

The Prizes

The General Motors Cancer Research Foundation Prizes represent the thought and planning of Mr. Roger Smith, then the Chairman of the General Motors Corporation, and Dr. Joseph Fortner, Professor of Surgery at the Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center. The prizes recognize excellence in cancer research and have been awarded annually since 1978. There are three awards:

The **Charles F. Kettering Prize** for the most outstanding recent contribution to the diagnosis or treatment of cancer,

The **Charles S. Mott Prize** for the most outstanding recent contribution related to the cause or prevention of cancer, and

The **Alfred P. Sloan, Jr. Prize** for the most outstanding recent basic science contribution to cancer research.

Each prize consists of a gold medal and \$250,000. The prizes are awarded in June of each year and the recipients are selected from candidates nominated from the national and international scientific community. Nominees are first reviewed by Selection Committees for each respective prize and after detailed evaluation of each candidate's work, three final candidates are chosen for presentation to the Awards Assembly. The Assembly selects the prize winners by secret ballot. The members of the Selection Committees and the Awards Assembly are outstanding scientists from the United States and other countries.

Since its inception the General Motors Cancer Research Foundation has awarded prizes for excellence in cancer research to 77 outstanding scientists. This year the Foundation Prizes were awarded to four gifted scientists:

The 1998 **Charles F. Kettering Prize** was awarded to Dr. H. Rodney Withers, Chairman of the Department of Radiation Oncology at the University of California in Los Angeles, for his contribution of fractionated treatment schedules for radiotherapy.

The 1998 **Charles S. Mott Prize** was shared by Dr. Suzanne Cory, Director of the Walter and Eliza Hall Institute in Melbourne,

Australia, and Dr. Stanley Korsmeyer, Washington University School of Medicine, for their molecular biology discoveries which provided the basis for our understanding of programmed cell death.

The 1998 **Alfred P. Sloan, Jr. Prize** was awarded to Dr. H. Robert Horvitz of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology for defining the genetic basis for programmed cell death.

The prizes were awarded in a ceremony held at the Library of Congress on the evening of June 10th. The pictures of this year's prize winners are on the cover of this *Supplement to Cancer Research* and manuscripts of their acceptance presentations describing their seminal discoveries are found in the opening section of the journal.

The remaining portion of this *Supplement to Cancer Research* is devoted to papers presented at the 20th Annual Scientific Conference of the General Motors Cancer Research Foundation, which was held at the National Institutes of Health (NIH) on June 9 and 10, 1998. The topic of the conference was "Developmental Biology and Cancer" and many outstanding scientists from this country and abroad participated in the two-day symposium. The Foundation is especially grateful to Dr. Harold E. Varmus, the Director of the National Institutes of Health, and to Dr. Richard Klausner, the Director of the National Cancer Institute, for allowing us to have the conference at the NIH and for supporting the activities of the Foundation.

We are also grateful to Dr. Carlo Croce, the Editor-in-Chief of *Cancer Research*, and to Dr. Margaret Foti, the Executive Director of the American Association for Cancer Research, for allowing the Foundation to publish the papers from the Annual Scientific Conference as a *Supplement to Cancer Research*.

Samuel A. Wells, Jr., M.D.

President, The General Motors Cancer Research Foundation

Phillip A. Sharp, Ph.D.

Chairman of the Awards Assembly

Cancer Research

The Journal of Cancer Research (1916–1930) | The American Journal of Cancer (1931–1940)

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