



American Society for Investigative Pathology  
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## Gold-Headed Cane Award – 1998 Ramzi S. Cotran

The American Society for Investigative Pathology's award for longterm contribution to the field, the Gold-headed Cane, has been granted to Dr. **Ramzi S. Cotran**, Chairman of the Department of Pathology at Brigham and Women's Hospital and the Children's Hospital Medical Center, and Professor of Pathology at Harvard Medical School.

Nominators took particular note of the far-ranging impact of Dr. Cotran's co-authorship (with Robbins and Kumar) of the definitive textbook, *The Pathologic Basis of Disease*. Dr. **Jordan S. Pober**, the Director of Molecular Cardiobiology at Yale's Boyer Center wrote, "...there is no doubt that the scientific orientation of the teaching of pathology to medical students all over the country is directly attributable to Ramzi's vision and authorship. No one has had more impact on the way our colleagues in other clinical departments think about pathology as a science."

Nominators also noted Dr. Cotran's early work on kidney disease and vascular pathophysiology, and his coining of the term "endothelial activation." They also praised his early "classic studies" (with Majno) on the ultrastructural bases of vascular leakage in acute and chronic inflammation. But the winner's more recent work was also noted, including his study (with Mayadas) on anti-GBM nephritis in a P-selectin-deficient mouse model. His long-time colleague Dr. **Guido Majno** refers to "the 'Cotran touch'...a combination of excellence, efficiency, speed, precision, imagination, flamboyancy and humor (which) is also what makes him a leader."

Dr. **Michael A. Gimbrone, Jr.**, the director of Vascular research at Brigham and Women's calls Dr Cotran a "highly self-critical experimentalist" and says he "combines incisive conceptual design with meticulous execution, no doubt contributing to the lasting impact and heuristic value of his published observations." Dr. Gimbrone also writes that Dr. Cotran's four-decade long career "has, in many respects, defined the parameters of modern academic pathology."

Dr. Cotran's teaching also was praised by nominators, including his 30 years of lectures to first-year medical students at Harvard.

The relatively young Gold-Headed Cane winner was born in 1932, in Haifa, during the British Mandate of Palestine. He received his BA and MD, and did his early training, at the American University of Beirut, before moving on to a career spent mainly at Harvard and Boston City Hospital. Dr. Cotran is a member of the Institute of Medicine of the National Academy of Sciences and a fellow of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences. He won the 1992 Distinguished Service Award of the Association of Pathology Chairmen and the 1997 Distinguished Pathologist Award of the Cardiovascular Pathology Society.

In addition, Dr. Cotran is a member of the Editorial Boards of 11 scientific journals, including the *American Journal of Pathology*, the *Journal of Experimental Medicine*, and *Human Pathology*. He has served as President of the American Association of Pathologists (ASIP's precursor), the United States and Canadian Academy of Pathology (USCAP), the American Society of Nephrology (ASN) and the Universities Associated for Research and Education in Pathology (UAREP).

ASIP's most prestigious award, The Gold-Headed Cane, recognizes 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.