Dr. Leonard Jarett, Distinguished Professor of Pathology and Laboratory Medicine at the University of Pennsylvania, and for 19 years Chairman of the department, has been selected to receive the 2000 Gold-Headed Cane.

Dr. Jarett's contributions to the field began early. The very first paper he wrote as a first-year medical student in 1958 at Washington University became a Citation Classic. As a resident he showed that nonendocrine hormone-secreting tumors produce immunologically active ACTH. In the years that followed, he made many important contributions to the understanding of the pathways of the insulin signal transduction network. His work on the interaction of insulin with its receptor on the plasma membrane led to the theory that a mediator regulates the activity of key enzymes that control the metabolism of carbohydrates and lipids by altering the state of phosphorylation of these enzymes. For this work, Dr. Jarett was awarded the 1980 David Rumbough Award of the Juvenile Diabetes Foundation. And his work continues to have impact following the discovery of the difference in the control of the phosphorylation and tyrosine kinase activity between phosphorylated IRS-1 and phosphorylated IRS-2 as well as studies of the insulin-sensitive glucose transporter, GLUT 4.

Nominating Dr. Jarett, Dr. Peter C. Nowell, Harnwell Professor of Pathology and Laboratory Medicine at Penn wrote, "Dr. Jarett has been recognized for three decades as a national and international leader in academic pathology and especially laboratory medicine." Dr. Nowell noted that Dr. Jarett led the Washington University Medical School's Division of Laboratory Medicine to a position as "the finest residency and clinical program in the country." Since moving to Penn in 1980, Dr. Jarett has demonstrated similar leadership, building one of the finest departments in the country.

Dr. Jarett is the recipient of many awards and honors, including the Luigi Mastroianni Clinical Innovator Award (1998), The Van Slyke Award of the American Association for Clinical Chemistry (1995), and the Gerald T. Evans Award of the Academy of Clinical Laboratory Physicians and Scientists (1992). Earlier in his career, Dr. Jarett won the McCordick Book Prize (1960) and was named a "Person to Watch" by Philadelphia Magazine (1981). (Evidently, they were right!)

Leonard Jarett was born in Lubbock, Texas, and got his B.A. from the Rice Institute before moving on to Washington University for Medical School. In 1982 he received an honorary M. A. from the University of Pennsylvania.

The Gold-Headed Cane Award is given in recognition of long-term contributions to pathology. Dr. Jarett will receive a mahogany cane topped with a 14 karat gold head and engraved band.