



American Society for Investigative Pathology
Investigating the Mechanisms of Disease
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**American Society for Investigative Pathology (ASIP) to Award
Christopher R. Weber, MD, PhD the 2013 ASIP Excellence in Science Award**



Dr. Christopher R. Weber is the 2013 recipient of the ASIP Excellence in Science Award, which 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 volunteered 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. Weber received his undergraduate degree at the University of Illinois, and his M.D. and Ph.D. from the Stritch School of Medicine, Loyola University of Chicago. His studies since joining Dr. Jerrold R. Turner's laboratory at the University of Chicago have focused on fundamental aspects of epithelial barrier function. According to Dr. Turner, Dr. Weber has recently "developed an approach to measure electrical currents at the level of a single intercellular space and is the first to demonstrate, through these local recordings, that tight junctions display opening and closing properties not unlike single ion channels." As stated by Dr. Turner, "the existence of such events has long been theorized, but detections of such events have eluded multiple researchers over the past 20 or so years."

Dr. Vinay Kumar of the University of Chicago describes Dr. Weber as "an exceptional individual who adds to the fabric of our institution. He does this as both a gastrointestinal pathologist and as a scientist, where he has combined his skills as a pathologist with his investigative abilities to create a unique niche."

Dr. Deborah J. Nelson of the University of Chicago calls Dr. Weber "an 'outside the box' thinker applying techniques that are usually used to study cellular ion channels now used to study tight junction physiology." She feels that Dr. Weber "has a true passion for science and understanding mechanisms of disease that drive him to a career in academic medicine," and adds that he is highly committed to a career in academics

Dr. Weber presented his award lecture, "Dynamic Properties of Tight Junction Structure and Function", on Saturday, April 20, 2013 at the ASIP Annual Meeting at Experimental Biology 2013 in Boston, MA. He received the Excellence in Science Award on Monday, April 22, 2013 during the ASIP Awards Presentation and Membership Business Meeting.