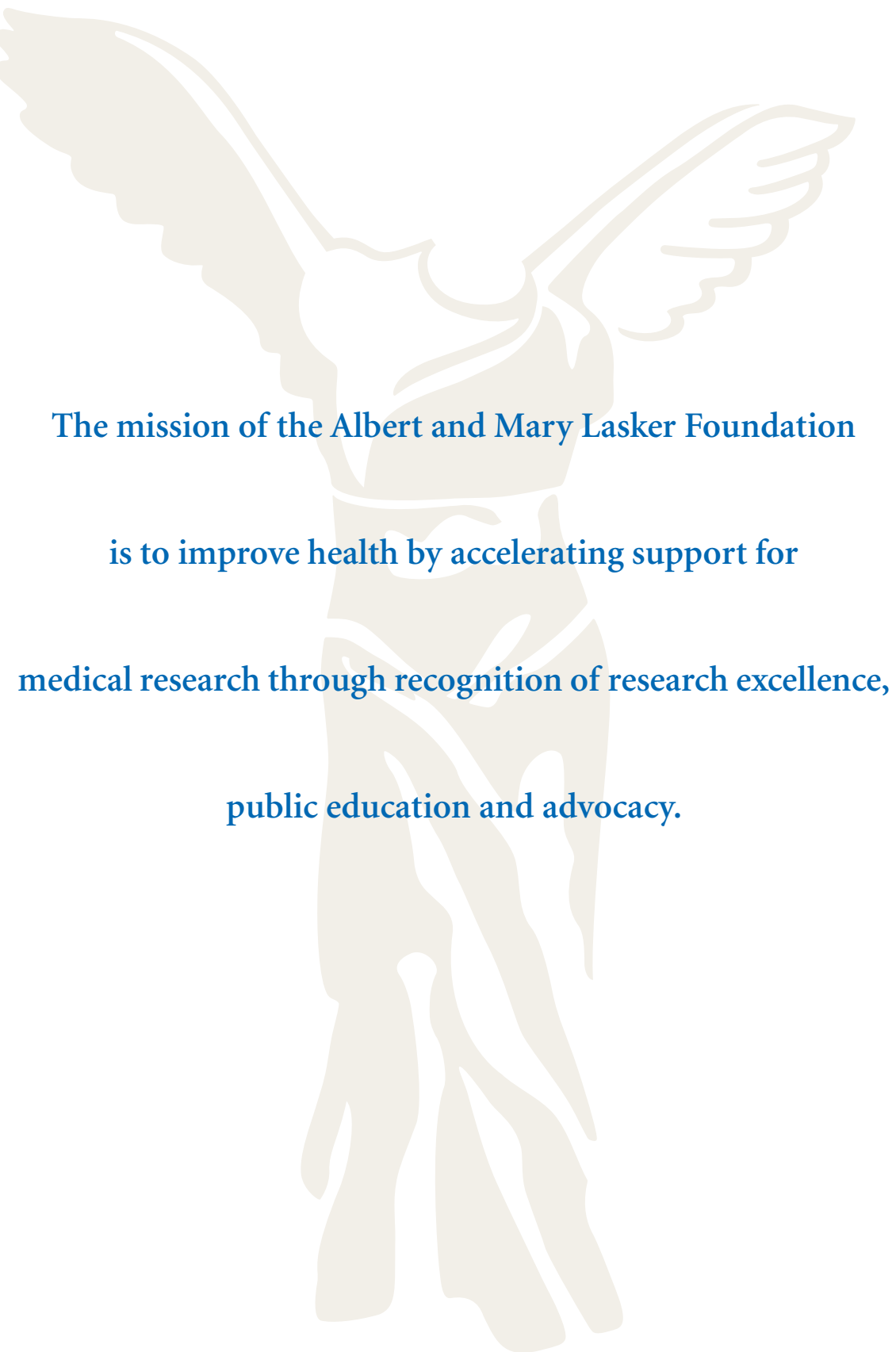




# LASKER FOUNDATION

2014

*Annual Report*



The mission of the Albert and Mary Lasker Foundation  
is to improve health by accelerating support for  
medical research through recognition of research excellence,  
public education and advocacy.



**MIKE OVERLOCK**  
Chair  
Albert and Mary Lasker Foundation



**CLAIRE POMEROY, MD, MBA**  
President  
Albert and Mary Lasker Foundation

**T**HE LASKER FOUNDATION is committed to improving health by inspiring support for medical research. We shine a light on outstanding advances that improve health and spread the word that great science needs broad-based support in order to thrive.

