



# ALBERT AND MARY LASKER FOUNDATION

RESEARCH. FOR BETTER HUMAN HEALTH.

A HEALTHIER WORLD THROUGH MEDICAL RESEARCH | FUNDAMENTAL BIOMEDICAL  
DISCOVERIES | PARADIGM SHIFTING CLINICAL RESEARCH | SERVICE IN SUPPORT OF THE  
HEALTH OF THE PUBLIC | SCIENCE EDUCATION | ADVOCACY | SUPPORT FOR MEDICAL RESEARCH

Annual  
Report  
2017





## The advances in science and public service

honored with Lasker Awards in 2017 serve as luminous examples of the ways in which biomedical research benefits us all. This year's Lasker Laureates revealed fundamental aspects of life and cell growth, contributed to the prevention of one of the most common cancers among women worldwide, and spearheaded efforts to provide essential health services and reproductive care for all.

To continue to reap the fruits of medical research in the years to come, we must ensure robust funding for science. Never has research held more hope for improving human lives. A sustained federal budget for biomedical research, and strong investments from industry and philanthropy are essential. We must not allow today's political climate to erode the public's appreciation of science or threaten needed funding. More than ever, we must now come together to call for increased support for biomedical research.



With this objective in mind, the Lasker Foundation launched a multifaceted advocacy campaign that included two full-page printed advertisements placed in the *New York Times* and *USA Today*, leveraged by social media posts. The advertisements called for sustained, robust funding for biomedical research to improve lives and build a healthier world. They were signed by 123 Lasker Laureates and 88 organizations representing millions of patients. We then invited everyone to share their stories of how research has impacted their lives or those of their loved ones using #ResearchSavedMe on Twitter, Facebook, and Instagram. We also ask you to join #ResearchSavedMe and tell your story.

Garnering support for medical research depends on continuously raising professional and public awareness and understanding of life-changing scientific advances. This year we presented a range of programs for scientists and medical professionals, as well as the general public. We invite you to read more about the Foundation's work and accomplishments in 2017 in this annual report.

The success of our mission to improve health by accelerating support for medical research has been possible thanks to the dedication and commitment of our partners, and the encouragement of the entire Lasker community.

We wish you a happy and healthy year in 2018!

Thank you,

Claire Pomeroy,  
President

Mike Overlock,  
Chair

**MISSION** To improve health by accelerating support for medical research through recognition of research excellence, education, and advocacy.



# Awards Program

Please join us in congratulating our 2017 Lasker Award winners whose research breakthroughs have had a profound impact on human health.



## Albert Lasker Basic Medical Research Award

For discoveries concerning the nutrient-activated TOR proteins and their central role in the metabolic control of cell growth.

**Michael N. Hall:** Biozentrum, University of Basel



## Lasker~Bloomberg Public Service Award

For providing essential health services and reproductive care to millions of women for more than a century.



## Lasker~DeBakey Clinical Medical Research Award

For technological advances that enabled development of HPV vaccines for prevention of cervical cancer and other tumors caused by human papillomaviruses.

**Douglas R. Lowy:** National Cancer Institute  
**John T. Schiller:** National Cancer Institute



From left to right: Michael Hall (winner of the Albert Lasker Basic Medical Research Award), Cecile Richards (President of Planned Parenthood), John Schiller and Douglas Lowy (winners of Lasker~DeBakey Clinical Medical Research Award)

The 2017 Lasker Award winners were announced on September 6, and the Awards were presented on September 15, at the Pierre Hotel in New York City.



Left to right: Claire Pomeroy (President), Michael Hall (winner of the Albert Lasker Basic Medical Research Award), Mike Overlock (Board Chair)



Left to right: Pati Murillo Casa (cervical cancer survivor), John Schiller (winner of Lasker~DeBakey Clinical Medical Research Award), Freddie Casa (Pati's husband)





William Kaelin with students from the City Academy of Medicine high school in Durham



Marsha Rappley (VCU), Bruce Alberts, Michael Rao (VCU), Claire Pomeroy

# Lectures

## UNIVERSITY LECTURES

William Kaelin, Jr., recipient of the 2016 Albert Lasker Basic Medical Research Award for his work in oxygen sensing, talked at Duke University on April 12. He addressed one of the most fundamental mysteries of life: how organisms sense and adapt to changes in oxygen availability, and what happens when something goes wrong with this essential process. Earlier that day, Kaelin discussed his experience as a research scientist with students at the City Academy of Medicine in Durham, North Carolina, a high school dedicated to preparing students for careers in health sciences.

