Roger Ekins First to Receive Edwin Ullman Award

Roger Ekins received the first Edwin F. Ullman Award at the AACC’s Oak Ridge Conference in Raleigh, NC, April 23-24. The new award, sponsored by Dade Behring Diagnostics, was established to recognize outstanding contributions that advance the technology of clinical laboratory sciences. Dr. Ekins is head of the Department of Molecular Endocrinology at the University College London Medical School. Dr. Ekins was a pioneer in the development of competitive binding immunoassays. He published a radioisotope-based, protein-binding technique for hormone measurement in 1960, coinciding with Berson and Yalow’s groundbreaking report on the immunoassay of insulin. Dr. Ekins subsequently made fundamental contributions to the mathematical and statistical theory of competitive immunoassay design, as well as to the basic concepts and development of noncompetitive labeled antibody assays.

His recognition of the potential importance of monoclonal antibodies and high specific-activity nonisotopic labels led to a collaboration in the 1970s with the Finnish instrument manufacturer, Wallac Oy, on the development of labeled antibody immunoassays based on the use of lanthanide chelate labels and pulsed-light, time-resolved methods of fluorescence measurement. This technology, subsequently named DELFIA, represented the first of the new generation of ultrasensitive nonisotopic methods that transformed the immunodiagnostic field during the 1980s.

Dr. Ekins also developed the first “direct” free hormone immunoassays, including the increasingly used labeled antibody methods. His current research involves a collaboration with Boehringer Mannheim on the development of a miniaturized third-generation ligand assay technology that will allow the simultaneous determination of perhaps thousands of analytes, including DNA segments, in a small biological sample, such as a drop of blood, using antibody or oligonucleotide “microarrays” on microchips.

Dr. Ekins presented a lecture, “Ligand Assay—From Electrophoresis to Miniaturized Microarrays”, in conjunction with his reception of the award at the Oak Ridge Conference. The award, which includes a $5,000 honorarium, is named for a pioneer in immunoassay technology. Among Edwin Ullman’s accomplishments, which include more than 150 US patents, the most famous is the assay known as Emit, an advance that revolutionized testing for both abused and therapeutic drugs.

Department of Clear Thinking


Meetings


23rd World Congress of Medical Technology, Singapore, June 28–July 3, 1998. For information write 23rd World Congress of Medical Technology, c/o Academy of Medicine, Singapore, 16 College Road 01-01, Singapore 169854. Phone 65-2-238-968; fax 65-2-255-155.


25th Annual Meeting of the Federation of European Biochemical Societies, Copenhagen, Denmark, July 5–10, 1998. For information write DIS Congress Service Copenhagen. Phone 45-4492-4492; fax 45-4492-4492; e-mail dis-con@in.et.uni-c.dk.


20th Congress of the European Society of Cardiology, Vienna, Austria, August 22–26, 1998. For information write The European Heart House (ECOR), 2035 Route des Colles—Les Templiers, P.O. Box 179, F-06903 Sophia Antipolis Cedex, France. Phone 33-4-9294-7600; fax 33-4-9294-7601; e-mail webmaster@escardio.org; internet http://www.escardio.org.

36th Annual Scientific Meeting of the Australasian Association of Clinical Biochemists, Queensland, Australia, August 29–September 3, 1998. For information write Ms. B. Fry, AACB Conference Secretariat, P.O. Box 278, MT Lawley Western Australia 6929, Australia. Phone 61-089370-5224; fax 61-089370-4409.

26th Meeting of the International Society for Oncodevelopmental Biology & Medicine, Umea, Sweden, August 30–September 4, 1998. For information write Prof. S. Hammerstrom, Dept. of Immunology, Umea University, S-90185 Umea, Sweden. Phone 46-90-785-2345.

70th Congress of the European Atherosclerosis Society, (new location) Ge-
neva, Switzerland, September 6–9, 1998. For information write Prof. Y. Stein, P.O. Box 12249, Jerusalem 91120, Israel. Phone 972-2-677-6928; fax 972-2-643-4701; e-mail eranl@hadassah.org.il.

11th Annual Congress of the European Society of Intensive Care Medicine, Stockholm, Sweden, September 6–9, 1998. For information write Suzanne Smitz-de-Smet, Europ. Society of Intensive Care Medicine, Avenue J. Wybran 40, B-1070 Brussels, Belgium. Phone 32-2-529-5829; fax 32-2-527-0062; e-mail esicm@pophost.eunet.be.

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