

AESKU PRIZE FOR LIFE CONTRIBUTION TO AUTOIMMUNITY



EDNA MOZES

Edna Mozes received her master degree in Bacteriology from The Hebrew University, Jerusalem. She was attracted to Immunology and performed her research for her Thesis on Chemical Immunology under the supervision of Prof. Michael Sela at The Weizmann Institute of Science. Naturally, her PhD studies focused on the characterization of immunogens, mainly synthetic polypeptides, and analyses of the nature of the resultant antibodies. Her studies were published in numerous journals.

Edna conducted her postdoctoral studies with professor Hugh McDevitt at Stanford Medical School investigating immune response genes, an emerging, new and exciting field, and was able to define a new immune response gene, namely Ir-3. Later on, her group was the first to show that the Ir-1 gene products are expressed on B cells. Her current main focus is on Lupus. In collaboration with Yehuda Shoenfeld she established, 20 years ago, a model of induced experimental SLE in mice that are not SLE prone. Furthermore, she designed and synthesized peptides based on the CDR1 and CDR3 of the disease inducing autoantibodies. Treatment with these peptides ameliorated the serological and clinical manifestations of a full-blown disease in both spontaneous and induced models of SLE.

For all of these achievements Edna Mozes is being awarded today the 2010 AESKU prize for her contribution to the field of autoimmunity.



7th INTERNATIONAL CONGRESS ON
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MORRIS REICHLIN

Dr. Morris Reichlin was born in Toledo, Ohio and graduated from Washington University in St. Louis, Missouri, with a BA degree in 1955 and an M.D. in 1959. Following medical school he served an internship and assistant residency at the Bronx Municipal Hospital Center, the clinical site for training in internal medicine at the Albert Einstein College of Medicine, followed by a biochemistry fellowship

at Brandeis University. He was a faculty member at State University of New York at Buffalo from 1965 to 1981. Since then he has been a member at the Oklahoma Medical Research Foundation and a Professor of Medicine, Division of Rheumatology, at the Oklahoma University Health Sciences Center in Oklahoma.

In the 1960's he studied the immunochemical properties of hemoproteins, particularly hemoglobin and cytochrome c. In the 1970's Dr. Reichlin began his studies of the definition of antigenic targets reactive with antibodies in sera from patients with systemic lupus erythematosus (SLE). This was followed by the definition of antigenic targets of autoimmunity in the inflammatory myopathies; polymyositis and dermatomyositis. Dr. Reichlin has published extensively in the field mentioned, and had even exceeded 300 peer reviewed papers. He has mentored numerous postdoctoral fellows who have established active research programs in the US and around the world.

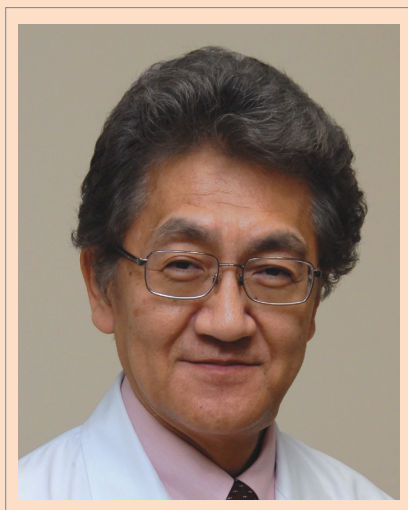
He is a member of several professional organizations including the American Association of Immunologists, the American Society of Clinical Investigation and the Association of American Physicians.

For all of his achievements in science and medicine Dr. Reichlin is being awarded today with the 2010 AESKU prize for his contribution to the field of autoimmunity.



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TAKAO KOIKE

Takao Koike was born in Sapporo, Hokaido, Japan in 1947. He graduated from school of medicine 1972. In 1979 he published his first paper, in the Arthritis & Rheumatism Journal, about "Differential sensitivity of functional subsets of T cells to the cytotoxicity of natural T-lymphocytotoxic autoantibody of systemic lupus erythematosus". However, his favourite paper was published in 1994, in the journal of experimental medicine, on "Anticardiolipin antibodies recognize β_2 -glycoprotein I structure altered by interacting with an oxygen modified solid phase surface".

In 1982 he first described that anti-DNA antibodies in SLE patients cross-reacted with cardiolipin. In 1990, his group was one of three groups to independently report the necessity of a cofactor for the binding of autoimmune aCL to the solid phase phospholipids. In 1992 he was nominated as a professor of medicine and from 2005-2009 he was the president of the Japan College of Rheumatology. In 2009 his group clarified the profile of complement activation in patients with APS. The serum complement levels were clearly lower in patients with primary APS than in healthy persons or in controls having non-SLE rheumatic diseases. For all of his achievements in science and medicine Dr. Koike is being awarded today with the 2010 AESKU prize for his contribution to the field of autoimmunity.



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VIRGINIA T. LADD

Virginia Ladd, a Registered Radiology Technologist with postgraduate work in Early Childhood Education, is the Founder, President, and Executive Director of the American Autoimmune Related Diseases Association, Inc. (AARDA) [pronounced “arda”]. This is an organization established to bring national focus to autoimmunity and increase collaboration in research, education, awareness, and advocacy programs.

Mrs. Ladd has been involved in the nonprofit community for over 30 years as a patient advocate and educator. As a former president and executive director of the Lupus Foundation of America, she is one of the founders of the Michigan-based Chronic Illness Awareness Coalition.

Mrs. Ladd was instrumental in the formation of the International Alliance of Patients' Organizations, a global group dedicated to advocacy for patient centered health care. She remains a member of its board of governors.

She is a member of the board of directors for the UN NGO Health Committee and is a past member of the board of directors of the National Health Council.

Author of many patient education brochures, Mrs. Ladd also travels extensively to fulfill national and international speaking engagements. She is well known for her passionate involvement as a patients rights advocate.

Mrs. Ladd was a 1995 Jefferson Award Honoree of the American Institute for Public Service with recognition at the national level.

For all of her achievements, her care for autoimmune patients all over the globe, Virginia T. Ladd is being awarded today the 2010 AESKU prize for her contribution to the field of autoimmunity.



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