

Association of Chairs of Departments of Physiology Meeting Highlights

The Association of Chairs of Departments of Physiology (ACDP) held its annual meeting at Hyatt Regency Coconut Point, Bonita Springs, FL on December 2-5, 2010.

President R. Clinton Webb (Medical College of Georgia) developed a program based on current cutting-edge research presentations and issues dealing with recruiting and retaining quality faculty, even in the age of departmental mergers.

The fourth Arthur Guyton Lectureship was given by Ferid Murad, 1998 Nobel Laureate (Brown Foundation Institute of Molecular Medicine for the Prevention of Human Diseases, Univ. of Texas Health Science Center, Houston) on "Discovery of Nitric Oxide and Cyclic GMP in Cell Signaling and Their Role in Drug Development." The new chair research presentation was by Nader Abraham (Univ. of Toledo) on "Antioxidants and Stem Cell Therapy: Sources, Cell Types and Clinical Applications." Other research presentations were given by Frank Werblin (Univ. of California, Berkeley) on "The retina simplified" and R. Kevin Grigsby (AAMC) on "Kaolin-specific pica."

Presentations focusing on recruiting and retaining faculty were given by R. Kevin Grigsby (AAMC) entitled "A Strategy for Departmental Innovation: Driving Toward Sustainable Growth." In addition, JR Haywood (Michigan State Univ.), Barbara Sanborn (Colorado State Univ.), and Thomas Westfall (Saint Louis Univ.) jointly



ACDP President R. Clinton Webb, Past President Meredith Bond, and CAS Representative L. Gabriel Navar present Ferid Murad with the 4th Guyton Lectureship Award.

talked about the issues chairs face when dealing with a departmental merger from the perspectives of facing a merger, having just finished a merger, and having completed a merger several years ago, respectively.

Bishr Omary (Univ. of Michigan) led a discussion on "A proposal to increase the use of R56 awards by NIH." L. Gabriel Navar led working sessions for participants to review and revise sections of the ACDP/APS Medical Physiology Learning Objectives. A new revision is planned for 2011. Martin Frank, APS Executive Director, gave an update on APS activities and future plans.

Officer elections were held with the following results. Marshall (Chip) Montrose (Univ. of Cincinnati College of Medicine) was elected President-elect, Susan DeMesquita (American Univ. of the Caribbean School of Medicine) was elected Secretary-Treasurer, T. Richard Nichols (Georgia Institute of Technology) and Michael Sturek (Indiana Univ. School of Medicine) were elected to three-year terms as Councilors, and Bishr Omary (Univ. of Michigan Medical School) was elected to a one-year term as Councilor to finish out Chip Montrose's term. Meredith Bond (Univ. of Maryland School of Medicine) was elected as Council of Academic Societies (AAMC) Representative.

Bond was thanked for her service as Past President. Chris Cheeseman (Univ. of Alberta) was thanked for his service as Secretary-Treasurer, as was Steven R. Houser (Temple Univ. School of Medicine) for his service as Councilor.

President-elect Gary Sieck (Mayo Clinic College of Medicine) announced the 2011 ACDP annual fall meeting will be held at the Playacar Palace Resort in Cancun, Mexico on December 1-4, 2011. For more information on the 2011 meeting, see <http://www.acdponline.org/Meetings/2011fallmeeting.htm>. ❖



ACDP logo displayed in waterfall during opening reception.