The Lasker Foundation believes that it is critical to educate people everywhere that investments in medical research yield valuable returns in the form of treatments for debilitating disorders, new means of preventing diseases, and improved quality of life.

This is a very exciting time for the Lasker Foundation. The Lasker Awards continue to draw international attention to the powerful advances being made in research. We are spearheading a number of new educational initiatives that bring information about health and science to the public. And our growing advocacy work is more important than ever as NIH and other federal funding for research continues to lose purchasing power.

The success of our work at the Lasker Foundation is buoyed by the support we receive from you and the many others who are dedicated to our mission. Together we can achieve our vision of a healthier world through medical research.



**Video: The Lasker Legacy**  
<http://vimeo.com/104527849>



*Please join us in congratulating our 2014 Lasker Award winners.*

### Albert Lasker Basic Medical Research Award

**Kazutoshi Mori** and **Peter Walter**

For discoveries concerning the unfolded protein response — an intracellular quality control system that detects harmful misfolded proteins in the endoplasmic reticulum and signals the nucleus to carry out corrective measures.



**KAZUTOSHI MORI**  
Kyoto University  
Kyoto, Japan



**PETER WALTER**  
University of California,  
San Francisco, USA

### Lasker~DeBakey Clinical Medical Research Award

**Alim Louis Benabid** and **Mahlon DeLong**

For the development of deep brain stimulation of the subthalamic nucleus, a surgical technique that reduces tremors and restores motor function in patients with advanced Parkinson's disease.



**ALIM LOUIS BENABID**  
Joseph Fourier University  
Grenoble, France



**MAHLON DELONG**  
Emory University  
School of Medicine  
Atlanta, USA

### Lasker~Koshland Special Achievement Award in Medical Science

**Mary-Claire King**

For bold, imaginative, and diverse contributions to medical science and human rights — she discovered the BRCA1 gene locus that causes hereditary breast cancer and deployed DNA strategies that reunite missing persons or their remains with their families.



**MARY-CLAIRE KING**  
University of Washington  
Seattle, USA



CLAIRE POMEROY, JOSEPH GOLDSTEIN, MARY-CLAIRE KING, MIKE OVERLOCK

### The Foundation appreciates the following sponsors of the 2014 Lasker Awards Program

- Bloomberg Philanthropies
- The Estate of Frances Lasker Brody
- The DeBakey Medical Foundation
- The International Retinal Research Foundation
- The Daniel E. Koshland, Jr. Fund
- Barbara Barrett
- Christopher and Barbara Brody
- John and Kelly Considine
- Anthony and Judith Evnin
- James and Anne Fordyce
- Marshall and Saraleah Fordyce
- Joseph L. Goldstein
- Jordan Gutterman
- Kazuo and Yoko Komuro
- Sherry Lansing
- Arno Motulsky
- George P. Noon
- Mike and Trina Overlock
- Mitzi Perdue
- Claire Pomeroy and William Preston Robertson
- George Roche
- Sierra Health Foundation
- Solomon H. and Elaine Snyder
- Alfred and Jill Sommer
- Russell Steenberg and Patricia Colbert
- Robert Tjian
- Elias and Nadia Zerhouni

### Lasker Awards Society Members

- Mr. and Mrs. William McCormick Blair, Jr.
- Christopher and Barbara Brody
- \* Frances Lasker Brody
- Susan Lasker Brody
- W. Michael Brown
- Purnell W. Choppin
- John J. Connolly
- Robert Cullen and Paula Simon
- Robin Chandler Duke
- James W. and Anne Fordyce
- \* Emil Frei III
- William and Neen Hunt
- \* Daniel E. Koshland, Jr.
- \* James F. McCollom, Jr.
- Solomon Snyder
- Alfred and Jill Sommer
- Martin Tolchin
- \*Deceased

### THE AWARDS SOCIETY ACCEPTS DEFERRED GIFTS THROUGH ESTATE PLANNING

*The Lasker Foundation thanks Robert Tjian and the Howard Hughes Medical Institute for in-kind contributions.*



**Video: 2014 Awards**

[www.laskerfoundation.org/media/video.php](http://www.laskerfoundation.org/media/video.php)

**More Information**

[www.laskerfoundation.org/awards/currentwinners.htm](http://www.laskerfoundation.org/awards/currentwinners.htm)

[www.laskerfoundation.org/media/news.htm](http://www.laskerfoundation.org/media/news.htm)



Lasker Public Lectures

The **Lasker Public Lectures** take audiences on journeys of discovery and provide a direct dialogue between members of the public and some of the most accomplished scientists in the world.