A university lecture was also given at Virginia Commonwealth University (VCU) on April 18 by Bruce Alberts, who received the 2016 Lasker-Koshland Special Achievement Award for his discoveries in DNA replication, and leadership in science and education. His talk, titled “Keeping Science and Society Healthy: Challenges for Scientists,” focused on science communication and science literacy. After the talk, Alberts answered questions from young scientists pursuing scientific careers.

## LASKER PUBLIC LECTURE IN HONOR OF AL SOMMER

How, when, and why do viruses jump to new species? Are viruses alive, and can they be harnessed as cures for dangerous bacterial infections? These questions were answered by evolutionary biologist and virologist Paul Turner at this year’s free public lecture titled “Viruses: the Good, the Bad, and the Ugly” held on October 25 at the Bell House in Brooklyn and co-hosted with the Secret Science Club. This public lecture was supported by an anonymous donation made in honor of Lasker Foundation board member, Alfred (Al) Sommer, recipient of the 1997 Albert Lasker Clinical Medical Research Award and dean emeritus at Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health.



The free public lecture co-hosted with the Secret Science Club at the Bell House in Brooklyn, New York



Jillian Liu (APSA), Moshe Levi (APSA), Alexander Adami (APSA), Solomon Snyder, Mariam Bonyadi Camacho (APSA), Hanna Erickson (APSA), Claire Pomeroy

## APSA LECTURE

Solomon Snyder, Distinguished Service Professor of Neuroscience, Pharmacology and Psychiatry at the Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine, delivered the 2017 Lasker APSA Lecture at the annual meeting of the American Physician Scientists Association on April 21.

Snyder emphasized the key role that MD/PhD students play in his laboratory. He is the recipient of the 1978 Albert Lasker Basic Medical Research Award for his work on opiate receptors.

**“The opportunity to hear from inspiring physician-scientists like Dr. Snyder is invaluable to trainees. Dr. Snyder’s work serves as an example to aspiring physician-scientists of how much their efforts can advance science and human health.”**

— Jillian Liu, President, APSA





Paul Turner

# Partnerships



2017 YSS winners (from left to right): Tyler Allen, Katie Thompson-Pier, Eleanor Bath, Aaron Pomerantz

## iBIOLOGY

Two Lasker/iBiology videos were produced in the Lasker green-screen studio. Paul Turner described the fundamental biology of viruses and discussed using phage therapy to treat bacterial infections.

Ruslan Medzhitov discussed how the inflammatory response protects the body from infection and injury, and helps keep it in equilibrium.

In partnership with iBiology and the Alan Alda Center for Communicating Science, the Lasker Foundation supported the Young Scientist Seminars (YSS) annual competition. The four winners, Tyler Allen (North Carolina State University), Eleanor Bath (Oxford University), Aaron Pomerantz (University of California, Berkeley), and Katie Thompson-Pier (University of California, San Francisco) had the opportunity to improve their science communication skills at a workshop specifically designed for them.



Science Philanthropy Alliance members' meeting at the National Academy of Sciences, December 14-15.



## SCIENCE PHILANTHROPY ALLIANCE

The Lasker Foundation was an active participant in the Science Philanthropy Alliance, joining a broad coalition of foundations to support basic science. We participated in 4 membership meetings in 2017 where strategies to increase support for basic science were discussed. In addition, the Foundation also attended the Research Partners Conference organized by the Alliance where representatives of research institutions learned more about potential partnerships with philanthropic organizations.

At the year-end meeting, Alliance members heard from Senator Chris Coons (D-Delaware) and Representative John Culberson (R-Texas) about their work to support science, and an impressive slate of experts including leaders from the NIH (Francis Collins), NSF (Frances Cordova), OSTP (Michael Kratsios), AAU (Mary Sue Coleman), and APLU (Peter McPherson) discussed ways to effectively work with Congress and others to increase research funding.



In October, communication specialists from member organizations met to share ideas and discuss opportunities for collaboration. The meeting was held at the Simons Foundation in New York, one of the Alliance's founding members.



## INTERNATIONAL RETINAL RESEARCH FOUNDATION (IRRF)

The Lasker/IRRF Initiative for Innovation in Vision Science published two reports this year — an overview titled “Amblyopia: Challenges and Opportunities” and a five-year follow-up of the 2010 Initiative on Astrocytes and Glaucomatous Neurodegeneration. The first report, published in March, examined challenges facing investigators studying amblyopia and described proposals to improve diagnosis, treatment, and prevention of this disease. The second report appeared in April as a special edition of *Experimental Eye Research*. It assessed how the Initiative has stimulated innovative glaucoma research and discussed major questions still confronting the field today.



# Education

## LASKER ESSAY CONTEST

For the first time, this year the Lasker Essay Contest was open to students from programs both within and outside the United States. The essay contest was created in 2014 to engage young scientists and clinicians in a conversation about the big questions in biology and medicine and the role of biomedical research in our society. The contest aims to build skills in communicating important medical and scientific issues to broader audiences.

