

2007 PASCV Award Recipients

Richard L. Hodinka, Ph.D. 2007 Diagnostic Virology Award Sponsored by BD Diagnostics



Dr. Hodinka received his B.S. in Biology (1976) from Marietta College, M.S. in Microbiology (1979) from the University of Montana, and Ph.D. in Microbiology (1983) from Ohio University. He then completed a research postdoctoral fellowship (1986) in Microbiology (Chlamydial Pathogenesis) in the Department of Microbiology & Immunology at the University of North Carolina--Chapel Hill, followed by a clinical postdoctoral fellowship (1988) in Diagnostic Micro-biology and Immunology at the University of North Carolina Medical Center.

Dr. Hodinka joined the faculty of the University of Pennsylvania School of Medicine in 1988, and is currently an Associate Professor of Pediatrics and Pathology and Director of the Clinical Virology Laboratory at Children's Hospital of Philadelphia. He has a secondary faculty appointment in the Department of Pathology and Laboratory Medicine at the University of Pennsylvania Medical Center.

He is co-chair of the Annual Clinical Virology Symposium and Annual Molecular Virology Workshop. He has served as a Council Member and the President for the Pan American Society for Clinical Virology. He has served as a member of the Board of the American College of Microbiology, as Chairperson for the American Society for Microbiology Committee on Post-doctoral Educational Programs, and as a member of the International Scientific Advisory Committee for the 6th Asia Pacific Congress of Medical Virology.

Dr. Hodinka serves on various journal editorial boards and professional committees. His clinical and research interests include pediatric viral diseases, detection and monitoring of viral infections in immunocompromised hosts, rapid methods for viral diagnosis, and molecular diagnostics. He is the author of numerous original scientific publications, review articles and book chapters and a highly sought-after speaker. Dr. Hodinka's awards include 2 Distinguished Teaching Awards (2000, 2001) and the Dean's Award for Excellence in Basic Science Teaching (2001) from the University of Pennsylvania School of Medicine and the DuPont Clinical Virology Award (1995). He has been selected as a National Foundation Lecturer (1994-96) for the American Society for Microbiology and was elected to Fellowship in the American Academy of Microbiology in 1997.

Henry H. Balfour, Jr., M.D.
2007 Ed Nowakowski Senior Memorial Clinical Virology Award
Sponsored by Bion Enterprises, Ltd.



Hank Balfour established the Clinical Virology Laboratory at the University of Minnesota in November 1972 and he has been its Medical Director ever since. The laboratory offers state-of-the-art diagnostic virology, including quantitative molecular assays for CMV, EBV, BK, and hepatitis C. Four of his students have won a best poster award at the annual meeting of the Pan American Society for Clinical Virology. One of them is now in Medical School and another will be entering a Ph.D. program in Molecular Biology this summer.

Hank has been involved in prospective studies of viral infections in transplant patients since the early 1970s. He designed and directed the first clinical trial to show that acyclovir prevented CMV disease after renal transplantation (N Engl J Med 1989). He

is currently working on a prospective trial to investigate predictors of EBV-associated posttransplant lymphoproliferative disease (PTLD) in solid organ transplant patients. In conjunction with this, he is the principal investigator of several studies on infectious mononucleosis in University of Minnesota students. These are being done in order to establish a baseline of viral and host interactions in immunocompetent patients, which will be compared with the aberrant responses in the immunocompromised host to understand how to intervene to prevent or treat PTLD. The first of the mono studies was recently published (J Infect Dis 2005) and the second will be in the in May 2007 issue the Journal of Clinical Virology.

He has conducted approximately 20 single center and multicenter treatment trials using antiherpes drugs. His studies of acyclovir for varicella-zoster virus (VZV) infections in both immunocompromised and otherwise healthy patients are considered to be pivotal in establishing the role of antiviral drugs for management of VZV infections (Lancet 1982, N Engl J Med 1983, Pediatr Infect Dis J 2001). As a result, he has been asked to write several chapters on management of VZV infections including one that was translated into Italian.

The AIDS Clinical Trials Unit at the University of Minnesota has enrolled more than 2,000 HIV-infected individuals in clinical trials of antiretroviral drugs and treatments for opportunistic diseases associated with HIV/AIDS. Hank has been its principal investigator since 1987 and also served on the AIDS Clinical Trials Group's Executive Committee, was its vice-chair for one year, and was chairman of the Virology Committee for 3 years. He is coauthor of numerous publications describing the results of HIV/AIDS clinical trials. Unfortunately, the NIH did not refund the Minnesota unit and government support is currently being phased out. Fortunately, Hank established the University of Minnesota International Center for Antiviral Research and Epidemiology (I CARE) in 1995 with gifts from patients' families, friends, and industry. The I CARE funds will permit subjects to complete their antiretroviral treatment protocols.

The editors of the New England Journal of Medicine published his review article on antiviral therapy in 1999 and this is still is one of the most widely cited articles in the field.

The University of Minnesota Medical Center, Fairview gave Hank their Clinical Scholar Award in 2005 in recognition of his scientific contributions in Clinical Virology.

Musa Hindiyeh, Ph.D.
2007 Young Investigator Award
Sponsored by Remel, Inc.



Musa Y. Hindiyeh, Ph.D, D (ABMM), MT(ASCP) is Clinical Laboratory Director, Caritas Baby Hospital in Bethlehem, Palestine, and Co-director of the Real-Time Molecular Diagnosis Department, Sheba Medical Center, Israel. He received his doctoral degree in Microbiology and Immunology from the University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences where he also received a BS in Medical Technology. His thesis work was on poliovirus assembly, in particular VP0 cleavage into VP2 and VP4. In 1996 he won the McClusky Award for best scientific presentation at the South Central Branch of the American Society for Microbiology.

Dr. Hindiyeh received postdoctoral training in Medical and Public Health Microbiology at the University of Utah for Medical Sciences under the supervision of Drs. Karen Carroll and Larry Reimer. During his fellowship, he authored seven papers in peer-reviewed journals and was the recipient of the Edwin Lennette Travel Award from PASCV.

Dr. Hindiyeh moved back to Jerusalem in 2000 to work with Dr. Ella Mendelson at the Israel Central Virology Laboratory (ICVL), Public Health Services. At ICVL, he isolated West Nile Fever virus from the blood of 4 patients and characterized these isolates during a large outbreak of WNF virus in Israel. This work was subsequently published in *Emerging Infectious Diseases*. With Dr. Daniella Ram, he established and became co-director of the real-time molecular diagnosis laboratory at ICVL. This laboratory provides services for a large number of hospitals in Israel and is the only one providing testing for H5N1, hMPV, SARS and other common respiratory viral pathogens. His work on development of a real-time PCR assay for influenza A and B viruses was published in the *Journal of Clinical Microbiology*.

He also established a viral diagnostic laboratory at Caritas Baby Hospital in the Palestinian Territories where he introduced viral diagnosis for respiratory viruses, enteroviruses and rotavirus. His work was instrumental in reducing antibiotic usage and establishing infection control practices in the Palestinian Territories. He also led an investigation of a large mumps outbreak that occurred in a highly MMR vaccinated Palestinian refugee population. This work was done in collaboration with the United Nations Relief and Works Agency and was submitted to *EID* for publication. Other research projects include characterization of hMPV in Israeli children, which was published in the *Journal of Clinical Microbiology* in 2006.

Technical Article

A centrifugation-enhanced shell vial technique for the isolation of arthropod-borne viruses

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Introduction

Virus isolation and identification from human clinical samples is important for providing viral isolates, determining etiology, and meets the confirmed case classification. Virus isolation is the