



INSTITUTE OF HUMAN VIROLOGY
of the
UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND SCHOOL OF MEDICINE



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The Institute of Human Virology (IHV) Announces 2008 Lifetime Achievement Award Honorees

Mr. John Evans, The Honorable Robert Gray and Dr. Isaac Witz Honored

Baltimore, Maryland – As 2008 marks the 25th anniversary of the finding of the HIV virus, the Institute of Human Virology (IHV) of the University of Maryland School of Medicine announced today IHV's 2008 prestigious Lifetime Achievement Award honorees. IHV is headed by Dr. Robert C. Gallo – co-discoverer of the HIV virus and developer of the first HIV blood test. IHV is one of the nation's leaders in combining the disciplines of basic research, epidemiology and clinical research to find HIV diagnostics, therapies and a vaccine to end HIV infection and the AIDS pandemic.

In an unprecedented decision, the Institute's faculty unanimously voted to bestow Lifetime Achievement Awards for Public Service to two outstanding individuals. Mr. John D. Evans, a co-founder of C-SPAN and an internationally recognized expert in the cable and telecommunications industry and The Honorable Robert K. Gray, a Cabinet member in the Eisenhower Administration, founder of Gray and Company and former worldwide Chairman of Hill & Knowlton. Additionally, IHV will present the IHV Lifetime Achievement Award for Scientific Contributions to Dr. Isaac P. Witz, a pioneer cancer researcher of Tel Aviv University. The Awards will be presented during IHV's 11th Annual International Gala Awards Banquet Friday, September 12, 2008 at Harborplace Renaissance Hotel in Baltimore, Maryland.

"We are thrilled to have the opportunity to recognize the life-long commitments of John Evans, Bob Gray and Isaac Witz for their uniquely important contributions to the mission of the Institute in advancing the human condition," said Dr. Gallo, Director and Professor of IHV. "This year's recipients will follow in the grand footsteps of previous honorees

(MORE)

IHV Press Release – Page 2

including IHV Board of Advisors members Stewart Greenebaum and Martin Delaney and many world-renowned scientists.”

“I am truly humbled to be recognized for my work in the fight for an HIV vaccine and cure, but the true honor goes to the hundreds of dedicated men and women I have had the privilege of working and associating with who are in the science labs, clinics and our global communities fighting with all of us to end this pandemic,” said **Mr. John Evans**, Chairman and CEO of Evans Telecommunication Company. “Additionally, Bob Gallo has been my friend, teacher, and mentor for almost 25 years and I am honored to receive this award from him and the faculty of IHV.”

“I am flattered to be in the same galaxy as Bob Gallo,” said **The Honorable Robert Gray** Chairman and President of Gray and Company II. “His is the lifetime of achievement.”

“I am delighted that the scientific endeavors to prove that the microenvironment is a pivotal determinant of carcinogenesis and of metastatic spread is worthy of an award,” said **Professor Isaac Witz** of Tel Aviv University. “I am also honored and proud to belong to the highly prestigious group of IHV Lifetime Achievement Honorees, and I hereby express my sincere gratitude to the faculty members of IHV for bestowing this great honor upon me. I must note, it is symbolic that IHV’s 11th Annual Meeting starts on September 11 – a clear manifestation that the human spirit, integrity and achievements are victorious.”

Dr. George Klein, a pioneer tumor cell biologist of the Karolinska Institute in Stockholm, Sweden will make a few remarks on behalf of Dr. Isaac Witz. Dr. William Haseltine, President of The William A. Haseltine Foundation for Medical Sciences and the Arts, will also speak at the Gala Awards Banquet about “HIV Past and Present.”

** www.ihv.org **

IHV Press Release Addendum -- *Short Biographies*

Mr. John D. Evans

Mr. John D. Evans currently serves as Chairman and CEO of Evans Telecommunication Company, an investment, consulting, and operating company in the cable television and telecommunications industries. Since 1998 he has been involved with Internet-2, a non-profit consortium of 270 U.S. research universities and institutes. To the general public, however, he is perhaps best known as one of the co-founders of C-SPAN in 1977 and later C-SPAN's Chairman in the early 1990's.