Participants in the 2017 contest were asked *to propose ways in which breakthroughs in biomedical research can be made part of the daily global dialogue, so that a much wider public becomes better informed and more supportive of biomedical research endeavors.*

The winners received monetary prizes to be used towards educational expenses and were invited to New York to meet the 2017 Lasker Award winners during the Awards Ceremony on September 15.



**“I was absolutely ecstatic to win the Lasker Essay Contest! This year’s topic really excited me.”**

— Abigail Cline, first-place winner

**Abigail Cline (first place)** is an intern at the Medical College of Georgia. She holds a PhD in biochemistry from the University of Georgia and an MD from the Medical College of Georgia. Her research and clinical interests are in medical ethics and dermatology. Essay: *Science and Cinema: From the Benchtop to the Big Screen*



**Tammy Tran (second place tie)** is a PhD candidate in the Psychological and Brain Sciences Program at The Johns Hopkins University. She uses functional neuroimaging to investigate changes in memory function

in aging and Alzheimer’s disease. Essay: *Science Is Everywhere: Unexpected Science Encounters in the Course of Everyday Life*



**Michael Wu (second place tie)** is a medical student at Harvard Medical School in the Harvard-MIT Division of Health Sciences. Wu studies cancer biology. Essay: *Search for Science: Smart Search-Linked Discussion Forums*

## Honorable Mentions



**Jennifer Bratburd** is a PhD candidate in the Microbiology Doctoral Training Program at the University of Wisconsin, Madison. She studies how the human gut microbiota interacts with pathogens. Essay: *Breaking Through Barriers to Science With Citizen Science*



**Apurva Lunia** is a final year medical student at Mahatma Gandhi Medical College in Jaipur, India. She is currently the National Public Health Officer for the Medical Students Association of India. Essay: *Dissemination of Biomedical Research via Multimedia Platforms Using Existing Healthcare Frameworks*



**Jessica Sagers** is a rising fourth-year PhD student in the Program in Speech and Hearing Bioscience and Technology in the Division of Medical Sciences at Harvard Medical School. Jessica investigates novel drug therapies for vestibular schwannoma and neurofibromatosis type 2. Essay: *Let’s Get Real: (Re)making Scientists Into People*



Regis Kelly (middle) with Lasker Lessons in Leadership organizers and participants

## LESSONS IN LEADERSHIP

Regis Kelly, the director of QB3, one of the four California Institutes for Science and Innovation was the keynote speaker at the March 8 Lasker Lessons in Leadership program. He discussed the benefits of creating private-public research partnerships in his talk titled: “Academia and the Private Sector — An Odd Couple”

On November 30, Anne Schuchat, principal deputy director at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, and a rear admiral of the US Public Health Service, gave a talk titled: “International Medicine and Global Health.” She discussed highlights in her career that shaped her professional path.

Each talk was followed by a mentor panel discussion. The Lessons in Leadership lectures are developed in collaboration with the International Biomedical Research Alliance and the National Institutes of Health (NIH) Oxford-Cambridge Scholars Program.



Anne Schuchat



## Education (cont'd)

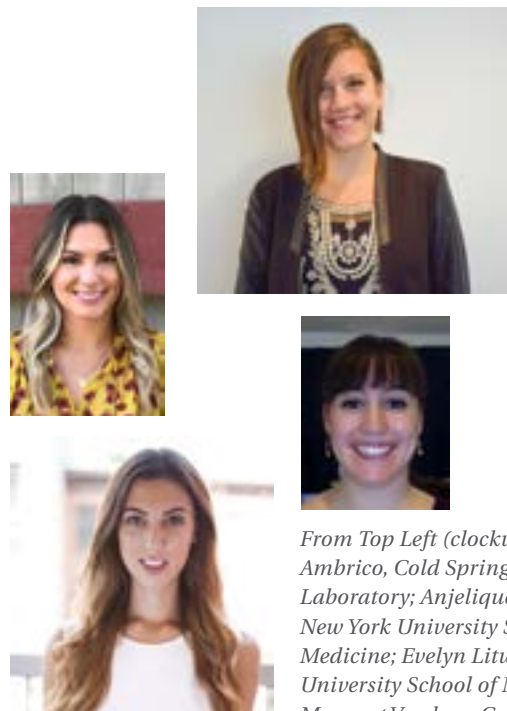


### BREAKFAST AT LASKER

The Breakfast at Lasker event, held September 15, convened junior scientists with 2017 Lasker Awards winners for a spirited discussion. Participants included NIH/Lasker Scholars, NIH Oxford/Cambridge Scholars, and Lasker Essay Contest winners. The group also included George D. Yancopoulos, president and chief scientific officer of Regeneron. The event was moderated by Lasker board member Jordan Gutterman.