Williams Honored at Annual ACDP Meeting

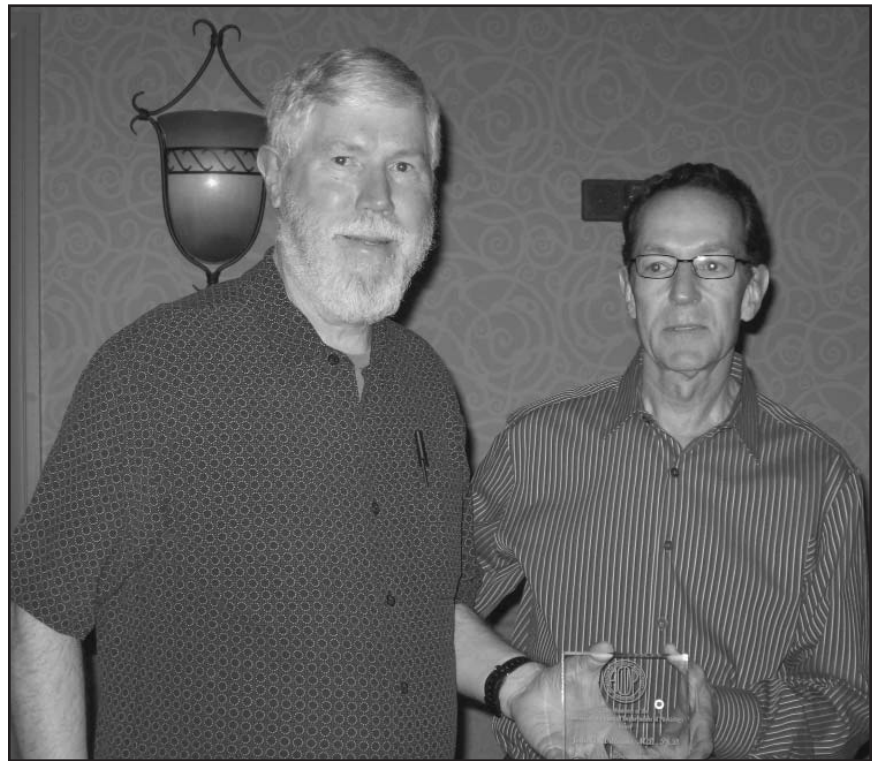
R. Clinton Webb (Medical College of Georgia), President of the Association of Chairs of Departments of Physiology (ACDP), presented the ACDP's highest award, the Distinguished Service Award, to John A. Williams, MD, PhD, former Chair, Department of Molecular and Integrative Physiology, Univ. of Michigan Medical School, during the organization's 2010 fall meeting in Bonita Springs, FL.

Williams was selected to receive the ACDP Distinguished Service Award for his long and illustrious service to ACDP, to science, and to physiology.

Williams received his medical and doctoral degree in Physiology & Biophysics from the Univ. of Washington in 1968. He then completed a one-year postdoctoral fellowship at the Univ. of Utah and served as a Staff Associate in the Clinical Endocrinology Branch of the National Institute of Arthritis and Metabolic Diseases from 1969-71. He continued his postdoctoral training as a Helen Hay Whitney Foundation Fellow in the Department of Pharmacology at the Univ. of Cambridge, United Kingdom and in 1973 joined the faculty at the Univ. of California, San Francisco. At UCSF he rose to the position of Professor and Vice-Chair of Physiology and Co-Director of the Laboratory of Cell Biology at Mount Zion Hospital.

He moved to the Univ. of Michigan (U-M) in 1987 as Professor and Chair of the Department of Physiology, and he received a secondary appointment as Professor of Internal Medicine in 1988. Williams served as department chair for 21 years before stepping down from this leadership position in 2008 to focus on his research and teaching activities. During his tenure, the department grew and thrived as shown by its recent high ranking in the NRC Assessment of Research Doctorate Programs.

Williams has been active in a number of scientific societies and served as President of the American Physiological Society and the American Pancreatic Association. He has



ACDP President R. Clinton Webb presents John A. Williams with the 2010 Distinguished Service Award.

received numerous awards, including the Gastrointestinal Section Prize of the American Physiological Society, the Ismar Boas Medal of the German Gastroenterological Association, and election as a fellow of the American Association for the Advancement of Science. He also was honored by the American Pancreatic Association with a Lifetime Achievement Award, received the U-M Distinguished Faculty Achievement Award in 2004, and a Distinguished Alumni award from Central Washington Univ. in 2009. In 2009 he was named the first the Horace W. Davenport Collegiate Professor of Physiology at the U-M.

His distinguished career has included training more than 70 students and fellows, many of whom have gone on to obtain key positions at prestigious academic and research institutions. His work has led to over 270 peer-reviewed papers in high-quality journals and more than 75 reviews and book chapters. He served as Editor of the *American Journal of Physiology: Gastrointestinal and Liver Physiology*,

Associate Editor for the *Journal of Clinical Investigation*, and Section Editor for the *Annual Review of Physiology*. Most recently, Williams was the founding editor of *The Pancreapedia*, an electronic knowledge base for the exocrine pancreas. He has served on two permanent NIH study sections and chaired one. He has been continuously funded by multiple grants since 1973 and one of his active grants has been awarded MERIT status by the National Institutes of Health. He also continues to serve as director of a Predoctoral Training Grant and as Associate Director of the Michigan Digestive Disease Center.

Because of his scientific endeavors; his dedicated service to the field of gastrointestinal and pancreatic physiology and physiology as a whole; and his distinguished service to APS, ACDP, and other scientific organizations, the ACDP was proud to present its 2010 Distinguished Service Award to John A. Williams. ❖