Three Former NIH Reviewers Win Lasker Awards

The Lasker Foundation recently announced the winners of its annual awards for Basic Medical Research and Clinical Medical Research.

The 2013 Basic Medical Research Award will go to two former NIH reviewers “For discoveries concerning the molecular machinery and regulatory mechanism that underlie the rapid release of neurotransmitters.”

Dr. Richard H. Scheller from Genentech has served as a regular member of NIMH’s Molecular, Cellular, and Developmental Neurobiology study section. He more recently served as a member of the National Mental Health Advisory Council.

Dr. Thomas C. Südhof from Stanford University School of Medicine has served at 32 review meetings in the last 12 years, including meetings as a regular member of CSR’s Cellular and Molecular Biology of Neurodegeneration study section, and CSR’s Molecular, Cellular, and Developmental Neurobiology study section.

The 2013 Lasker-DeBakey Clinical Medical Research Award will go to three scientists “For the development of the modern cochlear implant — a device that bestows hearing to individuals with profound deafness.” Two of the winners are from outside the United States: Dr. Graeme M. Clark from the University of Melbourne, Australia; and Dr. Ingeborg Hochmair from MED-EL in Innsbruck, Austria. The third winner is from the United States:
Dr. Blake S. Wilson from Duke University, who has served on an National Institute on Deafness and Other Communication Disorders Special Emphasis Panel. More recently, he was a winner of an NIH Pioneer Award.

CSR Has Its Own Lasker Award

In 1953, the Lasker Foundation honored CSR’s predecessor -- the NIH Division of Research Grants -- with its own award “for outstanding administration of a research grants program.”

About CSR

CSR organizes the peer review groups that evaluate the majority of grant applications submitted to NIH. These groups include experienced and respected researchers from across the country and abroad. Since 1946, CSR’s mission has been to see that NIH grant applications receive fair, independent, expert, and timely reviews — free from inappropriate influences — so NIH can fund the most promising research. CSR also receives all incoming applications and assigns them to the NIH Institutes and Centers that fund grants. For more information, go to CSR’s Web site— http://www.csr.nih.gov — or phone 301-435-1111.

About NIH

NIH — the Nation's Medical Research Agency — includes 27 Institutes and Centers and is a component of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. It is the primary federal agency for conducting and supporting basic, clinical and translational medical research, and it investigates the causes, treatments, and cures for both common and rare diseases. For more information about NIH and its programs, visit http://www.nih.gov