**Charles Sawyers** delivered the 2014 Lasker Public Lecture to a standing-room-only audience at the Bell House in Brooklyn, New York on June 10, 2014. Dr. Sawyers won a 2009 Lasker~DeBaakey Clinical Award for developing a targeted molecular therapy for chronic myeloid leukemia. His lecture titled “From Cancer Genomics to Cancer Drugs” covered new paradigms in cancer research.

Lasker University Lectures



The **Keck School of Medicine of the USC** in Los Angeles, hosted the 2014 Lasker University Lectures at the Mayer Auditorium on the USC Health Science Campus.

On March 4, 2014, **Richard Scheller**, executive vice president, research administration of Genentech, and **Thomas Südhof**, professor of molecular and cellular physiology at the Stanford University School of Medicine, presented their insights into how communication occurs in the brain. Dr. Scheller’s lecture was titled “The War on Cancer 2014” and Dr. Südhof’s lecture was titled “Towards a Molecular Understanding of Synapse Formation, Autism, and Schizophrenia: Neurexins and Company.” Dr. Scheller and Dr. Südhof shared the 2013 Albert Lasker Basic Medical Research Award for discoveries concerning rapid neurotransmitter release.

On April 10, 2014, **Graeme M. Clark**, Professor Emeritus at the University of Melbourne, Australia; **Ingeborg Hochmair**, co-founder and CEO of the cochlear implant company MED-EL; and **Blake S. Wilson**, co-director of the Duke Hearing Center at Duke University, presented their accomplishments and explained the future of cochlear implants. Dr. Clark, Dr. Hochmair, and Dr. Wilson shared the 2013 Lasker~DeBaakey Clinical Medical Research Award for developing the modern cochlear implant, a device that allows the profoundly deaf to hear.

Lasker APSA Lecture

The **Lasker Foundation partners** with the American Physician Scientist Association, a national organization dedicated to career development and community building among physician-scientists in training, to present the APSA Lasker Lecture.



**Napoleone Ferrara**, presented the 2014 APSA Lasker Lecture on April 25, 2014 at the APSA Annual Conference in Chicago, Illinois. Dr. Ferrara won the 2010 Lasker~DeBaakey Clinical Award for the discovery of VEGF as a major mediator of angiogenesis and the development of an effective anti-VEGF therapy for wet macular degeneration, a leading cause of blindness in the elderly. Dr. Ferrara’s lecture was titled “Therapeutic Applications of VEGF Inhibitors: Progress and Challenges.”

*“This year’s meeting was a great success largely because of the support we received from the Lasker Foundation and the wonderful Lasker-sponsored keynote lecture by Napoleone Ferrara.”*

APSA PRESIDENT, MICHAEL GUO, 2014

Lasker President **Claire Pomeroy** also participated in the 2014 APSA Annual meeting, speaking on a panel titled “Public Outreach of the Physician–Scientist.” She spoke about how her experiences and expertise shape her thoughts on medical research and the importance of scientists engaging with the public about their work.

**Videos: Lasker Lecture Series**  
[www.laskerfoundation.org/programs/lecture.htm](http://www.laskerfoundation.org/programs/lecture.htm)

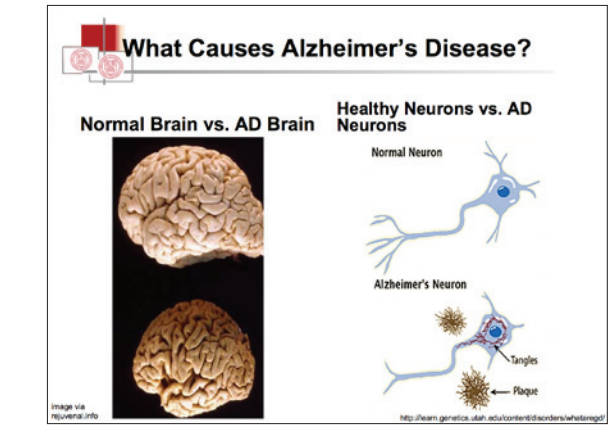
**Video: Panel Discussion**  
[www.laskerfoundation.org/programs/lecture.htm](http://www.laskerfoundation.org/programs/lecture.htm)

