The Protein Society

9650 Rockville Pike, Bethesda, MD 20814-3998, U.S.A.
Tel: 301-634-7277 • Fax: 301-634-7271
Email: cyablonski@proteinsociety.org
http://www.proteinsociety.org

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Contact:
Cindy A. Yablonski
Executive Officer, The Protein Society

Tel: 301-634-7277
Email: cyablonski@proteinsociety.org

THE PROTEIN SOCIETY ANNOUNCES 2010 AWARD RECIPIENTS

BETHESDA, MD -- The Protein Society, the leading international society devoted to furthering research and development in protein science, announces the winners of its prestigious 2010 awards. The seven recipients will be honored at the Society's 24th Annual Symposium of The Protein Society (August 1–5, 2010 in San Diego, California). The awardees are:

Dr. Nobuhiro Go of the RIKEN Harima Institute, Japan will receive **The Carl Brändén Award**, sponsored by Rigaku Corporation, in recognition of his exceptional contributions in the areas of education and service to the field of protein science. Dr. Go's scientific achievements include the establishment of a lattice model of proteins, now well-known as the Go model. He has also contributed markedly to the NMR distance geometry analysis as well as the analysis of protein dynamics. His current work in protein biophysics, protein physical chemistry and computer science has brought important physical principles to the field. Dr. Go is widely considered to be a pioneer in the theoretical study of protein folding principles, with many younger protein scientists owing a great deal to his ideas. In 2001, Dr. Go was one of the founders of the Protein Science Society of Japan, which has significantly promoted the globalization of protein science.

Dr. Lila M. Gierasch of the University of Massachusetts, Amherst will receive **The Dorothy Crowfoot Hodgkin Award**, sponsored by Genentech, in recognition of her exceptional contributions to the understanding of biology through the application of biophysical methods to interrogate biological systems. Dr. Gierasch's research has had a major impact in fields spanning sequence-structure relationships, protein folding and aggregation, the pioneering application of novel biophysical analyses, (principally NMR), molecular recognition, and cooperativity in molecular machines and protein secretion. Her most recent research focuses on the chaperone-mediated folding process, how a β-sheet "clam" protein is folded, and how to monitor protein folding in a living cell and compare it with *in vitro* folding. Dr. Gierasch's research is considered insightful and visionary by her peers.

Dr. Peter E. Wright of The Scripps Research Institute, CA will receive **The Stein and Moore Award**, sponsored by The Protein Society and named for Nobel Laureates Dr. William Stein and Dr. Stanford Moore. Dr. Wright is being honored for his studies in DNA bending, his work on specific transcription factor complexes, and his development of new NMR methods along with his investigation of conformational fluctuations and dynamics in the catalytic cycle of dihydrofolate reductase. Dr. Wright's current research seeks to understand the intrinsically disordered regions of proteins in order to move beyond structure determination and the description of the dynamics of the system. Regarded by colleagues as a leader in both structural biology and protein science, he is especially admired for the way he has selected protein science problems (such as how folding is coupled to biological function and catalysis) whose solutions will have broad significance and applicability for decades to come.

Dr. Wendell A. Lim of the University of California, San Francisco and HHMI will receive **The Hans Neurath Award**, sponsored by The Hans Neurath Foundation. Dr. Lim's studies encompass a variety of techniques for understanding protein function. His research has set the stage for a new future in biology, which will enable researchers to engineer new signaling systems with potential implications for medicine and other biological applications. He has made seminal contributions that are central to a deep molecular understanding of cellular signaling pathways as well as illuminating the molecular logic of signal-transduction networks. At present, Dr. Lim's research is aimed at linking together multiple regulatory modules to create cells that will be able to polarize and migrate in response to novels sets of signals. Dr. Lim is considered to be one of the foremost scientists working on the molecular understanding of signal transduction systems, with a remarkable range of scientific abilities in areas such as structural analysis, biochemistry, cell biology and mathematical modeling of cellular processes.

Dr. Yoshinori Fujiyoshi of Kyoto University, Japan will receive **The Christian B. Anfinsen Award**, sponsored by The Aviv Family Foundation, in recognition of his significant technical achievements in the field of protein science. Dr. Fujiyoshi is being honored for his groundbreaking work in the field of membrane protein structure and for bringing electron crystallography to a new level by developing innovative cryoelectron microscopes. His innovative work has made it possible to use electron microscopy to solve the 3D structures of a variety of channels, receptors and other membrane proteins. His current research efforts are on: bacteriorhodopsin; the plant light-harvesting complex; the structure of several members of the aquaporin family; and the acetylcholine receptor. Dr. Fujiyoshi's contributions in the field of electron cryomicroscopy have set the gold standard for others in the field to emulate.

Dr. Suzanne Walker of Harvard Medical School will receive **The Emil Thomas Kaiser Award**, sponsored by The Protein Society, in recognition for her contributions in applying chemistry to the study of proteins. Dr. Walker is being recognized for her achievements in the structure and function of enzymatic machinery in an effort to change the way scholars think about natural product antibiotics such as ramoplanin and moenomycin and how they work to block bacterial cell wall assembly. Her studies have included the determination of the gene clusters involved in the biosynthesis of moenomycin, the detailed enzymological dissection of its functional components, and the mechanisms of several natural products that inhibit the biosynthetic pathway. Currently, her lab is investigating the biosynthesis of teichoic acid and anionic carbohydrate based polymers that are covalently attached to the peptidoglycan matrix of many gram positive bacteria. Dr. Walker is a world-class organic chemist/chemical biologist in the best research tradition of the late Professor Emil Thomas Kaiser.

Dr. Charalampos Kalodimos of Rutgers University will receive **The Irving Sigal Young Investigator Award,** sponsored by Merck Research Laboratories, in recognition of his significant contribution to the study of proteins by a scientist in the early stages of an independent career. Dr. Kalodimos is being honored for his landmark study of the mechanism of protein secretion. He was able to solve the structure of the SecA protein in complex with a signal sequence using advanced NMR and isotope labeling techniques. Dr. Kalodimos' lab has recently shed new light on "dynamic allostery." Dr. Kalodimos is a rising star who possesses tremendous energy, vision and passion.

To find out more about The Protein Society's 24th Annual Symposium or to register, obtain a press pass, receive exhibitor information, or review the full symposia program, visit The Protein Society's web site at http://www.proteinsociety.org or call (301) 634-7277.

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The Protein Society is the leading international Society devoted to furthering research and development in protein science. The purpose of the Society is to provide national and international forums to facilitate communication, cooperation and collaboration within all aspects of the study of proteins. In support of these goals, the Society publishes *Protein Science*, the premier journal in the field. The Protein Society members represent a wide spectrum of academic, industry, governmental, and non-profit institutions from around the world. Media inquiries can be directed to Cindy Yablonski at (301) 634-7277.

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