### INTERNSHIP PROGRAM

Since 2015, Evelyn Litwinoff has contributed to the Lasker Foundation by creating podcasts, designing digital images and interactive maps for the Lasker website, and assisting with newsletter production and advocacy initiatives. Anjelique Schulfer, who joined our team in November 2016, and Alexandra Ambrico, who joined in June this year, created social media content and participated in other communications projects. Summer intern Margaret Voorhees helped launch our advocacy campaign in support of medical research funding.



From Top Left (clockwise): Alexandra Ambrico, Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory; Anjelique Schulfer, New York University School of Medicine; Evelyn Litwinoff, New York University School of Medicine; Margaret Voorhees, Columbia University

# NIH Lasker Clinical Research Scholars

Five new scholars joined this highly competitive initiative, a partnership between the National Institutes of Health (NIH) and the Lasker Foundation. The program provides talented, early-stage researchers the opportunity to carry out independent clinical and translational research for five to seven years at the NIH.

**Christine Alewine (NCI)** conducts clinical trials in patients with advanced pancreatic cancer.



**Courtney Fitzhugh (NHLBI)** develops new treatment options to achieve cure for sickle-cell disease.



**Jung-Ming Lee (NCI)** conducts clinical trials in women who have recurrent ovarian cancer.



**Frank Lin (NCI)** uses targeted radionuclide therapy to treat cancer.

1. Christine Alewine, 2. Anish Thomas, 3. Courtney Fitzhugh, 4. Jung-Min Lee, 5. Frank Lin

**Anish Thomas (NCI)** focuses on clinical and translational research on small-cell lung cancer.



The new scholars join the 10 previously selected Lasker Clinical Research Scholars: Andrea Apolo (NCI); Hans Ackerman (NHLBI); Rebecca Brown (NIDDK); Jessica Gill (NINR); Christian Hinrichs (NCI); Beth Kozel (NHLBI); Falk Lohoff (NIAAA); Nehal Mehta (NHLBI); Armin Raznahan (NIMH); and Natalie Shaw (NIEHS).



# Advocacy



Colleen Hagan Gabrish was diagnosed with a dedifferentiated retroperitoneal liposarcoma. Today she is able to say #ResearchSavedMe. This post was shared widely via social media, along with others telling their stories.

## RESEARCH FUNDING INITIATIVE

The Lasker Foundation launched a campaign encouraging support of medical research funding. In the spring, Lasker Laureates signed a full-page advertisement that ran in the *New York Times* on April 25, with the following message: “We are 123 Lasker Laureates united in support of sustained, robust funding for biomedical research to improve lives and build a healthier world.” It featured Mary Lasker’s quote: “IF YOU THINK RESEARCH IS EXPENSIVE... TRY DISEASE.”

In the fall, the call for support came from groups and organizations representing the true beneficiaries of medical research — current and future patients. On October 4, a full-page advertisement appeared in *USA Today* listing 88 patient advocacy organizations that endorsed our initiative. An additional 3 organizations have subsequently joined the campaign.

The Lasker Foundation invited the public to share stories about the way in which research has benefited them or their loved ones by posting stories, images, and videos on social media using #ResearchSavedMe.



People tell the Lasker Foundation ways in which medical research touches their lives.

**“If you think research is expensive... try disease.”**  
Mary Lasker  
American health activist & philanthropist

We are 123 Lasker Laureates united in support of sustained, robust funding for biomedical research to improve lives and build a healthier world.