High School Lecture

The **Lasker Foundation** also partnered with Stuyvesant High School in New York City to feature **Greg Petsko**, Lasker Juror, for the 2014 Lasker High School Lecture. Dr. Petsko’s lecture was titled “The Coming Epidemic of Brain Disorders and What Scientists Are Trying to Do About It.” Dr. Petsko discussed his research into Parkinson’s, Alzheimer’s, and Lou Gehrig’s disease; and his work to develop a drug to treat Alzheimer’s.



Students were excited by both his research and the advice he gave them in starting a career in science. One student, Sharon Lin was inspired to write an essay describing the lecture.



*“It is a rare for such a distinguished scientist to speak to a high school audience. Several students, some of whom I did not even know, made a point of stopping me afterwards to tell me how much they enjoyed the experience. We are extremely grateful to both Dr. Petsko and the Lasker Foundation for making this event happen.”*

JEFF HORENSTEIN, BIOLOGY TEACHER

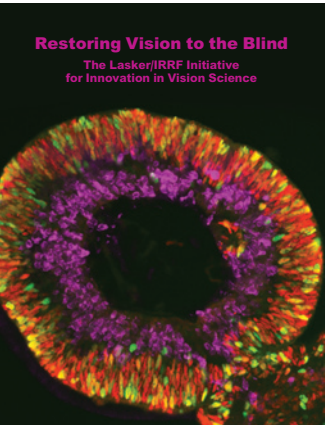


*“I was extremely fortunate to have been able to hear Dr. Petsko speak. Not only was his research captivating, but his stories left me with a spark—and I’m not planning on extinguishing it anytime soon.”*

SHARON LIN, CLASS OF 2017



The **Lasker Foundation** continues our inspiring collaboration with the International Retinal Research Foundation (IRRF). This year’s initiative focused on restoring vision to the blind, with an emphasis on retinal diseases that lead to vision loss. In March, 2014, participants from two workshops held the previous year reconvened to finalize their report. The report describes the potential solutions ranging from stem cell transplantation to gene therapy to visual prostheses. The report will appear in a special edition of the journal *Translational Vision Science & Technology* (TVST).



Mr. Sanford D. Greenberg attended the 2014 program and delivered a moving speech on his life as a blind person, calling for an end to blindness by year 2020. In March 2015, the partnership will convene a follow-up meeting of the experts who prepared the first report in this initiative entitled “Astrocytes and Glaucomatous Neurodegeneration.” The goal is to assess the impact of the report and how it has spurred new collaborative research projects.

Also in 2015, the next initiative will be launched and will explore amblyopia. Amblyopia, also known as lazy eye, is a vision development disorder in which an eye fails to achieve normal visual acuity, even with prescription glasses or contact lenses. It is a major cause of visual loss in children, affecting 2-3% of people worldwide. The partnership with IRRF has allowed the Lasker Foundation to be engaged in a collaborative effort to accelerate discovery of sight-saving treatments and ways to prevent retinal degenerative diseases—an important approach to our mission to improve health through medical research.

NIH Lasker Clinical Research Scholars

The NIH Lasker Clinical Research Scholars program provides clinician scientists with the opportunity to advance their careers through positions at the National Institutes of Health (NIH).

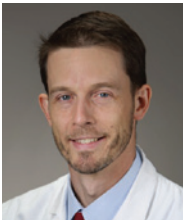
“Identifying talented and innovative scholars early in their careers is paramount to building a robust cadre of physician-researchers.”

FRANCIS S. COLLINS, M.D., PH.D.  
DIRECTOR, NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF HEALTH

Three new students have been accepted in the 2014 program, Andrea Apolo, Hans Ackerman, and Falk Lohoff, joining NIH Lasker Clinical Research Scholars, Nehal Meta and Jessica Gill.



ANDREA APOLO



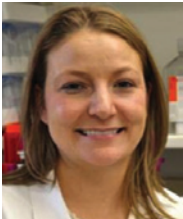
HANS ACKERMAN



FALK LOHOFF



NEHAL MEHTA



JESSICA GILL

Andrea Apolo’s research involves developing and designing clinical trials to test novel agents for the treatment of urologic cancers. Hans Ackerman is studying how metabolic and genetic factors affect blood flow in people with sickle cell disease. Falk Lohoff’s research focuses on heritable and non-heritable genetic aspects that influence the onset, progression, and treatment of alcohol use disorders and addictions.

