

The Fred W. Stewart Award of Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center honors a Pathologist each year who has made outstanding contributions in advancing our knowledge of human cancer.

The Award emphasizes the clinical significance of those contributions, particularly in diagnosis and patient care. It reflects the traditions and values brought to the Department of Pathology by Dr. Stewart, first as an Associate of Dr. James Ewing, and then as Chairman of the Department, for a period extending more than thirty years.

Prior recipients of the Award are:

FRANK W. FOOTE, M.D.—1978
 A.G. EVERSON PEARSE, M.D.—1979
 ROBERT E. SCULLY, M.D.—1980
 RAFFAELE LATTES, M.D.—1981
 WILLIAM M. CHRISTOPHERSON, M.D.—1982
 HANS POPPER, M.D.—1983
 LEOPOLD G. KOSS, M.D.—1984
 FRANZ M. ENZINGER, M.D.—1985
 ARTHUR C. UPTON, M.D.—1986
 LAUREN V. ACKERMAN, M.D.—1987
 DAVID C. DAHLIN, M.D.—1988
 PETER C. NOWELL, M.D.—1989
 RENATO BASERGA, M.D.—1990
 JAVIER ARIAS STELLA, M.D.—1991
 KARL LENNERT, M.D.—1992
 MYRON R. MELAMED, M.D.—1993
 J. BRUCE BECKWITH, M.D.—1994
 JOHN FR. KERR, M.D.—1995
 LANCE A. LIOTTA, M.D.—1996
 SHARON WHELAN WEISS, M.D.—1997
 JOHN J. KEPES, M.D.—1998
 RONALD A. DELELLIS, M.D.—1999
 JOHN AIDAN CARNEY, M.D.—2000
 STEPHEN S. STERNBERG, M.D.—2001
 ELAINE S. JAFFE, M.D.—2002
 JAMES M. WOODRUFF, M.D.—2003
 WILLIAM JACKSON FRABLE, M.D.—2004
 CHRISTOPHER D.M. FLETCHER, M.D.—2005
 JUAN ROSAI, M.D.—2006
 PETER C. BURGER, M.D.—2007
 PAUL PETER ROSEN, M.D.—2008
 ROBERT J. KURMAN, M.D.—2009
 JULIA A. BRIDGE, M.D.—2010
 STANLEY R. HAMILTON, M.D.—2011
 E. LEON BARNES, M.D.—2012
 RICHARD KEMPSON, M.D.—2013
 THOMAS M. ULBRIGHT, M.D.—2014
 ROBERT H. YOUNG, M.D.—2015

The Fred W. Stewart Award



Ralph Hruban, MD

*Memorial Sloan Kettering
 Cancer Center
 October 21, 2016*



1275 York Avenue, New York 10065

The Fred W. Stewart Award

Dr. Ralph Hruban is the recipient of the 2016 Fred Waldorf Stewart Award, bestowed annually by the Department of Pathology at Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center on an individual who has made outstanding contributions to our understanding of human neoplastic disease.

Dr. Hruban is a world-renowned pancreatic cancer pathology expert who has devoted his academic career to the study of pancreatic neoplasms. He has made significant contributions to our understanding of all types of pancreas tumors – ductal, acinar and neuroendocrine. Importantly, his work on PanINs and IPMNs, the precursor lesions that give rise to invasive pancreas cancer, has had a particularly significant impact both in the field of pancreas research and with regard to how patients with this disease are prognosticated and managed.

Dr. Hruban obtained his undergraduate degree from the University of Chicago and his medical degree from the Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine. His pathology training consisted of residency in anatomic pathology at Johns Hopkins and fellowship in oncologic surgical pathology at Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center. In 1990, upon completion of his fellowship, Dr. Hruban returned to Johns Hopkins to join the faculty and has remained there ever since. Quickly rising through the academic ranks to become Professor of both pathology and oncology, Dr. Hruban has served multiple important roles over the years at Johns Hopkins, and is currently Director of the Sol Goldman Pancreas Cancer Research Center, Director of the Division of Gastrointestinal and Liver Pathology, and Director of the Department of Pathology.

