

# The Pediatric Infectious Diseases Society Annual Awards, 2002

## THE BURTIS B. BREESE AWARD: 2002

This award was established by the family, colleagues and patients of Dr. Burtis Burr Breese in 1999 to celebrate his immense contributions to pediatric teaching and clinical practice. Dr. Breese for many years was a noted primary care pediatrician in Rochester, New York who pioneered office-based research and published his work extensively. His research and writings spanned a half-century and are a model for the subsequent American Academy of Pediatrics PROS (Pediatric Research in Office Settings) collaborative network. He believed that the private practice offered a unique opportunity for controlled research to answer questions that could contribute to the understanding and care of children with infectious diseases. His investigations of group A streptococcal pharyngitis are seminal contributions to our knowledge and understanding of this common infection of children. These contributions to current management of pharyngitis and resulting prevention of rheumatic fever have been aptly termed "The Rochester Influence."

The Award is presented yearly by the Pediatric Infectious Diseases Society to the author(s) of a publication in the *Pediatric Infectious Disease Journal*<sup>®</sup> that best illustrates the principles and practice of this distinguished physician and investigator. The 2002 Breese Award is presented to Dr. Stan L. Block and his colleagues for the following publication: Stan L. Block, M.D., James A. Hedrick M.D., Ron D. Tyler M.D., R. Alan Smith, M.D.



FIG. 1. Burtis B. Breese Award: 2002. Left to right: Richard F. Jacobs, M.D., Stan L. Block, M.D., and Georges Peter, M.D.

and Christopher J. Harrison, M.D. Microbiology of acute otitis media recently treated with aminopenicillins. *Pediatr Infect Dis J* 2001;20:1017-21.

Georges Peter, M.D.  
Providence, RI

Caroline Breese Hall, M.D.  
Rochester, NY

## PRESENTATION OF PEDIATRIC INFECTIOUS DISEASES YOUNG INVESTIGATOR AWARD TO VICTOR NIZET, M.D. BY STEPHEN A. SPECTOR, M.D.

It is my privilege and with great pride that I have the opportunity to present the Pediatric Infectious Diseases Society Young Investigator Award to Dr. Victor Nizet. Although we at the University of California, San Diego (UCSD) would like to take full credit for Victor's success, I appreciate that there were many who made significant contributions in helping to form his career. Perhaps even more importantly, Victor possesses that inner drive that has propelled him to be successful early in his career and that I am certain will ensure that he will continue to be highly successful. People who know me know that I frequently look for colleagues who possess the "X-factor" (i.e.: At a certain level and particularly in medicine and science, there are many who have the intellectual capacity to be highly successful. Yet only a small fraction have the "X-factor" that drives them forward to the highest level of achievement.). I believe that there were a number of early indicators that Victor Nizet possesses that elusive factor.

As a high school student Victor was an outstanding athlete and was among the highest ranked tennis players in Southern California. Victor attended Reed College in Oregon, graduating Phi Beta Kappa in 1984. More importantly and I believe demonstrating the "X-factor" was that Victor was awarded the Most Outstanding Senior Thesis prize for his graduating class. From 1984 to 1989 Victor attended Stanford University School of Medicine and did research in the laboratory of Dr. Gary Schoolnik, an outstanding scientist and someone possessing that extra factor required for success.

Victor did his residency at Children's Hospital of Boston from 1989 through 1993 and was chief resident in 1992 and 1993. Victor again excelled and was awarded the Sidney Farber Outstanding House-Officer Award in 1993, once more demonstrating the "X-factor"



FIG. 2. Young Investigators Award: 2002. Left to right: Richard F. Jacobs, M.D., Victor Nizet, M.D. and Stephen A. Spector, M.D.

for achievement. From 1993 to 1997 Victor was a Fellow and Instructor in the Division of Pediatric Infectious Diseases at the University of Washington, Seattle. Victor excelled in all aspects of his fellowship and thrived under the mentorship of Dr. Craig Ruben (a pediatric infectious diseases specialist who has established a distinguished research career). Thus when Victor Nizet joined us at UCSD, he had already established himself as someone with enormous potential and one who had seen what it would take to be successful in academic medicine.

