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Carlos S. Moreno, PhD, Receives the ASIP 2009 Cotran Established Investigator Award



The Cotran Established Investigator Award is a new ASIP Award that recognizes early career investigators with demonstrated excellence as an investigator with recently established or emerging independence and with a research focus leading to an improved understanding of the conceptual basis of disease. This award is named in honor of Ramzi S. Cotran, (1933-2000) a leader of pathology, formerly of Harvard Medical School and Brigham and Women's Hospital, and past president of ASIP. This award is provided through the partial support of Elsevier, an ASIP Corporate Partner, through an unrestricted educational grant. This year, **Dr. Carlos S. Moreno, Ph.D.**, Assistant Professor of Pathology and Laboratory Medicine at Emory University, is the first recipient of the Cotran Award.

Dr. Moreno's research has centered on bioinformatics and cancer biology, particularly as related to the development of novel therapies for cancer patients. Much of his work has focused on prostate cancer and the role of two transcription factors HOXC6 and SOX4, whose expression are strongly correlated with cancer progression. By manipulating expression of HOXC6 and SOX4, he has observed important effects on a number of key proteins that tie into Wnt and Notch signaling. In addition, he has linked SOX4 expression with worsening prostate cancer grade and as a regulator of apoptosis in cell lines. His lab is also focused on the continued identification of ovarian, breast, and brain cancers. Dr. Moreno has been very productive in his studies, having produced 20 publications since 2000 alone in highly respected journals such as *Journal of Biological Chemistry*, *Molecular Biology of the Cell*, *The American Journal of Pathology*, and *Biotechniques*.

The significance of Dr. Moreno's work is further underscored by his substantial track record of funding from federal and nonfederal grant agencies, including the National Cancer Institute, the Susan G. Komen for the Cure Foundation, and Emory's own Winship Cancer Institute. The NIH has also continuously funded him for 15 years since he first received a Pre-doctoral NIH Fellowship in 1993. Since then, he has received a NIH Postdoctoral Fellowship and supplement, a K22 Career Transition Award and an R01 research grant. He has served on NIH Study Sections and has been an active member of ASIP since 2004, serving on the 2007 and 2008 Program Committees and as a session chair and minisymposium speaker. Dr. Charles A. Parkos, M.D., Ph.D., Professor and Vice Chair of Emory's Epithelial Pathobiology Unit, says of Dr. Moreno, "His unique background makes him an especially valuable candidate for this award. Having trained in Genetics/Molecular Biology and Aeronautics/Astronautics provides a unique perspective in how he approaches the fields of investigative pathology, therapeutic oncology, and bioinformatics."

Dr. Moreno received his B.S. and M.S. from Massachusetts Institute of Technology and his Ph.D. in Genetics and Molecular Biology from Emory University. He presented his award lecture, "Developmental Pathways and Transcriptional Networks in Prostate Cancer Progression," on Tuesday, April 21 and was awarded the Cotran Established Investigator Award on Monday, April 20 at the ASIP Annual Meeting at Experimental Biology.