



**American Society for Investigative Pathology**  
*Investigating the Mechanisms of Disease*  
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### **Cecelia C. Yates, PhD, Receives the 2011 ASIP Excellence in Science Award**



The ASIP Excellence in Science Award recognizes outstanding achievement at the earliest stages of a career in biomedical research. Accomplishments include, but are not limited to, publications and presentations as well as volunteer service to the ASIP or other professional societies, institutional committees, and the pathology community. This award is funded through the generous support of the A.D. Sobel-ASIP Education Fund. Dr. Cecelia Yates is the recipient of the 2011 award.

Dr. Yates received her PhD from Tuskegee University, performing her thesis work in conjunction with the Cellular and Molecular Pathology Program at the University of Pittsburgh. Dr. Yates has been recognized through the “Experimental Pathologist in Graduate Training” award she received in 2008, as well as through other training and travel awards from the ASIP and the

Wound Healing Society.

According to Dr. Alan Wells of University of Pittsburgh, “Dr. Yates is a young, innovative and aggressive but thoughtful trainee who will become a productive independent scientist committed to investigative pathology and to being at the lead of innovative technologies to study and translate such. In addition, she is always ready to rally to her communities and support her fellow students even if it comes at a sacrifice to herself.” Dr. Mark Sobel of ASIP says that “Dr. Yates exhibits all the necessary qualities of an individual who will be a leader in our field.”

Dr. Yates is working on the pathogenesis of wound healing and is pursuing an interest in regenerative medicine. Dr. Wells describes the project that Dr. Yates has chosen as “that of determining what signals end the wound healing response and allow the regenerated tissue to form mature functional skin, realizes the conception of emerging investigative pathology perfectly. It is a marriage of cell and molecular pathobiology that incorporates dermatopathology and the emerging fields of stem cell biology and regenerative medicine/tissue engineering.” Dr. Wells goes on to say that Dr. Yates is “is doing more than simply implementing existing systems and project design, she is helping to create original tools, reagents and materials and at the same time stretch it in new directions. Her progress to-date has been impressive.”

Dr. Yates is also extensively involved in a variety of activities that demonstrate her exemplary volunteer service. This includes governance involvement with ASIP trainee committees, the Wound Healing Society, and the University of Pittsburgh graduate council. As stated by Dr. Wells, Dr. Yates “is passionate about giving back to her family and community in all forms,” and is “considered a young and coming minority researcher throughout the MARC community.”

Dr. Yates presented her award lecture, “Turning Off Scarring: Stop ‘Signals’ That Operate During Wound Repair” on Saturday, April 9, 2011 at the ASIP Annual Meeting in Washington, DC. She received the

Excellence in Science Award on Monday, April 11, 2011 during the ASIP Awards Presentation and Membership Business Meeting.