Jordan Pober, MD, PhD, Receives the 2011 ASIP Rous-Whipple Award

The Rous-Whipple award is presented to a senior scientist with a distinguished career in research who has advanced the understanding of disease and has continued productivity at the time of this award. Dr. Jordan Pober of Yale University School of Medicine is one of two 2011 recipients of this honor, along with Dr. Rakesh Jain.

Dr. Pober’s research career is focused on several related research problems addressing the immunobiology of vascular endothelium. First, Dr. Pober studies how endothelial cells may promote the recruitment, activation and differentiation of T cells by presenting antigens. A major focus of this work is the identity of the molecules that endothelial cells use to provide costimulation. Second, Dr. Pober studies how endothelial cells respond to cytokines such as TNF and acquire the capacity to recruit and activate inflammatory effector cells. A major focus of this work is the regulation of adhesion molecule expression. Third, Dr. Pober studies how immune effector cells and molecules injure endothelial cells and how endothelial cells resist immune-mediated injury. Many of these processes are studied in the context of the host response to vascularized allografts or xenografts, and a major overall goal of this work is to develop strategies to improve clinical transplantation.

Dr. Michael Gimbrone of Harvard Medical School/Brigham and Women’s Hospital says of Dr. Pober that, “In my estimation, there are few people in the world of Vascular Biology who can compare – in terms of the depth and breadth of their scientific accomplishments, a passion for understanding of the mechanisms of human disease, and a sustained commitment to transmitting this enthusiasm to the next generation of experimental pathologists.”

According to Dr. Peter Ward of University of Michigan Medical School, Dr. Pober “has mentored many postdoctoral fellows and has provided important guidance to them in their investigative careers as well as emphasizing to them the clinical correlates of basic lessons learned in the field of vascular biology. In this respect, (he) has been uniquely able to bridge basic science research and translational research as related to vascular biological processes in human diseases.”
Dr. Pober received MD and PhD degrees from Yale University in 1977 and is currently Professor of Immunobiology, Pathology and Dermatology, and Vice-Chair, Department of Immunobiology/Section of Human and Translational Immunology, at Yale University.

Dr. Pober presented his award lecture on “Interactions Between the Vascular and Immune Systems” on Saturday, April 9, 2011 at the ASIP Annual Meeting in Washington, DC. He received the Rous-Whipple Award on Monday, April 11, 2011 during the ASIP Awards Presentation and Membership Business Meeting.