Breakfast at Lasker

Breakfast at Lasker brings together the Lasker Award Winners and a select group of students and trainees. This group is comprised of NIH/Lasker Scholars, Oxford /Cambridge trainees, Stuyvesant High School students and their teacher, and Lasker essay contest winners. Breakfast at Lasker offers an opportunity for students and trainees to talk with these scientists in a relaxed and informal setting about their careers, achievements, and challenges. Breakfast at Lasker is moderated by Board Member Jordan Gutterman.



MARY-CLAIRE KING



PETER WALTER

High School Outreach

iGEM – STUYVESANT HIGH SCHOOL



In 2014, the Lasker Foundation proudly sponsored the New York City Stuyvesant High School iGEM Team. Students from the high school participated in the iGEM (international genetically engineered machines) competition at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology in June. The Stuyvesant iGEM team’s project was to develop a mechanism that prompts bacterial cells to self-destruct in the absence of artificial light. The project was designed to enhance laboratory safety.

Lasker Summer Internship Program

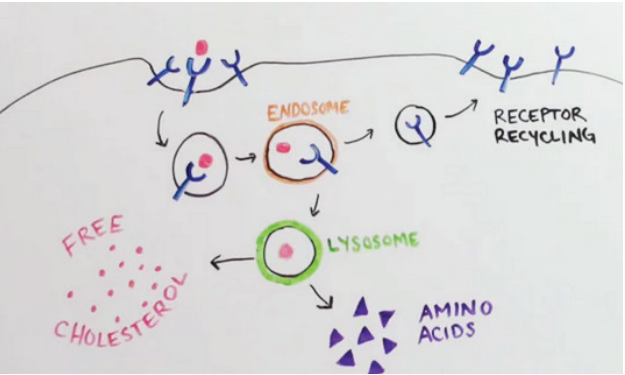
The Lasker Foundation is pleased to sponsor a summer internship program to provide valuable experience to students planning a career in medical science. In 2014, the Foundation was fortunate to have two talented interns. Angela Troia is a junior at Suny Binghamton University majoring in biochemistry. Emily Hoelzli is a senior at Bard College majoring in biology with a concentration on global health.



ANGELA TROIA AND EMILY HOELZLI

“This internship was more than I expected. I am so happy that I was given this opportunity, and I hope you continue taking on summer interns.” ANGELA TROIA

As their final project Emily and Angela, were asked to learn about a Lasker Laureate of their choosing and present a creative video presentation of the science behind the Lasker Award. They discussed the discovery of low-density lipoprotein receptors by Lasker winners Michael Brown and Joseph Goldstein and the development of statin drugs to lower blood cholesterol by Akira Endo. “Solving the Cholesterol Conundrum” was written and produced by Troia and Hoelzli.



▶ **Videos: Final Project**  
[www.laskerfoundation.org/media/v\\_cholesterol.htm](http://www.laskerfoundation.org/media/v_cholesterol.htm)

▶ **Link: Read the Essays**  
[www.laskerfoundation.org/programs/contest.htm](http://www.laskerfoundation.org/programs/contest.htm)

The 2014 Lasker Essay Contest

The Lasker Foundation sponsored an essay contest designed to reach out to health professions trainees. Students were challenged to write a composition that discussed their ideas for innovative ways to build support and ensure funding for medical research.

The contest was open to medical school students and fellows; doctoral students and postdoctoral fellows in biomedical research; graduate students in public health programs; and graduate students in other health professions programs, at U.S.-accredited institutions.

The Foundation received 167 essays. The essays were reviewed by members of the Lasker Board of Directors and rated on innovation and how well that innovation was communicated. Winning essayists received monetary awards to be applied toward their educational expenses.



The first place winner of \$10,000 was Peter Soh, a medical student at the University of South Alabama, who proposed tax credits and scholarships to reduce financial barriers for student scientists and encourage investment in future medical professionals. Soh also won an all-expense paid trip to New York City to attend the 2014 Lasker Awards and meet the 2014 Lasker Award winners.



A second place award of \$5,000 went to Michael Burel, a graduate student of New York University School of Medicine, who wrote that sparking an interest in science among a broad audience can increase public support. He created Biocanvas, an innovative website with over 170,000 visitors daily who share knowledge through science-as-art images.