In December 2001, he received the League of African American Women's annual award for his contributions to fighting the Global AIDS pandemic. In December 2002, he was elected to the Board of Directors of the International AIDS Vaccine Initiative (IAVI) based in New York and operating in 24 countries

Evans' growing interest in the application of technology to medical problems and social issues has led him to an interest in AIDS and other issues facing society. In 1996, he was appointed by Dr. Gallo to the Institute of Human Virology's (IHV) Board of Advisors. Since IHV's inception, Evans has been an extraordinary friend to Dr. Gallo and to all of IHV.

The Honorable Robert K. Gray

The Honorable Robert K. Gray is currently Chairman of several companies bearing his name, including Gray and Company II. Gray and Company I – a prestigious Washington, D.C. lobbying firm – was the first successful public offering on the stock exchange of its kind wedding the practices of public relations and lobbying to create the modern concept Gray coined public affairs.

Gray began his career as a public servant in the Navy (Commander, Pilot) and later as President Appointments Secretary to Dwight D. Eisenhower, Director of Presidential Personnel, and Secretary of Cabinet. In 1980, Gray served as National Communications Director and Deputy National Director of the Reagan/Bush campaign. He was Ronald Reagan's first appointment as President elect, when Reagan named him co-chairman of the 1981 Presidential inaugural. Additionally, Gray was active in the Presidential campaigns of Dwight Eisenhower, Richard Nixon, Senator Barry Goldwater, Senator Eugene McCarthy, and Vice President George H.W. Bush.

Gray has been an advisor and friend to Dr. Robert C. Gallo for over 20 years and has helped the Institute of Human Virology (IHV) in many ways since its inception.

Dr. Isaac P. Witz

Isaac P. Witz PhD is currently Professor of Immunology at Tel Aviv University. Professor Witz's scientific career is devoted to the understanding of the relationship

between cancer cells and the patient's normal cells. His main interests include the mechanisms by which cancer progresses to a life-threatening metastatic disease. Evidence provided by his team (188 papers and 3 books) indicates that cancer cells interact with their local and systemic microenvironments, and that these interactions permit, and even encourage, cancer progression.

From 1978 -1979 and again in 1991, Prof. Witz worked with Dr. Robert C. Gallo at the National Cancer Institute of the National Institutes of Health in Bethesda, Maryland as a visiting senior scientist and as a Fogarty Scholar in residence.

Prof. Witz is the pioneer of the studies of the importance of the local environment for the fate of an evolving local cancer. In addition to research activities on tumor microenvironment, Prof. Witz promotes the aforementioned idea that the cancer microenvironment plays a pivotal role in shaping the malignancy phenotype of cancer cells and invests efforts to boost research activities in this area.

Past IHV Awardees

Lifetime Achievement Award for Scientific Contributions

- 1999 Georg Klein, Karolinska Institute, Stockholm Sweden
- 2000 Maurice Hilleman, Merck Research Laboratories, Sumneytown, Pennsylvania
- 2001 Hilary Koprowski, Thomas Jefferson University, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania
- 2002 Alexander Rich, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Cambridge, Massachusetts
- 2003 Jan Svoboda, Institute of Molecular Genetics, Prague, Czech Republic
- 2004 Paul Zamecnik, Massachusetts General Hospital, Boston, Massachusetts
- 2005 Manfred Eigen, Max Planck Institute, Göttingen, Germany
- 2006 Maxine Singer, National Institutes of Health, Bethesda, MD

Lifetime Achievement Award for Public Service

- 2004 Stewart Greenebaum, Greenebaum and Rose Associates, Inc., Baltimore, Maryland
- 2006 Martin Delaney, Project Inform, San Francisco, California