CALL FOR NOMINATIONS

SAMPLE
The Albany Medical Center Prize in Medicine and Biomedical Research is awarded to a physician, scientist or group, whose work has led to significant advances in health care and scientific research with demonstrated translational benefits for improved patient care. Its purpose is to encourage and recognize extraordinary and sustained contributions to improving health care and promoting innovative biomedical research.

The prize recipient(s) will have demonstrated, in his or her medical practice or biomedical research, significant outcomes that offer medical value of national or international importance.

Those honored will be practitioners or scientists whose accomplishments and outcomes have been demonstrated in the past quarter century, with preference to demonstrated accomplishments in the past decade.

Nominations are sought each fall, with a submission deadline of early December. The recipient(s) is chosen by a national selection committee comprising some of the nation's preeminent medical scholars, physicians, professors and biomedical researchers. The committee is selected by the president and chief executive officer of Albany Medical Center and the dean of Albany Medical College.
Marty Silverman’s spirit of unselfishness and tremendous pride in Albany Medical Center and the Capital Region remains very much alive in the Albany Medical Center Prize in Medicine and Biomedical Research. As the founder of the largest prize in medicine in the United States—second worldwide to the Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine—Marty made sure the prize would survive the test of time. His $50 million gift commitment made in November 2000 remains the largest in the history of Albany Med.

Perhaps due to his humble upbringing in Troy, Marty had to be persuaded to abandon his desire for anonymity as the benefactor of the Albany Medical Center Prize. His goal in creating such a prize was to help focus attention on both Albany Medical Center and the city of Albany as a national and international hub of excellence in the health care industry.

A graduate of Albany Law School, he moved to New York City with his wife, Dorothy, where the couple pioneered the leasing industry. In 1950, he founded his first leasing company, National Equipment Rental, which later became the North American Corporation. In 1984, Marty sold what had evolved into the largest privately owned leasing company in the United States. After his wife passed away in 1985, Marty retired and created the Marty and Dorothy Silverman Foundation. Throughout the years, the foundation has provided support for numerous programs that benefit abused and neglected children, indigent senior citizens, as well as educational and cultural programs.

In celebrating the legacy of Marty Silverman, we are inspired by Marty’s infectious optimism and joie de vivre. In awarding the prize, we pay tribute to this remarkable and generous man whose commitment to advancing biomedical research and supporting humanitarian efforts will forever be remembered.
The Albany Medical Center Prize in Medicine and Biomedical Research recognizes, encourages and supports extraordinary and sustained contributions to improved health care and innovative biomedical research that demonstrably facilitates improvements in patient care. Given annually, the $500,000 Prize is the largest award in medicine and biomedical research in the United States.

The Prize will be awarded to a physician, scientist or group that demonstrated substantial achievements of national or international importance in the last quarter of a century, with preference given to accomplishments of the past decade.

The recipient(s) of the Prize will be chosen by a selection committee comprising some of the nation’s preeminent medical scholars, physicians, professors and biomedical researchers. Designed to be both prestigious public recognition and an important resource for sustaining excellence in health care and biomedical research, it is the expectation of the Prize Committee that the $500,000 award will be used by the recipient(s) to make further significant advancements in his or her area of expertise.

The Albany Medical Center Prize in Medicine and Biomedical Research will be awarded at a ceremony in Albany, New York, in Month, Year.
For a nominee(s) to be considered by the selection committee, all of the following items must be submitted. Nominations will not be submitted to the selection committee without all required information and attachments.

- Completed nomination form (one for each nominee).

- A letter of nomination for each individual or group nominee detailing the individual’s or group’s extraordinary or sustained contribution to improving health care and patient care or describing the innovative biomedical research with demonstrated translational benefits applied to improved patient care.

- The curriculum vitae of the nominee(s) including a bibliography of significant and relevant publications and articles.

- Two additional letters of support for each nominee or group.

Include one form and complete package per nominee. Additional forms may be downloaded at www.amc.com/academic/albanyprize. Electronic submissions are encouraged. Incomplete nominations will not be presented to the nominating committee.

Nominations will be accepted through Month, Date, Year. The selection committee will meet in Month, Year to review the nominations. Winners will be notified by phone in Month, Year.

Self-nominations will not be accepted.

