



American Society for Investigative Pathology

Investigating the Pathogenesis of Disease

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Rakesh Jain, 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. Rakesh Jain of Massachusetts General Hospital is one of two 2011 recipients of this honor, along with Dr. Jordan Pober.

Dr. Jain's research career is focused on understanding the role of the tumor microenvironment, including the tumor vasculature in tumor growth and response to therapy, developing novel strategies to manipulate the tumor microenvironment, and translating these strategies into improved cancer detection, prevention and treatment in humans. Dr. Jain's lab has developed an array of imaging technologies, mathematical models, and animal preparations providing powerful molecular, cellular, anatomical, and functional insights into the barriers to cancer treatment. Dr. Jain describes his lab as truly multidisciplinary, spanning expertise in molecular and cellular biology, physiology, bioengineering, optics, and mathematics to radiation, and medical and surgical oncology.

According to Dr. Jay Loeffler, Harvard Medical School/Massachusetts General Hospital, Dr. Jain's "capacity to integrate knowledge from physiology, pathology, immunology, molecular biology, bioengineering, and mathematics and his ability to successfully collaborate with his clinical colleagues are central to his uniquely multidisciplinary approach to tumor pathophysiology." Dr. Loeffler goes on to say that Dr. Jain, through "his innovative technology and creatively designed model systems," has facilitated and enabled much progress in this field.

Dr. Harold Dvorak of Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center commends Dr. Jain as "an outstanding experimental pathologist working in the field of vascular and cancer biology. His unique background in bioengineering, mathematics, molecular biology and physiology has allowed him to conduct research in tumor biology with a truly multidisciplinary approach. He also brings a high level of energy and integrity to our field and I expect him to continue on this trajectory for many years to come."

Dr. Jain received his PhD (Chemical Engineering) from University of Delaware in 1976. He is currently the Andrew Werk Cook Professor of Tumor Biology at Harvard Medical School and the Director of the Edwin L. Steele Laboratory at the Massachusetts General Hospital.

Dr. Jain presented his award lecture on “Normalizing Tumor Vessels and Microenvironment for Cancer Treatment: From Bench to Bedside to Biomarkers” on Tuesday, April 12, 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.