



American Society for Investigative Pathology

Investigating the Mechanisms of Disease

www.asip.org

Dr. Abul Abbas to Receive the 2010 ASIP Robbins Distinguished Educator Award



Dr. Abul Abbas, Chair of the Department of Pathology at University of California San Francisco, is the 2010 recipient of the Robbins Distinguished Educator Award. The award is named in honor of Dr. Stanley Robbins (1915-2003), formerly of Boston University and Brigham and Women's Hospital, who was a pioneer of pathology education and a member of ASIP for over 50 years. This award, partially supported by an unrestricted educational grant from Elsevier, an ASIP Corporate Partner, recognizes individuals whose contributions to education in pathology have had a manifest impact at a regional, national, or international level.

Through his laboratory, Dr. Abbas has trained numerous graduate students and postdoctoral fellows over the years. His influence on their education extends beyond the laboratory with several prominent books on Immunology and Pathology. These include Cellular and Molecular Immunology, Basic Immunology, and the Robbins and Cotran Pathologic Basis of Disease (7th and 8th Editions). With these well-respected and widely-adopted texts, Dr. Abbas has contributed substantially to education in immunology and pathology.

According to Dr. Andrew H. Lichtman of Harvard Medical School, the "breadth of Abul's educational activities is enormous, and his accomplishments as an educator in the fields of immunology and pathology are clearly evident...He is always trying to achieve the ultimate goal of imparting knowledge in a way that both informs and inspires his students." While Dr. Abbas teaches with skill and dedication, he engages successfully in his research and clinical activities at the same time.

Dr. Abbas' research is focused on immunological tolerance and autoimmunity. Using transgenic and knockout mice, his laboratory is exploring the mechanisms that maintain tolerance to tissue and systemic self-antigens, and the conditions that lead to the breakdown of self-tolerance and the development of autoimmunity. They are also analyzing the roles of different cytokines and T-cell subsets in autoimmune disease, and in the function of regulatory T-cells.

As stated by Dr. Vinay Kumar of University of Chicago, Dr. Abbas is an "internationally recognized basic immunologist with cutting edge research" and the Chair of one of "the finest pathology departments in the country." Dr. Kumar describes Dr. Abbas as a popular lecturer with "the uncanny ability to blend basic science and clinical medicine...(allowing) him to present to his audience the relevance of science to the practice of medicine."

Dr Abbas received his MBBS (MD equivalent) from the All-India Institute of Medical Science, New Delhi, India, in 1968 in Medicine. After internships and residencies at All-India Institute of Medical Science and Peter Bent Brigham Hospital, he moved on to Harvard Medical School/Brigham and Women's Hospital as an Assistant Professor, Associate Professor and Professor. He was appointed in 1999 as Professor and Chair of the Department of Pathology at University of California San Francisco.

Among his many accomplishments, Dr. Abbas is a past president of the American Society of Investigative Pathology (2003) and was a recipient of ASIP's prestigious Rous-Whipple Award in 2007.

Dr. Abbas received the Robbins Distinguished Educator Award at the Awards and Business Meeting during the ASIP Annual Meeting in Anaheim, CA on Monday, April 26, 2010.