**Join us in supporting funding for biomedical research.**

Bruce Alberts • James Allison • Harvey Alter • Victor Ambros • Porter Anderson • Clay Armstrong • Rolf Barreschlagger • Donald Baucke • Elinor E. Beardsley • Aaron Beck • Alim Louis Benabid • Paul Berg • Michael Berzberg • J. Michael Bishop • Elizabeth Blackburn • Günter Blobel • Sydney Brenner • Nancy Brinker • Donald Brown • Michael Brown • Roy Calkins • Maria Capocchi • Alain Carpentier • Thomas Cochran • Pierre Chambon • Aaron Ciechanover • Giacomo Clark • John Clements • Stanley N. Cohen • James Drenth • Madan Deshay • Vincent DiVino • Peter Doherty • Brian Druker • Stephen Elledge • Adam Engle • Raymond Erikson • Myron Essex • Martin Evans • Ronald Evans • Stanley Falkow • Marc Feldman • Napoleone Ferrara • Bernard Fisher • William Foerpe • Emil Freireich • Jeffrey Friedman • Joseph Gall • Robert Gallo • Walter Gilbert • Joseph Goldstein • John Gordon • Emil Gottschalk • Carol Greider • Roger Guillemin • John Gurdon • Franz-Ulrich Hartl • Laurel Hartwell • Aram Harshbako • Bertil Hill • Ingemar Holmsten • James Holland • Leroy Hood • Arthur Horwich • Michael Houghton • John Higgins • Alec Jeffreys • William Kaelin • Yael Wai Kan • Eric Kandathil • Mary Claire King • Nicholas Lyden • Rudolph MacKinnon • Rowland Martin • Tom Maniatis • Barry Marshall • Yoshio Masui • Matthew Meselson • Kazuhiko Mori • Elizabeth Neufeld • Paul Nurse • Christiane Nüsslein-Volhard • Donald Pankel • Congressman John Edward Porter • Stanley Prasher • Mark Ptashne • Peter Ratschke • Charles Rice • Robert Roeder • James Rothman • Gary Ruvkun • Bengt Samuelsson • Charles Sawyers • Andrew Schally • Randy Schekman • Richard Scheller • Gregg Semenza • Philip Sharp • Michael Spector • Solomon Snyder • Michael Sofia • Alfred Sommer • Edwin Southern • James Spudis • Albert Starr • Jack Strominger • Thomas C. Südhof • Jack Szostak • James Till • Susumu Tonegawa • Emil Unanue • Ronald Vale • Eugene Van Scott • Harold Varmus • Alexander Varshavsky • Peter Walter • James Watson • David Weatherall • Nancy Wessler • Blake Wilson • Evelyn Witkin • Shinya Yamanaka • John Ziegler

[www.laskerfoundation.org/advocacy](http://www.laskerfoundation.org/advocacy)

Print advertisement placed in the *New York Times* on April 25, 2017

**“If you think research is expensive... try disease.”**  
Mary Lasker  
American health activist & philanthropist

We are 88 organizations, representing millions of patients, united in support of sustained, robust funding for medical research to save billions of dollars for our nation and build a healthier world.

**Join us in supporting funding for medical research.**

ACT for NIH • Advancing Cures Today • Albert and Mary Lasker Foundation • Alzheimer's Association • Alzheimer's Drug Discovery Foundation • American Cancer Society • Cancer Action Network • American Heart Association • American Kidney Fund • American Lung Association • American Lyme Disease Foundation • Arthritis Foundation • Autism Disease Support and Research Association • Brain & Behavior Research Foundation • Bridge the Gap • SINGAP • Education and Research Foundation • Colon Cancer Foundation • Child Mind Institute • Cholangiocarcinoma Foundation • Christopher & Dana Reeve Foundation • Chromosome Disorder Outreach • Colon Cancer Alliance for Research & Education for Lynch Syndrome • Committee de Longe Syndrome Foundation • Cystic Fibrosis Foundation • Cystic Fibrosis Research Foundation • Cystic Fibrosis Foundation • Deafness Research Foundation • Depression and Bipolar Support Alliance • Dutch Duke Chariton Foundation • Drugs for Neglected Diseases Initiative (DNDI) • First Blindness • FORD • Hope for Heart Failure • National Cancer Action Network • Fight for Sight • FTD Hope • Foundation Fighting Blindness • Foundation for Biomedical Research • Foundation for the National Institutes of Health • Foundation for Prader-Willi Research • FRA • Research Foundation • HealthCare Research Alliance • HRA • Friends of Cancer Research • Genetic Alliance • Glaucoma Research Foundation • Hereditary Disease Foundation • Hope for Depression Research Foundation (HDF) • Huntington's Disease Society of America • International Biomedical Research Alliance • International Fibrosis/Osteoarthritis Progression Association • International Infant Research Foundation • Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation • Kidney Cancer Association • Lupus Research Alliance • Melanoma Research Alliance • Michael J. Fox Foundation for Parkinson's Research • Myelinoma Crisis Foundation of America • National Alliance on Mental Illness • National Aphasia Association • National Cancer Control Coalition • National Kidney Foundation • National Multiple Sclerosis Society • National Shingles Foundation • National Uterine Cervical Dysplasia Foundation • National Voluntary Organizations • New York Stem Cell Foundation • Olay Foundation • Parkinson's Foundation • Phelan-McDermid Syndrome Foundation • PKD Foundation • Pre-eclampsia Foundation • Prostate Bladder Cancer • PSC: Pediatric Sclerosis • Cure • Pulmonary Hypertension Association • PVL: Intellectual & Research • Rare • Rare Kids • Leg • Syndrome Foundation • Rice • Allen Foundation • Sarsen Health Foundation • Spina Bifida Association • Spinal Muscular Atrophy Foundation • Stand Up to Cancer • Sudden Arrhythmic Death Syndrome Foundation (SADS) • Sudden Awareness Voices of Education (SAVE) • Susan G. Komen • TB Alliance • The Association for Frontotemporal Degeneration • The Leukemia & Lymphoma Society • Tuberculosis Research Alliance • Usher III Collaborator • Usher Syndrome Coalition

