



American Society for Investigative Pathology
Investigating the Mechanisms of Disease
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**ASIP Presents the 2011 ASIP Outstanding Investigator Award
Posthumously to Mark A. Smith, PhD**



Dr. Xiongwei Zhu Presents Lecture in Honor of Dr. Mark A. Smith

The ASIP community was deeply saddened to learn of the unexpected death of Dr. Mark Smith on December 19, 2010. Dr. Smith, Professor of Pathology at Case Western Reserve University, was selected by the ASIP Meritorious Awards Committee to be the recipient of the 2011 Outstanding Investigator Award. This prestigious award recognizes mid-career investigators with demonstrated excellence in research in experimental pathology.

Dr. Smith's research centered on investigating the pathological mechanisms underlying selective neuronal death in neurodegenerative diseases such as Alzheimer's disease. His research involved a variety of techniques ranging from histological to molecular biology to cellular models, and encompassed diagnostic, mechanistic, and therapeutic strategies. This research included projects directed towards fundamental metabolic alterations, homeostatic dysregulation of transition metals, signal transduction alterations and inappropriate re-entry into the cell cycle.

In his nomination letter, Dr. Michael Lamm of Case Western Reserve University stressed that Dr. Smith was recognized nationally and internationally as a leader in Alzheimer disease research. Further, he felt that "From day one, Mark instigated and has since directed a number of novel directions in Alzheimer disease research, including investigations of oxidative stress mechanisms and cell cycle dysregulation. These efforts have led to a noteworthy publication record that has attracted numerous citations with a high impact factor, which I believe is an impressive achievement for a relatively young scientist."

Dr. Michael Hart of University of Wisconsin stated that Dr. Smith's "great enthusiasm, ingenuity and capacity for hard work has allowed him to not only become exceptionally well-funded as a principal investigator but also has made him much in demand as a collaborator on program projects or as a co-investigator on grants. He has also taken on a host of teaching responsibilities for graduate students as well as in the School of Medicine. His ability as a teacher and mentor is best seen by the quality of student that he attracts and the success that they have throughout their course of study."

Upon joining Case Western Reserve University in 1992, Dr. Smith became Professor of Pathology and Director of Basic Science Research of the University Memory and Cognition Center. Dr. Smith obtained

his BSc with Honors in Molecular Biology and Biochemistry from Hatfield College, Durham University, England. He received his PhD in Biochemistry from Nottingham University, England. Dr. Smith was Editor-in-Chief of the Journal of Alzheimer's Disease.

Case Western Reserve University has established the Mark A. Smith Scholarship Fund in Dr. Smith's honor. Information about donations is available at www.j-alz.com/marksmith.html.

Dr. Smith's close colleague and collaborator Xiongwei Zhu, PhD, presented a lecture in Dr. Smith's honor on Monday, April 11, 2011 at the ASIP Annual Meeting in Washington, DC. The Outstanding Investigator Award was presented posthumously at the ASIP Awards Presentation and Membership Business Meeting.