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This issue of Cancer Research features the winners of the 1990 annual awards of the American Association for Cancer Research. The awards, comprising a monetary prize and certificate, will be presented at the annual business meeting on May 24 in Washington, DC. The G. H. A. Clowes Awardee is Erkki Ruoslahti, President and Chief Executive Officer of the La Jolla Cancer Research Foundation and Adjunct Professor of Pathology at the University of California at San Diego. Dr. Ruoslahti is a pioneer investigator of tumor antigens and a discoverer of fibronectin and several other proteins of the extracellular matrix, as well as the RGD cell attachment sequence of cell adhesion receptors. He is currently conducting some exciting work on cell-cell interactions and has deservedly received many other honors, including an Outstanding Investigator Award of the National Cancer Institute. His influence is well attested to by the 13,000 citations his papers have received. Among his most influential papers are: Engvall and Ruoslahti, Int. J. Cancer, 20: 1–5, 1977; Pytela et al., Cell, 40: 191–198, 1985; Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. USA, 82: 5766–5770, 1985; Science (Wash. DC), 231: 1559–1562, 1986; Argraves et al., Cell, 58: 623–629, 1989; Ruoslahti and Pierschbacher, Science (Wash. DC), 238: 491–497, 1987.

The winner of the C. P. Rhoads Award is Ronald M. Evans of the Howard Hughes Institute and Professor at the Salk Institute for Biological Studies, San Diego. He receives the award for outstanding contributions to the molecular biology of cancer, especially for work on steroid receptors, steroid binding, and transcriptional activation of genes and gene expression. Dr. Evans is a member of several NIH study sections, an associate editor of journals of molecular biology and neurobiology, and the recipient of many honors, including the Goodman and Gilman Award of the American Society for Pharmacology and Experimental Therapeutics. Representative recent publications are: Science (Wash. DC), 240: 889–895, 1988; Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. USA, 86: 2698–2702, 3494–3498, 1989; Recent Prog. Horm. Res., 45: 1–27, 1989.

Carlo Croce, Director of the Fels Institute of Molecular Biology, Professor of Pathology, Temple University School of Medicine, and Editor-in-Chief of Cancer Research, is the recipient of the Rosenthal Award. He has achieved a remarkable record of accomplishment in the molecular genetics of human leukemias and lymphomas. His laboratory cloned the gene bcl-2, which is involved in the pathogenesis of follicular lymphomas, and also showed that the immunoglobulin loci and the c-myc oncogene are both involved in Burkitt's lymphoma. He has cloned two other genes, bcl-1 and bcl-3, involved in B-cell neoplasms, identified chromosomal translocations occurring in B- and T-cell leukemias and lymphomas, and discovered that translocations are involved in progression of B-cell neoplasms from low to high grade. In collaboration with Fels staff, Kay Huebner, Renato Baserga, and others, he has mapped nearly 100 loci involved in a host of different cellular functions (including the cell cycle). Recent papers are: Haluska et al., Ann. NY Acad. Sci., 85: 2215–2218, 8548–8552, 1988; Reed et al., Nature (Lond.), 336: 259–261, 1988; Gauwerky et al., Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. USA, 86: 8867–8871, 1989.

The Cain Award is shared by Anthony von Wartburg, former Assistant Vice-President, Research Laboratories for Pharmaceutical Chemistry, Sandoz, Ltd., Basel, Switzerland, and Hartmann Stahelin, Head of the Laboratory of Pharmacology of the same Swiss firm. The award is granted for distinguished collaborative accomplishment in cancer chemo-
therapy leading to the discovery and development of podophyllum glucosides, potent anticancer drugs, and cyclosporin A, a landmark discovery of a most effective immunosuppressive agent. Their successes well illustrate the beneficial results of effective collaboration between a chemist and a medical scientist in the production and development of innovative new agents for chemotherapy and immunosuppression.

Dr. von Wartburg received the Ph.D. degree in chemistry from the University of Basel in 1948, and after postdoctoral work with the famed T. Reichstein, joined Sandoz in 1949. His work, published in 69 experimental papers and reviews, has been largely devoted to the isolation and chemistry of the podophyllum glucosides, various cardioactive glycosides and their derivatives, and, more recently, cyclopeptide antibiotics and the cyclosporins.

Dr. Stahelin received the M.D. from the University of Basel in 1950, and, in postdoctoral experience there in microbiology, he discovered and identified the bacterial protoplast. In 1954–1955, he continued postdoctoral work at Harvard on phagocytosis and immunity in tuberculosis. Joining Sandoz in 1955, he worked in collaboration with Dr. Von Wartburg on the discovery and application of podophyllum glucosides, an extensive range of microbial products, and cyclic peptide antibiotics. Since 1979, he has been responsible for coordination of preclinical research and is an assistant member of the Board of Management at Sandoz.

Top: left, Stahelin; right, von Wartburg. Bottom: left, Ruoslahti; middle, Croce; right, Evans. Photographs and biographical information were kindly supplied by the awardees.

Sidney Weinhouse