Tell your story using #ResearchSavedMe  
[www.laskerfoundation.org/advocacy](http://www.laskerfoundation.org/advocacy)

Print advertisement placed in the *USA Today* on October 4, 2017



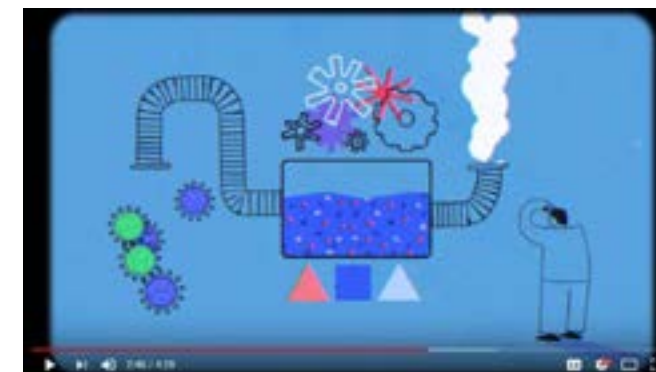
T-shirts further amplified Lasker's call for action.

## OP-EDS

Lasker president Claire Pomeroy further disseminated the message of the campaign in an opinion piece for the *Huffington Post* titled “We All Need to Stand Up for the Medical Science That Yields the Miracles.” Pomeroy argued that to improve our futures and those of our families, everyone should join in the call to support research that improves health.

Other articles by Pomeroy included: “Health spending and medical research must address the social determinants of health.” *Huffington Post*, January 31, 2017; “We must fight the deadly superbug threat with every tool we've got.” *Fox News*, March 17, 2017; and “The war on drugs and the war on pain.” *Fox News*, August 18, 2017.

# Communications



Screen capture from the 2017 Lasker-DeBakey Clinical Medical Research Award video produced by Flora Lichtman

The 2017 Lasker Awards received wide coverage by both traditional and social media, and included the creative videos produced by Flora Lichtman. Stories appeared in national and international papers including: the *Neue Zürcher Zeitung*, *The Los Angeles Times*, *The New York Times*, *The Wall Street Journal*, *The Washington Post*, and the *Yomiuri Shimbun*. Scientific articles were published by *Cell*, *JAMA*, *Science*, *Scientific American*, *The Lancet*, *The New England Journal of Medicine*, and others.

This year the Lasker Foundation's newsletter expanded from a bi-annual to a quarterly publication, with a special fall edition providing detailed coverage of the Lasker Awards. Topics included systems medicine and research collaboration (spring), young scientists and women in science (summer), and advances in diagnostic technologies (winter). Contributors to the 2017 newsletters included Princeton president emerita Shirley Tilghman and Lasker Laureates Leroy Hood, Susumu Tonegawa, Elizabeth Neufeld, Joseph Gall, and Yuet Wai Kan.



# Leadership



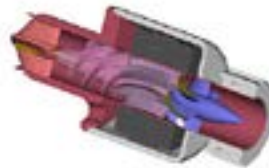
## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

*Left to right:* Solomon Snyder, Elias Zerhouni, James Fordyce (Chair Emeritus), Sherry Lansing, Chris Jones, Willard Overlock, Russell Steenberg, Claire Pomeroy, Marshall Fordyce, Alfred Sommer, Christopher Brody, George Roche, Anthony Evin, George Noon

*Not pictured:* Barbara Barrett, John Considine, Anthony Evin, Joseph Goldstein, Jordan Gutterman, Robert Tjian

## In the Spotlight: GEORGE NOON

George Noon has been a member of the Board of Directors of the Lasker Foundation since 2010. He is professor of surgery and Meyer-DeBakey Chair in Investigative Surgery at Baylor College of Medicine in Houston, Texas. In 1968, Noon and Michael DeBakey, a renowned heart surgeon and the first president of Baylor College of Medicine, together with their surgical team, performed their first heart and lung transplant. Noon soon became the leading surgeon for insertion of ventricular assist devices — a mechanical pump that supports heart function and blood flow in people who have weakened hearts. He spent the following decades improving the heart pump, in collaboration with DeBakey. News about the brilliant work of Noon and DeBakey travelled around the globe, and in 1996 the two surgeons were invited to come to Moscow to aid in the coronary bypass heart operation of Boris Yeltsin — then the president of Russia.



