Annual Meeting (Experimental Biology 2012) in San Diego, CA. He received the Outstanding Investigator Award on Monday, April 23, 2012 at the ASIP Awards Presentation and Membership Business Meeting.