Completed nominations should be directed to:
Terri Cerveny
Secretary, The Albany Medical Center Prize in Medicine and Biomedical Research
c/o The Albany Medical Center Foundation

Mailing Address:
43 New Scotland Avenue, MC 119
Albany, New York 12208

FedEx, UPS or DHL:
628 Madison Avenue, First Floor
Albany, New York 12208

email:
AMCprize@mail.amc.edu

Please note: All nomination requirements must be contained in one email. Multiple emails will not be accepted.
PREVIOUS RECIPIENTS

2011

Elaine Fuchs, Ph.D., the Rebecca C. Lancefield Professor, head of the Laboratory of Mammalian Cell Biology and Development, and a Howard Hughes Medical Institute investigator at The Rockefeller University, is credited with developing reverse genetics techniques that have advanced the understanding of how stem cells make skin and hair, and how they repair wounds, which led her laboratory to the genetic bases of human skin disorders, including cancers.

James A. Thomson, V.M.D., Ph.D., director of regenerative biology at the Morgridge Institute for Research, and professor at the University of Wisconsin-Madison School of Medicine and Public Health and the Molecular, Cellular and Developmental Biology Department at the University of California, Santa Barbara, was the first to derive embryonic stem (ES) cells from primates. Along with Dr. Yamanaka, he also is credited with discovering how to genetically reprogram adult human cells back to an embryonic state.

Shinya Yamanaka, M.D., Ph.D., director and professor of the Center for iPS Cell Research and Applications at Kyoto University in Japan and senior investigator at the Gladstone Institute of Cardiovascular Disease, is credited, along with Dr. Thomson, with the landmark discovery of how to genetically reprogram adult human cells back to an embryonic state. These iPS (induced pluripotent stem) cells can be made in limitless supply and are used in research laboratories worldwide.

2010

David Botstein, Ph.D., director and Anthony B. Evnin Professor of Genomics, Lewis-Sigler Institute for Integrative Genomics, Princeton University, is known for proposing the concept of building a complete genetic map of the human being and identifying mapping techniques for what would eventually become the Human Genome Project.

Francis S. Collins, M.D., Ph.D., director of the National Institutes of Health, notably developed a technique for identifying particular disease-related genes known as positional cloning, which led to the discovery of the gene that causes cystic fibrosis. Dr. Collins also provided oversight to the Human Genome Project.

Eric S. Lander, Ph.D., president and director of the Broad Institute of MIT and Harvard, was one of the creators of the first practical plan to make and use a comprehensive genetic map of the human genome. He also elucidated how one could develop maps of complex multigene diseases such as diabetes and heart disease.

Editorial Note: Recipient titles represent affiliation at time of award.
PREVIOUS RECIPIENTS

2009

**Ralph Steinman, M.D.**, the Henry G. Kunkel Professor in Rockefeller University’s Laboratory of Cellular Physiology and Immunology, is world-renowned for his discovery and subsequent studies of the dendritic cell, the immune system’s central regulator.

**Charles Dinarello, M.D.**, professor of medicine at the University of Colorado Denver School of Medicine, is considered a founding father of cytokine biology, and his studies have focused on the immune system’s inflammatory reactions.

**Bruce Beutler, M.D.**, professor and chairman of the department of genetics at Scripps Research Institute, is famous for his research on several immune system proteins involved in sensing bacteria and viruses, and his subsequent development of therapies for patients.

2008

**Elizabeth Blackburn, Ph.D.**, the Morris Herzstein Professor of Biology and Physiology at the University of California, San Francisco, a Nobel Laureate, is world-renowned for her groundbreaking discovery of the enzyme telomerasen, which plays a significant role in cellular aging and may help to unravel the mysteries of a variety of diseases from cancer to chronic stress disorders.

**Joan Steitz, Ph.D.**, the Sterling Professor of Molecular Biophysics and Biochemistry at Yale University, is best known for discovering and defining the function of small nuclear ribonucleoproteins (snrnps) in pre-messenger RNA. Many scientists believe that Dr. Steitz’s research may ultimately lead to breakthroughs in treating autoimmune diseases including lupus.

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PREVIOUS RECIPIENTS

2007

Robert J. Lefkowitz, M.D., James B. Duke Professor of Medicine and Howard Hughes Medical Institute Investigator at Duke University Medical Center, made a remarkable contribution when he and his colleagues cloned the gene first for the b-adrenergic receptor, and then for a total of eight adrenergic receptors. This led to the discovery that all G protein-coupled receptors have a similar molecular structure.

