William A. Muller, MD, PhD, Receives the 2013 ASIP Rous-Whipple Award

Dr. William A. Muller, Magerstadt Professor and Chair of Pathology, Northwestern University, is the 2013 recipient of the Rous-Whipple award, which is presented to a senior scientist with a distinguished career in research who has advanced the understanding of disease and has continued productivity at the time of this award.

Dr. Muller is a leading scholar in the cell biology of leukocyte emigration across blood vessel walls. He is currently studying the molecular and cellular basis for homing of leukocytes to sites of inflammation. In particular, his lab studies the biology of adhesion molecules responsible for the binding and emigration of leukocytes across vascular endothelial cells; adhesion events crucial to the processes of inflammation and atherosclerosis, as well as to both the afferent and efferent arms of acquired immunity.

Dr. Michael Gimbrone of Harvard Medical School qualifies Dr. Muller as “an enthusiastic and committed individual...who holds very high standards for his personal performance, and also a level of integrity and sense of purpose that is truly refreshing.” Dr. Gimbrone believes that Dr. Muller is a wonderful role model and has influenced numerous young clinician-scientists and basic scientists in human biology and medicine, leading them by example.

Dr. Yashpal Kanwar of Northwestern University considers Dr. Muller to be “one of the world-renowned scientists (who) has made sustained, seminal and unparalleled contributions to the understanding of a fundamental basic disease process, i.e., inflammation.” He went on to commend Dr. Muller’s record of accomplishments, numerous awards, excellence in teaching, and productivity, as well as his service to the pathology community.

In addition, Dr. Carl Nathan, Weill Cornell Medical College, comments of Dr. Muller that he is “one of the most innovative and rigorous scientists I have ever known, and one of the finest human beings I have met.” Another of Dr. Muller’s traits, according to Dr. Nathan, is his “full engagement with and service to his institutional and professional communities.”

Dr. Muller is a summa cum laude graduate of Harvard College (Biology), and received his M.D./Ph.D. from the Rockefeller-Cornell Graduate Medical Program. He trained there with Professors Ralph Steinman and Zanvil Cohn.
Dr. Muller presented his award lecture, “How Endothelial Cells Regulate Transmigration of Leukocytes in the Inflammatory Response,” on Sunday, April 21, 2013 at the ASIP Annual Meeting at Experimental Biology 2013 in Boston, MA. He received the Rous-Whipple Award on Monday, April 22, 2013 during the ASIP Awards Presentation and Membership Business Meeting.