



American Society for Investigative Pathology
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Gold-Headed Cane Award – 2001 Peter A. Ward, M.D., Ph.D.



Dr. Peter A. Ward, Professor and Chairman of the Department of Pathology at the University of Michigan, and past-president of ASIP, has won the 2001 Gold-Headed Cane Award, the society's highest honor. This completes the 'Triple Crown' of ASIP awards for Dr. Ward, who won the Parke-Davis Award for young researchers in 1971 and the Rous-Whipple Award for mid-career achievement in 1996.

Dr. Ward's more than three decades of scientific work has been focused on defining the mechanisms by which the inflammatory response brings about pathological changes and contributes to tissue injury. He has made major strides of progress through both *in vitro* and *in vivo* studies, charting the past 30 years of history in the field of inflammatory mediators. His early work established that the motility responses of neutrophilic leukocytes were linked to activation products of the fifth component of the complement cascade. This work progressed to demonstrate that the biochemical cleavage of C5 to C5a resulted in the production of an extremely potent leukocyte-activating agent. These studies laid the foundation for the successful demonstration of chemotactic receptors on leukocytes. This approach inspired many investigators to use similar approaches to study leukocyte biology.

More recently, Dr. Ward's laboratory's work has helped cause a resurgence in the field of complement biology. Dr. Ward was among the first scientists to describe a chemotactic defect in a human with recurrent bacterial infections, providing the precedent for the subsequent recognition of a large and diverse array of clinical disorders involving motility defects in leukocytes. Dr. Ward and his colleagues have also had a major impact in defining the role of proteases and toxic oxygen products, which are generated from leukocytes and possess cell and tissue damaging activities. They demonstrated that acute inflammatory lung injury is dependent on leukocyte-derived H₂O₂ and the availability of iron. Dr. Ward also led research that helped demonstrate the *in vivo* biology of cytokines and the effects that these polypeptide mediators exert during an inflammatory response.

Nominating Dr. Ward, Dr. Steven L. Kunkel, Professor of Pathology at Michigan calls him "a world leader in defining mediators of the inflammatory response, the manner by which this response results in cell and tissue injury and how the inflammatory system is regulated." Dr. Kunkel writes that, "Dr. Ward's record of continuous scientific productivity over a thirty-year period is truly impressive and his many contributions to the field of Pathology will have a long and lasting impact on academic pathology."

In addition to serving as president of ASIP in 1979-80 (when it was the American Society for Experimental Pathology), Dr. Ward has been president of the American Board of Pathology (1996), the United States-Canadian Academy (1992-93), and Universities Associated for Research and Education in Experimental Pathology (1988-90). He is also a member of the Institute of Medicine of the National Academy of Sciences and a member of the Association of American Physicians, and he has served, or is serving, as a member of the editorial boards of some 38 scientific journals.

Seconding the nomination, Dr. Paul E. Lacy, Professor Emeritus of Pathology at the Washington University School of Medicine, and 1995 Gold-Headed Cane winner, writes that Dr. Ward is a "world renown leader in his research field" and adds that "he has played a vital role in the development of Academic Pathology both nationally and locally by setting policies by example and by action." Dr Lacy also calls Dr. Ward "the ideal role model for young academic pathologists." The 1998 Gold-Headed Cane winner, Dr. Ramzi S. Cotran, F.B. Mallory Professor of Pathology at Harvard, adds that Dr. Ward has also made a significant contribution through the training of a large number of academic and experimental pathologists, and through "the establishment at Michigan of one of the strongest research programs of any department of pathology in this country" producing a long line of trainees who are now field leaders in their own right. He praises Dr. Ward for continuing to do research while chairing a major department. In another seconding letter, Dr. Jack Gauldie, University Professor and Chair, Department of Pathology, McMaster University, calls Dr. Ward "one of the most outstanding active academic pathologists on both the national and international scene," and calls his work "stellar and continuous for over three decades."

Evidence of that last assertion can be found, in part, in Dr. Ward's publications. He has co-authored 481 peer-review articles (with four more under review), written 60 non-peer review articles, three books, edited three more books and contributed chapters to 219 books. His list of invited lectures fills more than eight pages, single spaced.

Peter Ward was born in Connecticut and grew up in Norwich, NY. He moved to Ann Arbor in 1951 and has been there almost ever since. He received his undergraduate and graduate degrees, Ph. D. and M.D., and did his residency there. He spent four years at the Armed Forces Institute of Pathology, and nine at the University of Connecticut Health Center before returning to Michigan as Professor and Chairman of the Department of Pathology in 1980. He served three years as Interim Dean of the Medical School.

ASIP's highest award, the Gold-Headed Cane, is given in recognition of long-term contributions to pathology, including meritorious research, outstanding teaching, and general excellence in the field. Dr. Ward will receive a mahogany cane topped with a 14-karat gold head and engraved band