A third place prize of \$2,000 was awarded to Nick Andresen, a medical student of the University of Iowa, who advocated for the power of crowdsourcing to support medical research and championed a non-profit database to evaluate and validate the credibility of research projects.



A \$1,000 honorable mention went to Gregg Gonsalves, a PhD candidate at Yale School of Public Health, who suggested an annual national day of advocacy in Washington, D.C. and congressional districts nationwide, where local researchers could meet with their members of Congress to put a personal face on science.



SOCIAL MEDIA

Follow us for Lasker updates, interesting articles, and stimulating videos.


@LaskerFDN

Lasker Foundation @LaskerFDN • Sep 4

@jclinicalinvest and @UshmaNeill did a fantastic highlight of our #lasker giants narrated by @clairepomeroy

YouTube

JCI's Conversations with Giants in Medicine: Lasker Giants



For the last five years, the JCI has had the privilege of working with the Albert and Mary Lasker Foundation to write profiles on the prizewinners. Coverage ...  
[View on web](#)

3

3

...

View more photos and videos

Facebook.com/LaskerFDN

The Albert and Mary Lasker Foundation

January 30 at 10:19am

Lasker President Claire Pomeroy discusses Barack Obama 's call for increased medical research funding <http://bit.ly/1Chz1tg>

THE HILL

THEHILL.COM | BY CLAIRE POMEROY, M.D., M.B.A.

Will support for biomedical research be dead on arrival?  
How is it that the United States, which has historically held the global lead in medical innovation was caught flat-footed by Ebola?

Like · Comment · Share

YouTube.com/LaskerFoundation

The Albert and Mary Lasker Foundation



2010 Lasker Lecture Part 1  
by Albert and Mary Lasker Foundation  
2,716 views · 4 years ago

plus.google.com/+LaskerFoundation

ADVOCACY

Through opinion pieces and scientific articles, the leadership of the Foundation comments on current scientific advances and the importance of sustained support for biomedical research. Dr. Pomeroy was invited to speak at leading institutions about the Lasker Foundation’s work.

**April 8, 2014** “A Call to Action: Invest in Biomedical Research Now to Secure a Healthier Future,” Department of Medicine Grand Rounds, University of Chicago, Chicago, IL

**April 26, 2014** “Public Outreach of the Physician-Scientist” Panel, APSA Annual Meeting, Chicago, IL

**May 10, 2014** Commencement Address, “The Physician’s Call to Justice: Healing Patients, Healing the World,” University of North Dakota, Grand Forks, ND

**May 18, 2014** Commitment Address, Penn State Hershey College of Medicine, Hershey, PA

**October 14, 2014** “Creating a Healthier World by Addressing Social Determinants of Health,” Medical Library Association, Denver, CO

**October 31, 2014** “The System of Caring,” University of Michigan Distinguished Alumni Awards, Ann Arbor, MI

**November 6, 2014** “The Power of Medical Research: How Research Does and Should Inform Clinical Practice,” New York Academy of Medicine Award Ceremony, New York, NY and Emory University, Atlanta, GA

**November 9, 2014** “Accreditation as a Driver of Organizational Culture Change,” LCME Town Hall, AAMC Annual Meeting, Chicago, IL

**November 20, 2014** “An Epidemic Without Headlines: Confronting the Crisis of HIV/AIDS in Women,” CFAR, Emory University, Atlanta, GA

**Dr. Pomeroy advocated for medical research in several OP-EDS:**  
Pomeroy C. “US biomedical research: We must reverse a decade of neglect.” *Huffington Post*, February 10, 2014. [http://www.huffingtonpost.com/claire-pomeroy/us-biomedical-research-we\\_b\\_4746675.html](http://www.huffingtonpost.com/claire-pomeroy/us-biomedical-research-we_b_4746675.html)

Pomeroy C. “When health is your business: Pharmacies must stop selling cigarettes.” *Huffington Post*, February 24, 2014. [http://www.huffingtonpost.com/claire-pomeroy/when-health-is-your-busin\\_b\\_4819052.html](http://www.huffingtonpost.com/claire-pomeroy/when-health-is-your-busin_b_4819052.html)

Pomeroy C. and Kandel E. “Cutting budgets for medical research is dangerous.” *CNN Online*. June 6, 2014. <http://www.cnn.com/2014/06/06/opinion/pomeroy-kandel-medical-research/>