Solomon H. Snyder, M.D., distinguished service professor in the department of neuroscience at Johns Hopkins School of Medicine, unraveled the mystery behind receptors that controlled pain and pleasure in the brain. He was the first to identify receptors in the brain that are the targets of opiates. His findings led to the development of drugs to treat schizophrenia.

Ronald M. Evans, Ph.D., Howard Hughes Medical Institute Investigator at The Salk Institute for Biological Studies, successfully cloned the first nuclear hormone receptor, the human glucocorticoid receptor. This action led to the finding of a superfamily of nuclear hormone receptors, all with similar molecular and genetic structures. His nuclear hormone receptors are among the most widely investigated group of pharmaceutical targets in the world.

2006

Seymour Benzer, Ph.D. (1912–2007), James Griffin Boswell Professor of Neuroscience, Emeritus at the California Institute of Technology. A neuro-scientist, molecular biologist and physicist who uncovered genetic links to behavior in fruit flies that serve as the foundation for the study and treatment of human neurological diseases, Dr. Benzer was heralded by the scientific community as the “father of neurogenetics.” Dr. Benzer’s work opened the field to exploration of models for specific neuro-degenerative diseases of the human brain such as Alzheimer’s, Huntington’s chorea, Parkinson’s, and amyotrophic lateral sclerosis (Lou Gehrig’s disease).

2005

Robert S. Langer, M.D., institute professor at Massachusetts Institute of Technology and chemical engineer by trade, revolutionized the field of drug delivery systems with his groundbreaking research with polymers—or plastics. Dr. Langer’s work has spawned advances in cancer treatment, given birth to an entirely new field of biotechnology known as tissue engineering, fueled the development of cardiac stents that virtually have eliminated the risk of restenosis and have led to the development of artificial skin which is used in the treatment of burn patients.

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Michael S. Brown, M.D., distinguished chair at the University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center at Dallas and Nobel Laureate, is best known for his research with co-recipient Dr. Goldstein. The pair elucidated the cause of familial hyper-cholesterolemia, and discovered the low density lipoprotein receptor. Their breakthrough discoveries have formed a basis for the current widespread use of cholesterol-lowering statin drugs.

Joseph L. Goldstein, M.D., distinguished chair at the University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center at Dallas and Nobel Laureate, has shared in many successful studies as a result of his collaboration with co-recipient Dr. Brown.

Herbert W. Boyer, Ph.D., professor emeritus at the University of California at San Francisco and co-founder of one of the world’s first biotechnology companies, Genentech, Inc., was successful in identifying restriction enzymes—proteins that could slice DNA strands at specific sites.

Stanley N. Cohen, M.D., an endowed professor at Stanford University and Nobel Laureate, developed a method to isolate and reproduce multiple copies of individual plasmids—small segments of DNA that endow bacteria with the ability to fight against antibiotics.

Anthony S. Fauci, M.D., director of the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases of the National Institutes of Health, is one of the world’s leading clinicians and researchers on the pathogenesis and treatment of immune-mediated diseases, including AIDS. His efforts include spearheading the drive for vaccines to prevent HIV, anthrax, and the Ebola virus.

Arnold J. Levine, Ph.D., president of Rockefeller University and the Robert and Harriet Heilbrunn Professor of Cancer Biology, co-discovered the p53 protein, part of a fundamental pathway in human cell growth, described as perhaps the most important tumor suppressor gene in human cancer. His research has enabled scientists to develop strategies for diagnosis, prevention and cure for cancers resulting from p53 deficiencies.

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James J. Barba, J.D., Chairman
Mr. Barba is president and chief executive officer of Albany Medical Center. In these capacities, he oversees the medical education, biomedical research and patient care activities of northeastern New York’s only academic health sciences center. Mr. Barba serves as chairman of the Albany Medical Center Prize National Selection Committee.

Marlene Belfort, Ph.D.
Dr. Belfort is Visiting Professor of Biological Sciences at the College of Arts and Sciences University At Albany. She is also a member of the United States National Academy of Sciences.