Dr. Nizet's research focuses on the group A and group B streptococcus and on innate immunity. He performs basic/discovery science as well as translational science. His research truly moves from the bench to the bedside and back to the bench. Dr. Nizet has discovered the molecular genetic basis of two distinct and long sought after streptococcal toxins. In collaboration with Drs. De Azavedo and Beall, Dr. Nizet discovered the molecular genetic basis of the beta-hemolysin of the group A streptococci, and subsequently his group has identified the genetic basis for the beta-hemolytic/cytolytic activity of the group B streptococci. His tissue culture and animal experiments using specific beta-hemolysin-negative mutants have demonstrated the requirement of these toxins in the pathogenesis of group A streptococcal necrotizing fasciitis and group B streptococcal neonatal pneumonia and sepsis, respectively. These infections are of tremendous clinical importance, carry significant morbidity and mortality and are not currently preventable by vaccination strategies. His identification of the beta-hemolysin toxins potentially can be used as targets for adjunctive therapy. Additionally Dr. Nizet's laboratory has identified exciting new avenues of investigation in

the pathogenesis of neonatal meningitis and blood-brain barrier penetration.

In additional research recently published in *Nature*, Dr. Nizet, collaborating with Dr. Richard Gallo (also at UCSD), has demonstrated that cathelicidins, peptides expressed on epithelial surfaces and in neutrophils, are an important native component of innate host defense in mice and provide protection against necrotic skin disease caused by group A *Streptococcus*. This research is the first direct *in vivo* demonstration that endogenous expression of a mammalian antimicrobial peptide provides defense against disease mediated by a pathologic bacterial infection. These findings suggest that the specific antimicrobial activity of the cathelicidin is critical in bacterial clearance and innate skin immunity.

The Pediatric Infectious Diseases Society can be proud of its selection for the 2002 Young Investigator Award, not only because it has chosen a young scientist who is outstanding but who is also an outstanding clinician and teacher. A frequently asked question in academic medicine is whether an academic physician can be a "triple threat in the new millennium." C. Richard Conti, Editor in Chief of *Clinical Cardiology* in 1999 in an editorial noted, "If questioned, academic physicians would probably answer, 'no' to the question whether the triple-threat physician can exist..." Similarly when Dr. Robert Sanders Williams was interviewed on becoming Dean at Duke School of Medicine, he noted, "On being a 'triple threat' it's difficult now for anyone to be . . . successful in research, clinical care, and teaching at the same time." Victor Nizet became an Assistant Professor in the Division of Pediatric Infectious Diseases in 1997. In 2000 he was named the UCSD Pediatric Residency Program Outstanding Teacher of the Year. The same year, he established a highly successful infectious disease/microbiology journal club that has thrived under his guidance. In 2001 he was awarded the UCSD Pediatric Residency Program Commitment to Teaching Award. Additionally, he is an outstanding mentor to numerous students including undergraduate, graduate, Ph.D. and M.D. postdoctoral fellows.

In conclusion I believe that the future of Pediatric Infectious Diseases is secure when we develop outstanding young clinician-scientists like Dr. Nizet. He is well deserving of the Pediatric Infectious Diseases Society Young Investigator Award.

Stephen A. Spector, M.D.  
San Diego, CA

**PRESENTATION OF THE DISTINGUISHED PHYSICIAN AWARD TO GEORGES PETER, M.D. BY CAROL J. BAKER, M.D.**

The Pediatric Infectious Diseases Society names Georges Peter as Distinguished Physician for 2002.



FIG. 3. Distinguished Physician Award: 2002. *Left to right:* Carol J. Baker, M.D., Georges Peter, M.D., Carolyn Peter, Richard F. Jacobs, M.D.

Georges Peter was born in Cambridge, Massachusetts, and I suspect his father's Swiss heritage accounts for the "s" on the end of George. When Georges was eight his parents moved to Long Island, but the family spent summers on Cape Ann where he learned to sail, one of several lifelong passions. Georges went on to Harvard College, majoring in history and playing junior varsity football. His intended goal after college was law school, but knee surgery after a skiing accident during his senior year turned his focus from law to medicine. He went to Dartmouth Medical School for 2 years and then to Harvard Medical School where he was awarded his M.D. degree.

