



American Society for Investigative Pathology

Investigating the Pathogenesis of Disease

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James M. Musser, MD, PhD, Recipient of the 2017 ASIP Rous Whipple Award



Dr. James M. Musser, Chair of the Department of Pathology and Genomic Medicine at the Houston Methodist Hospital, is the 2017 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. Michael Lieberman, of the Houston Methodist Hospital, states that Dr. Musser is “recognized nationally and internationally by his peers in the fields of pathology and mechanistic bacterial pathogenesis.” Dr. Lieberman also recognizes that Dr. Musser is the first investigator specializing in the molecular basis of bacterial pathogenesis or genomics to be honored by ASIP. Dr. Musser presented 41 seminars or invited lectureships between 2012 and 2015 to audiences in the United States, Canada, Colombia, Denmark, Finland, Germany, Iceland, Ireland, Norway, and Sweden. Dr. Musser was also invited as a Guest Editor for the

Proceedings of the National Academy of Science USA and as Special Editor of the Infectious Diseases theme issue of *The American Journal of Pathology* (June 2015).

Dr. Peter Howley, of Harvard Medical School, praises Dr. Musser and states that he is “one of, if not the leading human bacterial pathogenesis researcher in the world.” Dr. Musser’s career has been “devoted to understanding bacterial host cell interactions of important human pathogens.” Dr. Howley also explains that Dr. Musser has gone on to “develop and use bacterial genomic sequencing approaches to study pathogen-host interactions of important human pathogens.” Dr. Howley highlights Dr. Musser’s extensive bibliography, which includes over 350 manuscripts in highly respected medical journals.

Dr. Peter Ward, of the University of Michigan, continues Dr. Howley’s praise of Dr. Musser’s work related to staphylococcal and streptococcal infections. Dr. Ward notes that Dr. Musser’s discovery “may be clinically applicable for development of protease inhibitors and/or vaccines.” Dr. Mark Sobel, ASIP’s Executive Officer, applauds Dr. Musser as an example of a premier scientist who also expends considerable time as an ambassador for pathology. “Dr. Musser has served ASIP as President (2013-

2014), and as ASIP's representative on the FASEB Board of Directors (2012 - current) and the Pathology Roundtable (2013 - current)."

Dr. Musser received his medical degree and PhD from the University of Rochester School of Medicine and Dentistry in 1988. He was a postdoctoral research associate at Pennsylvania State University and then completed his residency at the University of Pennsylvania. Dr. Musser has been a member of ASIP since 1992.

Dr. Musser will present his award lecture, "Molecular triggers underlying pandemics caused by Group A Streptococcus, the flesh-eating pathogen," on Friday, October 21, 2016 at the PISA 2016 meeting in Houston, Texas. He will receive the Rous-Whipple Award on Saturday, October 22, 2016 during the ASIP Business Meeting and Awards Presentation.