Barry Bloom, Ph.D.
Dr. Bloom, dean of faculty and the Joan L. and Julius H. Jacobson Professor of Public Health at Harvard School of Public Health in Boston, is a leading scientist in the areas of infectious diseases, vaccines and global health. He has been extensively involved with the World Health Organization for more than 40 years.

Jordan J. Cohen, M.D.
Dr. Cohen is professor of medicine and public health at George Washington University and president emeritus of the Association of American Medical Colleges (AAMC).

Anthony S. Fauci, M.D.
Dr. Fauci is the director of the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases at the National Institutes of Health. He became a member of the National Selection Committee in 2004, two years after receiving the Albany Medical Center Prize in Medicine and Biomedical Research for his research on AIDS and other diseases of the immune system.

Phil B. Fontanarosa, M.D.
Dr. Fontanarosa is executive deputy editor of JAMA and is vice president of scientific publications at the American Medical Association.

Joel M. Friedman, M.D., Ph.D.
Dr. Friedman is the Young Men’s Division Chair in Cardiovascular Physiology and the former chairman of the department of physiology and biophysics at the Albert Einstein College of Medicine. He also serves as the director of the W.M. Keck Biomolecular Laser Spectroscopy Center and the head of an NIH-funded blood substitute program project at the college.

Ivar Giaever, Ph.D.
Dr. Giaever, a Nobel Laureate, is president of Applied Biophysics, Inc. in Troy, New York, and a professor-at-large at the University of Oslo in Norway. In 1973, Dr. Giaever won the Nobel Prize for his work regarding tunneling phenomena in semiconductors and superconductors.

A. John Popp, M.D.
Dr. Popp is chairman of the department of neurosurgery at Brigham and Women’s Hospital in Boston, MA. Previously, he was head of neurosurgery and program director of the Neurosurgery Residency Training Program, the director of the Neurosciences Institute, and the Henry and Sally Schaffer Chair of Surgery at Albany Medical College.

Dominick P. Purpura, M.D.
Dr. Purpura is dean emeritus and distinguished university professor at the Albert Einstein College of Medicine in Bronx, NY. An internationally-renowned neuroscientist, Dr. Purpura is one of the world’s leading experts in the field of brain sciences, particularly noted for his contributions to the study of mental retardation.

Joan Steitz, Ph.D.
Dr. Steitz is the Sterling Professor of Molecular Biophysics and Biochemistry at Yale University. She became a member of the National Selection Committee after receiving the 2008 Albany Medical Center Prize in Medicine and Biomedical Research for her pioneering work in RNA.

Susan L. Swain, Ph.D.
Dr. Swain is a professor of pathology at the University of Massachusetts Medical School in Worcester, MA. An internationally known immunologist and noted author in her field, Dr. Swain is on the editorial board of the Journal of Experimental Medicine and the Journal of Immunology, International Immunology and Current Biology.
Vincent P. Verdile, M.D.
Dr. Verdile is the 17th dean of Albany Medical College and executive vice president for health affairs at Albany Medical Center. He previously served as chairman of the department of emergency medicine.

Terri A. Cerveny, Secretary
Ms. Cerveny is senior vice president for development at the Albany Medical Center Foundation.

PLANNING COMMITTEE

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Executive Vice President for Health Affairs
Albany Medical Center

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President and Chief Executive Officer
Albany Medical Center

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Director and Senior Scientist
Ordway Research Institute

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Terri A. Cerveny, Secretary
Senior Vice President for Development
Albany Medical Center Foundation
Albany Medical Center is the only academic health sciences center in northeastern New York, serving residents in a 25-county region in New York and western New England. The center comprises the 651-bed Albany Medical Center Hospital and Albany Medical College, one of New York’s largest teaching hospitals and one of the nation’s first private medical schools.

The research scientists at Albany Medical College are at the forefront of today’s medical discoveries. Strategically divided into four interdisciplinary teams—Cardiovascular Sciences, Cell Biology and Cancer Research, Immunology and Microbial Disease, and Neuropharmacology and Neuroscience—these scientists are advancing the center’s effort to ensure that discoveries made in the laboratories are translated into medical innovations at the patients’ bedsides. The partnerships developed with other area research organizations, such as Wadsworth Laboratories, The University at Albany, Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute, GE Global Research and the Stratton VA Medical Center, among others, strengthen the quality of life in New York’s Capital Region and throughout the world.