



**American Society for Investigative Pathology**  
*Investigating the Mechanisms of Disease*  
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**Mel Feany MD, PhD Receives the  
ASIP 2009 Outstanding Investigator Award**



Dr. Mel Feany, Associate Professor of Pathology at Harvard Medical School, is the 2009 recipient of the Outstanding Investigator Award (*formerly the ASIP Amgen Outstanding Investigator Award from 2004-2008*), which recognizes midcareer investigators with demonstrated excellence in research in experimental pathology.

Dr. Feany's major research contributions center on her development of *Drosophila* models of neurodegenerative disease, reflecting the hypothesis that toxic gain of function is related to abnormal expression of normal and mutant forms of proteins linked to these disorders, i.e.,  $\alpha$ -synuclein (Parkinson's disease), tau and beta-amyloid (Alzheimer's disease) and superoxide dismutase (ALS). She has developed and characterized fly models that remarkably summarize human counterparts. These models have been

used to define the principal mediators of  $\alpha$ -synuclein, tau and amyloid neurotoxicity and to define and isolate suppressor and enhancer mutations associated with neuronal degeneration.

In addition to being an outstanding research pathologist, Feany spends 25% of her time performing clinical work as a neuropathologist. She is well funded with several grants from NIH and currently holds a Senior Scholar Award from the Ellison Medical Foundation. She is active in both graduate student and medical student education at Harvard. In listing Dr. Feany's many research achievements, Dr. Peter M. Howley, M.D., Chairman of the Department of Pathology at Harvard Medical School, describes her as "a star" and goes on to say, "I anticipate that she will become one of the leaders in American Pathology in the future."

Dr. Feany earned her Ph.D. for Harvard University and her M.D. from Albert Einstein College of Medicine. She completed residency training and a neuropathology fellowship at Brigham & Women's Hospital.

Dr. Feany presented her award lecture on "New Approaches to the Pathology and Genetics of Neurodegeneration" and received the Outstanding Investigator Award on Monday, April 20, 2009.