Elaine Jaffe, MD, Receives the 2016 ASIP Rous-Whipple Award

Dr. Elaine Jaffe, Head of the Hematopathology Section at the National Cancer Institute, is the 2016 recipient of the ASIP Rous-Whipple award, which is presented to a senior scientist with a distinguished career in research who has advanced the understanding of disease and continued productivity at the time of this award.

Dr. Kojo Elenitoba-Johnson, of the University of Pennsylvania, states that Dr. Jaffe is “arguably the most accomplished hematopathologist in North America.” He goes on to praise her significant work and contributions such as “over the past four decades, she has identified and described several clinically and genetically distinct neoplastic hematopoietic entities that were previously unrecognized prior to her recognition of the entities.” Dr. Jaffe has also published more than 550 peer-reviewed articles. Dr. Elenitoba-Johnson goes on to say that “the impact of her published work has been immense. She was one of the first individuals to utilize immunophenotypic and molecular techniques for the characterization of human hematopoietic neoplasia, and for the first time spear-headed a movement to incorporate these adjunctive tools in the classification of lymphoid neoplasia.”

Dr. Daniel Arber, of Stanford University, praises Jaffe’s publications by stating “the two editions of her book Surgical Pathology of Lymph Nodes and Related Organs were the primary references in the field for almost 20 years and the current textbook Hematopathology, for which she is the first editor, is the premier text in the field.” Dr. Arber also states that Dr. Jaffe was “a driving force in the REAL classification of malignant lymphoma, which truly began the era of pathologic diagnoses being linked to genetic disease groups.” According to Dr. Arber, Dr. Jaffe’s work led to the WHO classification of hematologic neoplasms.

Dr. Christopher Moskaluk, of the University of Virginia, compliments Dr. Jaffe’s contribution to training pathologist physician scientists. Dr. Moskaluk states that Dr. Jaffe “is probably in the top 10 of academic Pathologists who have overseen the training of pathologist physician scientists in her roles as both the residency training program Director and her fellowship in hematopathology at the Clinical Center of the National Institute of Health.” Dr. Moskaluk praises how graduates from these programs have gone on to have successful careers and that Dr. Jaffe has been a great role model and helpful advocate. According to Dr. Moskaluk, Dr. Jaffe is a true mentor and is very generous with her time to trainees.
Dr. Jaffe received her medical degree from the University of Pennsylvania School of Medicine. She completed her residency and fellowship at the National Cancer Institute. Dr. Jaffe has been an ASIP member since 1982.

Dr. Jaffe presented her award lecture, “The microscope as a tool for disease discovery: a voyage through the eyes of a hematopathologist,” on Sunday, April 3, 2016 at the ASIP 2016 Annual Meeting at Experimental Biology in San Diego, California. She received the Rous-Whipple Award on Monday, April 4, 2016 during the ASP Membership Business Meeting and Awards Presentation.