



American Society for Investigative Pathology
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Gold-Headed Cane Award – 1999 Dorothy F. Bainton



The Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs at the University of California, San Francisco, School of Medicine, **Dorothy F. Bainton**, is the winner of this year's Gold-Headed Cane Award for long-term contribution to the field of Pathology.

Dr. Bainton's primary area of research has been changes in organelles during the differentiation of hematopoietic cells in bone marrow, and the role the organelles play in the function of these highly specialized cells. The focus is to establish the time and site of synthesis, the pathway of segregation and packaging, and the fate of the secretory products. The goal is to achieve better understanding of the physiologic functions of normal and experimentally or pathologically altered cells in inflammation and hemostasis, aberrations in leukemia, and possibly aiding in the diagnosis of new diseases.

Dr. Bainton is the author of 113 articles and 27 book chapters in her field, many of which are classics which have been, and continue to be, studied by successive generations of pathologists and pathology students. Much of what is described in textbooks today about the development of leukocytes and megakaryocytes was originally described by Dr. Bainton.

The quality and importance of her work is evidenced in part by the many NIH grants she has received, including one which reached 30 uninterrupted years of sponsorship.

Academically, Dr. Bainton rose to full Professor of Pathology at UCSF in 1981, and in 1987, became the Chair of Pathology, the first woman to become a chair of any department at UCSF. She held that post until 1994, when she was named Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs. Her long list of honors includes election to the Institute of Medicine of the National Academy of Sciences and being made fellow of the American Association for the Advancement of Science and of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences, where she is chair-elect of the Section of Medical Sciences.

In addition to her achievements in research and academia, Dr. Bainton is recognized as an advocate of equal opportunity for women in medicine. Nominating Dr. Bainton for the Gold-Headed Cane, Dr. Mary F. Lipscomb, Chair of the Department of Pathology of the University of New Mexico School of Medicine, calls her "an excellent role model for women who aspire to successful careers in academic pathology," and notes her "great dedication and achievements" in the field. Supporting the nomination, Professor Russell Ross, Ph.D., Director of the Center for Vascular Biology in the Department of Pathology at the University of Washington School of Medicine wrote that Dr. Bainton's "early papers on the fine structure of various leukocytes and platelets, granule formation in leukocytes, abnormalities in leukemia, and macrophage maturation are classics in the literature that have long stood the test of time."

"Dee" Bainton was born in Magnolia, Mississippi and was inspired to seek a career in medicine by an eighth grade biology class. She attended Millsaps College in Jackson, MS, and received her M.D. at Tulane, where she was only one of four women out of 128 students in the class of 1958. Her training continued at Strong Memorial Hospital at the University of Rochester and at the University of Washington School of Medicine in Seattle. She began her career at UC-SF as a Postdoctoral Research Fellow in 1963.

The Gold-Headed Cane is ASIP's most prestigious award, recognizing exceptional long-term contributions to pathology in research, teaching, and general excellence in the field. The recipient receives a mahogany cane topped with a 14 karat gold head and engraved band.