Dr. Hruban joined the quest to conquer pancreas cancer early on. In the early 1990's, at a time when the world of biomedical research was in one of its more visible transformations from older-style analyses to newer and more complex technologies, and the focus on the origins of cancer was converging at the molecular level largely as a consequence of studies done with the newer technologies, young Dr. Hruban and his colleagues took to techniques such as "mutant-enriched polymerase chain reaction analysis" in combination with "allele-specific oligonucleotide hybridization," and revealed that *KRAS* mutations (now known to represent one of the few big "mountains" in pancreas cancer's genomic landscape) were important events in pancreatic cancer. Dr. Hruban envisioned presciently then that specific molecular alterations of this type would not only allow a better understanding of the genetic drivers for pancreas cancer development, but also have the potential to serve as markers for the detection of this deadly disease at an early stage when intervention might still save lives. In the same spirit of applying innovative approaches to the study of cancer, and still in the early 90's, Dr. Hruban also co-founded the National Familial Pancreas Tumor Registry at Johns Hopkins, a patient registry that would later serve as an invaluable resource for the study of pancreas tumors.

The two decades following these initial efforts saw Dr. Hruban diving ever deeper into the field of pancreas neoplasia, while keeping focus on understanding the noninvasive precursor lesions from which invasive cancers develop (PanINs and IPMNs), the familial aggregation of some pancreatic cancers, and the pathologic ramifications of genetic alterations in the pancreas. During this time, at Hopkins and with multi-institutional collaborative groups mostly led by him, Dr. Hruban produced meritorious scientific work that served both to advance pancreas cancer research, and to facilitate diagnosis, detection, prevention, prognosis and treatment. In testament to such achievements, Dr. Hruban has over 700 scientific papers, and is cited by the "Essential Science Indicators" as the most cited pancreas cancer scientist in the world (for those who believe in the "H-index," Dr. Hruban's H-index is

above 150!). It is only natural that numerous awards have been bestowed on him in recognition of his achievements, including (but far from being limited to) the Arthur Purdy Stout Prize and the Ramzi Cotran Award from USCAP, the PanCAN Medical Visionary Award, the Ruth C. Brufsky Award of Excellence in Clinical Research for Pancreatic Cancer, and election to the German National Academy of Sciences Leopoldina. Most recently, riding on the wave of next generation sequencing, Dr. Hruban, along with a group of distinguished pancreas scientists including our own Drs. David S. Klimstra and Christine Iacobuzio-Donahue, made the discovery of a new cancer pathway and new familial pancreatic cancer genes, defined the time course for the development of pancreatic neoplasia, and showed that each of the four cystic tumors of the pancreas has a unique mutational profile. Once again, these efforts have significantly improved our understanding of the fundamental genetic changes that characterize pancreatic neoplasms, and importantly, bear immediate clinical implications. It is only fitting that Dr. Hruban and his colleagues were recognized for their efforts as recipients of the prestigious Team Science Award from the American Association for Cancer Research.

Dr. Hruban is also a superb surgical pathologist and an ardent educator. He has dedicated time and effort to the teaching of pathology, particularly GI and pancreas pathology, to trainees and practicing pathologists as well as patients worldwide. He disseminates knowledge through lectures, courses, books and digital media. Dr. Hruban has written more than 150 book chapters and reviews, and authored or coauthored 6 books, including the AFIP Fascicle on Tumors of the Pancreas and the World Health Organization "blue book" on tumors of the digestive tract. With a deep appreciation of visual arts, Dr. Hruban frequently utilizes creative images for the teaching of pathology, and has developed unique iPad and iPhone applications that are valuable resources for medical professionals and patients alike. An award-winning iPad application (<http://itunes.apple.com/us/app/atlas-of-pancreas-pathology/id474845392?mt=8>) created by him has taught pancreas pathology to many; another patient-oriented iPad and iPhone app (<https://itunes.apple.com/us/app/pancreas-care-book-hdl/id697194060?ls=1&mt=8>) that he created and is free to all has served as a valuable educational guide for patients, family members and friends facing a diagnosis of pancreatic cancer.

It should come as no surprise that Dr. Hruban's achievements also extend into other realms. In addition to his many accomplishments in scientific research, patient care and medical education, Dr. Hruban has also made his mark in other fields. His inspirational biographies of influential historical figures is but one example; history buffs – and I am very certain non-historian enthusiasts, too – will find Dr. Hruban's award-winning documentary on William Stewart Halsted, MD (<http://HalstedTheDocumentary.org>) and a series of "Osler Minutes" on the philosophy of William Osler, MD (<http://pathology.jhu.edu/department/about/history/osler-minutes.cfm>) most enjoyable, and, like his other scientific works, intriguingly insightful.

Today, as we celebrate the memory of Dr. Fred Waldorf Stewart, a man who, in his time, made significant contributions to the care of cancer patients through the practice of conventional pathology, it is most fitting that the medal in his name be bestowed on an individual who contributed monumentally by extending Stewart's tradition through innovative integration of conventional pathology with cutting-edge molecular as well as digital technologies. We congratulate Dr. Hruban on this well-deserved Stewart Award.

Jinru Shia, MD