Pomeroy C. “To improve Americans’ health, let more women lead in medicine.” *The Hill*. June 23, 2014. <http://thehill.com/blogs/congress-blog/healthcare/210080-to-improve-americans-health-let-more-women-lead-in-medicine>

Pomeroy C. “For ebola, don’t forget lessons from the AIDS epidemic.” *The Hill*. November 2014 and Roll Call, November 18, 2014. <http://thehill.com/blogs/congress-blog/healthcare/223687-for-ebola-dont-forget-lessons-from-the-aids-epidemic>

[http://www.rollcall.com/news/on\\_ebola\\_funding\\_dont\\_forget\\_lessons\\_from\\_the\\_aids\\_epidemic\\_commentary-238021-1.html](http://www.rollcall.com/news/on_ebola_funding_dont_forget_lessons_from_the_aids_epidemic_commentary-238021-1.html)

**Dr. Pomeroy also spread the Lasker message in scholarly publications:**  
Pomeroy C. “A call to action: Invest in biomedical research now to secure a healthier future.” *Surgical Oncology*. 23: 1–4, 2014

LOOKING AHEAD

LASKER AWARDS

The 2015 Lasker Award winners will be announced on September 8, 2015, and the Awards will be presented on **Friday, September 18, 2015** at The Pierre Hotel in New York City.

LASKER PUBLIC LECTURE

In 2015, the Lasker Foundation will once again bring a lecture to the Bell House in Brooklyn. Lasker Public Lectures are free and open to the public.

LASKER SCIENTIFIC LECTURE

**Mary-Claire King** will present the 2015 Lasker University Lecture at The Morehouse School of Medicine on **March 19, 2015**.

Dr. King won the 2014 Lasker~Koshland Special Achievement Award in Medical Science. She will also give a special lecture at the University of California Los Angeles on **April 15, 2015**.

LASKER APSA LECTURE

**Alfred Sommer** will present the 2015 APSA Lasker Lecture on **April 24** at the APSA Annual Conference in Chicago, Illinois. Dr. Sommer won the 1997 Albert Lasker Clinical Medical Research Award for the understanding and demonstration that low-dose vitamin A supplementation in millions of third world children can prevent death from infectious diseases as well as blindness.

LASKER ESSAY CONTEST

The next Lasker Essay Contest will be announced in February 2015 with winners announced in May 2015.

LASKER LESSONS IN LEADERSHIP

The Lasker Foundation and the International Biomedical Research Alliance have formed a collaboration to host top scientists who have become outstanding medical leaders to serve as inspiration for future leadership amongst the MD/PhD and PhD students enrolled in the NIH Oxford-Cambridge Scholars program and the NIH Lasker Clinical Research Scholars program.

The first 2015 Lasker Lesson in Leadership will be given at the NIH on **May 19, 2015**. Lasker Juror **Dan Littman** will be presenting.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS



Standing, left to right: George Noon, Robert Tjian, Solomon Snyder, Marshall Fordyce, Russell Steenberg, Sherry Lansing, Elias Zerhouni, Alfred Sommer, Christopher Brody, Jordan Gutterman, John Considine

Seated, left to right: George Roche, Barbara Barrett, Mike Overlock, Claire Pomeroy, Joseph Goldstein

Not pictured: Chris Jones, Anthony Evnin

NEW BOARD MEMBER



**The Lasker Foundation** is excited to welcome a new member of our Board of Directors, **Mr. Chris Jones**.

After graduating from Cambridge University, Chris spent 24 years in the advertising industry during which time he became the worldwide

Chairman and Chief Executive Officer of J Walter Thompson Co, one of the world’s biggest international advertising groups. He was the youngest person and first non-American to hold this position in the company’s 140-year history. In 2001, after a serious illness, Chris retired from the advertising business. He left New York City in 2002 and returned to live in England.

Based in the UK for the past decade, Chris has developed an extensive range of business and not-for-profit interests around the world.

In not-for-profit, he is the Chairman of the Governors at the Dragon School, Oxford and Chairman of the Finance Committee at St. Edward’s School. He is a Trustee of the Ashmolean Museum, Oxford University, a member of the Board of Visitors of the University Library at Cambridge and a member of the Health Advisory Board at Johns Hopkins School of Public Health in Baltimore. He is also a Trustee of the International Institute for Strategic Studies.



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