In 1964 Georges married Carolyn McClintock and they moved to Rochester, New York for internship and a year of pediatric residency. Georges then spent 2 years in the US Public Health Service assigned as a Clinical Associate at the National Institute of Arthritis and Metabolic Diseases, Pediatric Branch. He completed his pediatric residency and subspecialty fellowship training at Boston Children's Hospital. His training complete, he was appointed Assistant Professor at Brown University Medical School in 1972. He rose through the ranks, becoming Director of the Division of Pediatric Infectious Diseases in 1976. Dr. Peter stayed at Brown, becoming Professor of Pediatrics in 1984 and, more recently, Vice Chair for Faculty Affairs within the Department. Those at Brown know Georges as a highly skilled clinician, an articulate and loved teacher, someone who has been willing to serve effectively on almost every committee, a local and national advocate for the health of children and a sports information savant. He is the

author of more than 75 peer-reviewed articles, the editor of 9 books, 50 book chapters or review articles and a dozen or so other articles. He is a sought after lecturer who gives generously of his knowledge, time and energy. He is an elected member of the Society for Pediatric Research, the American Pediatric Society and a Fellow in the Infectious Diseases Society of America. These accomplishments, although impressive, reveal only a little of Dr. Peter's distinguished career.

Through his work on national committees and boards, and especially within the American Academy of Pediatrics, Georges has contributed more to the health of children than anyone I know. His 21-year tenure on the Committee of Infectious Diseases (COID) of the AAP is unequalled. The COID's policy statements and the *Red Book* influence literally every pediatrician in the US and many internationally. He was the editor of five editions of the *Red Book*; no one will beat that record! During this same period he became a childhood immunization guru, serving for several years on the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices of the CDC and the Advisory Commission on Childhood Vaccines. He was an original steering committee member of the Infectious Diseases Society of America and Pediatric Infectious Diseases Society (PIDS) Vaccine Initiative (renamed the National Network of Immunization Information) and served on the National Vaccine Advisory Committee and the National Immunization Council of the National Partnership for Immunization. On several occasions his knowledge, leadership, diplomacy and wisdom as a committee member led to his appointment as chair of these committees. Georges Peter has been a strong force to promote sound immunization policy for the children of our country.

We also owe Dr. Peter much for the development of our specialty and of this Society. He was an original member of the Pediatric Infectious Diseases sub-board committee of the American Board of Pediatrics. Georges' able leadership, and that of a few others, also was important in bringing the young PIDS into the vibrant professional Society that it is today. He served on the PIDS Council for 10 years, as President from 1993 to 1995 and on the Strategic Planning Committee from its inception to sunset in 1999. Georges was the first liaison to the IDSA Council from 1999 to 2001, bringing pediatric issues to the table in a manner that made a significant impact and that effected mutually beneficial change. He quietly interrupted more than one debate, providing gentle and wise reason, to make a point that resolved more than one issue.

Georges Peter's interests embrace and exceed medicine. He is a family man; he and his wife of nearly 38 years, Carolyn, have a married daughter and married

son and two grandchildren. Georges is a competitive sailor in the Lightning Class, racing in at least 20 North American Championships and several World Championships. He is an avid squash player, playing three or four times a week during each winter and he is a faithful fan of the Boston Red Sox and of Harvard football. Each Saturday during football season you can find Georges and his brother-in-law running the scoreboard at Harvard Stadium. Georges is not only a colleague worthy of my praise, but also he is a dear friend to many. He is a man who has made a

difference, and I quote this poem by E. E. Dale to characterize him.

*"I am only one, but I am one  
I can't do everything, but I can do something  
And what I can do  
That I ought to do  
And what I ought to do  
By the grace of God I will do."*

*E. E. Dale*

Carol J. Baker, M.D.  
Houston, TX

#### Fellowship Awardees 2002-2004

Susana Chavez-Bueno, M.D., University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center, Dallas, TX  
Chemokines in RSV-induced airway hyperresponsiveness.  
Mentor: Hasan Jafri, M.D.  
(GlaxoSmithKline Pharmaceuticals)

Miriam Laufer, M.D. Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine, Baltimore, MD  
Impact of trimethoprim-sulfamethoxazole prophylaxis in *Plasmodium falciparum* resistance to sulfadoxine-pyrimethamine among HIV-infected individuals in Malawi.  
Mentor: Kwang Sik Kim, M.D.  
(Abbott Laboratories)

Annette H. Sohn, M.D. University of California at San Francisco, CA  
Assessment of risk stratification for surgical site infection and quantitative assessment of perioperative antimicrobial use in pediatric cardiothoracic surgery patients.  
Mentors: Peggy S. Weintrub, M.D., and William R. Jarvis, M.D.  
(Bristol-Myers Squibb)

George C. Fogg, M.D., Ph.D. University of Michigan School of Medicine, Ann Arbor, MI  
Interactions between *Campylobacter jejuni* and the gut epithelium.  
Mentors: Janet Gilsdorf, M.D. and Victor Dirita, Ph.D.  
(Pfizer, Inc.)