*Miniature axial flow blood pump developed in a collaboration between NASA engineers, George Noon, and Michael DeBakey. Credit: NASA*

In 1988, Noon and DeBakey began a collaboration with engineers from NASA to develop a miniature heart pump to provide a continuous blood flow. The first MicroMed DeBakey-Noon human implants were performed in Berlin, Germany, in 1996. Three years later, Noon was inducted into the Space Technology Hall of Fame.

Noon is president of the DeBakey Medical Foundation, which endowed the Lasker-DeBakey Clinical Medical Research Award.

Noon's work has made a difference in the lives of heart patients around the globe and transformed our approach to treatment of cardiac disease.



## LASKER MEDICAL RESEARCH AWARDS JURY

*Seated, left to right:* Xiaowei Zhuang, Harvard University • J. Michael Bishop, University of California, San Francisco • Lucy Shapiro, Stanford University • Joseph Goldstein, Chair of the Jury, University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center • Robert Horvitz, Massachusetts Institute of Technology • Erin O'Shea, Howard Hughes Medical Institute • Paul Nurse, Francis Crick Institute

*Standing, left to right:* Jeffrey Friedman, Rockefeller University • Marc Tessier-Lavigne, Stanford University • Jeremy Nathans, Johns Hopkins School of Medicine • Charles Sawyers, Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center • Bruce Stillman, Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory • Dan Littman, NYU Langone Medical Center • Harold Varmus, Weill Cornell Medical College • Titia de Lange, Rockefeller University • Richard Lifton, Rockefeller University • James Rothman, Yale University • Craig Thompson, Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center • K. Christopher Garcia, Stanford University • Michael Brown, University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center • Richard Locksley, University of California, San Francisco • Christopher Walsh, Harvard University



## 2017 LASKER~BLOOMBERG PUBLIC SERVICE AWARD JURY

Chris Jones • Barbara Barrett • Alfred Sommer, Chair of the Jury • Sherry Lansing • Willard J. Overlock, Jr.

*Not pictured:* Robert Tjian • Elias Zerhouni



# Donors

In grateful appreciation to the following donors to the Lasker Foundation in 2017

Anonymous  
Bloomberg Philanthropies  
The Estate of Frances Lasker Brody  
Brown Brothers Harriman  
The DeBakey Medical Foundation  
The International Retinal Research Foundation  
The Daniel E. Koshland, Jr. Fund  
O'Donnell Foundation  
The Pew Charitable Trusts

Craig and Barbara Barrett  
Christopher and Barbara Brody  
Ewing Butler  
Judith Ehrlich in memory of Harold Ehrlich  
Anthony and Judith Evnin  
James and Anne Fordyce  
Marshall and Saraleah Fordyce  
Joseph L. Goldstein

Jordan Gutterman  
Christopher Jones  
Kazuo and Yoko Komuro  
Sherry Lansing  
George P. Noon  
Trina and Mike Overlock  
Mrs. Frank Perdue  
Claire Pomeroy and William Preston Robertson  
George A. Roche  
Solomon H. Snyder  
Alfred and Jill Sommer  
Russell W. Steenberg and Patricia M. Colbert  
Elias and Nadia Zerhouni

The Lasker Foundation thanks the Howard Hughes Medical Institute for in-kind contributions.

**Lasker Society Members**  
Mrs. William McCormick Blair, Jr.  
Christopher and Barbara Brody  
\*Frances Lasker Brody  
Susan Lasker Brody  
W. Michael Brown  
Purnell W. Choppin  
John J. Connolly  
\*Michael E. DeBakey  
James and Anne Fordyce  
William and Neen Hunt  
\*Daniel E. Koshland, Jr.  
Trina and Mike Overlock  
Paula Simon  
Solomon Snyder  
Alfred and Jill Sommer  
Martin Tolchin

*\*Deceased*

The Lasker Society accepts deferred gifts through estate planning.

## Looking Ahead

### LASKER AWARDS

The 2018 Lasker Award winners will be announced in early September, and the Awards will be presented on Friday, September 21, at the Pierre Hotel in New York City.

### LECTURES

The 2018 Lasker APSA Lecture will be presented by Peter Ratcliffe at the American Physician Scientists Association annual conference in Chicago on April 20. Ratcliffe was the recipient of the 2016 Albert Lasker Basic Medical Research Award.

In 2018, the Lasker Foundation will hold two University Lectures. The first one will be on April 25 at Texas A&M College of Medicine and will be presented by Roderic Pettigrew, the founding director of the National Institute of Biomedical Imaging and Bioengineering. The second lecture will take place at the University of Chicago and will be given

by Jeffrey Friedman of the Rockefeller University and recipient of the 2010 Albert Lasker Basic Medical Research Award.

### LESSONS IN LEADERSHIP

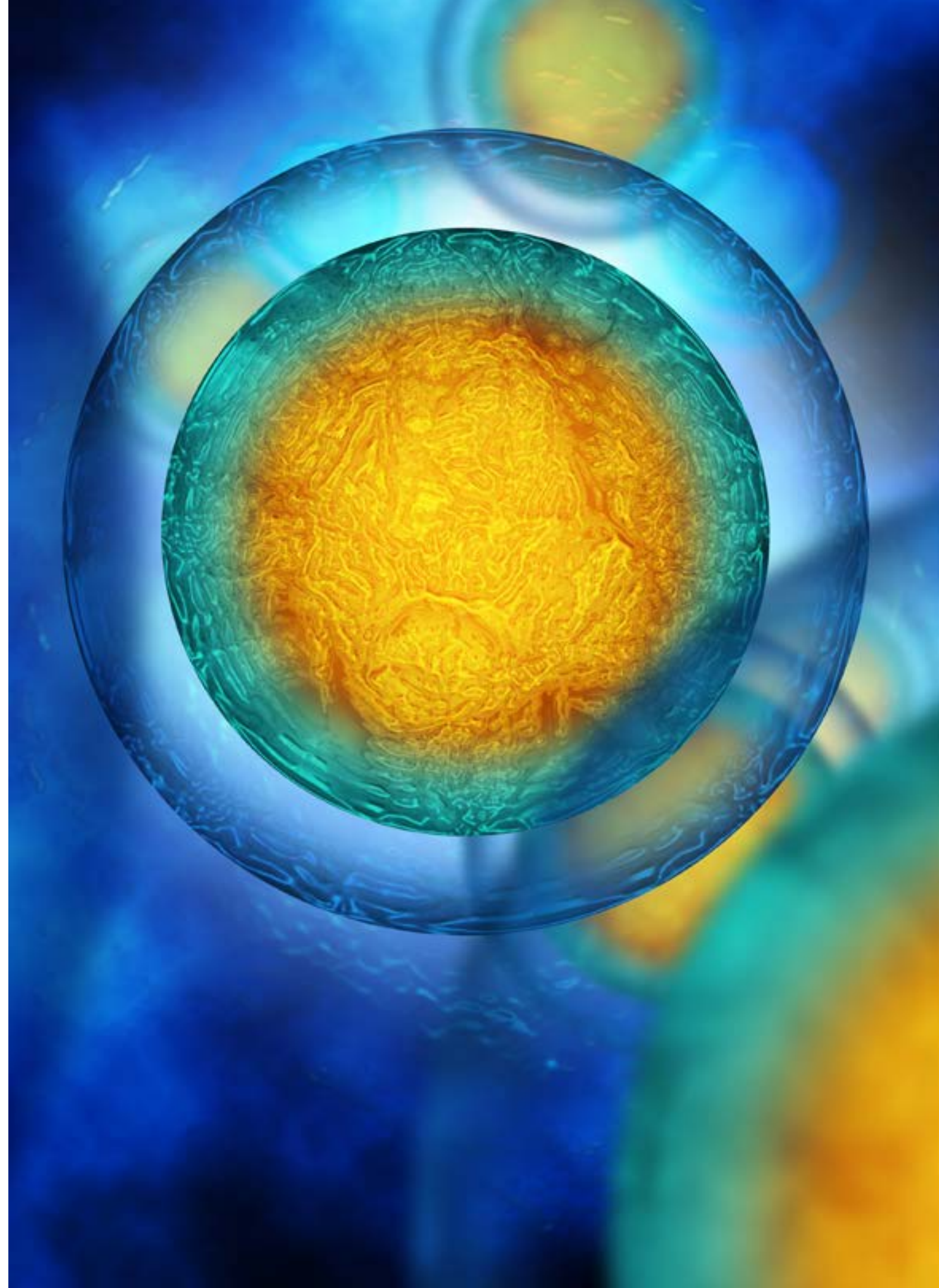
Mary Woolley, president of Research!America, will talk about science policy and advocacy on Friday, February 28.

### ESSAY CONTEST

The 2018 Lasker Essay Contest will open in early February. Winners of the contest will be announced in late June.

### LASKER/IRRF INITIATIVE

2018 concludes a 10-year fruitful collaboration with IRRF, during which a number of meetings, discussions, and reports helped accelerate research on sight-saving treatments and prevention. The initiative will hold a celebratory meeting on April 30 and May 1, in Hawaii.





**ALBERT AND MARY LASKER FOUNDATION**

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