20th Annual Albert B. Sabin
Gold Medal Award Ceremony

Presented to
Anne A. Gershon, M.D.

for her outstanding research and public health efforts to prevent diseases due to the varicella-zoster virus

Tuesday, April 23, 2013
Hyatt Regency Baltimore
Baltimore, Maryland
5:30 PM  REGISTRATION & REFRESHMENTS

6:30 PM  WELCOME
Dr. Peter J. Hotez
President, Sabin Vaccine Institute;
Director, Sabin Vaccine Institute and Texas Children’s Hospital Center for Vaccine Development;
Dean, National School of Tropical Medicine at Baylor College of Medicine

INTRODUCTION & PRESENTATION OF THE ALBERT B. SABIN GOLD MEDAL
Dr. Samuel L. Katz
Wilburt C. Davison Professor & Chair emeritus, Department of Pediatrics, Duke University School of Medicine

ACCEPTANCE
Dr. Anne A. Gershon
Professor of Pediatrics, Columbia University College of Physicians and Surgeons
Sabin Vaccine Institute (Sabin) is a non-profit, 501(c)(3) organization made up of scientists, researchers and advocates dedicated to reducing needless human suffering from vaccine-preventable and neglected tropical diseases. Sabin works with governments, leading public and private organizations, and academic institutions to provide solutions for some of the world’s most pervasive health care challenges.

Since its founding in 1993, Sabin has been at the forefront of efforts to control, treat and eliminate vaccine-preventable and neglected tropical diseases by developing new vaccines, advocating the use of existing vaccines and promoting increased access to affordable medical treatments.

As 2013 marks Sabin’s 20th anniversary, we celebrate our years of experience, leadership and progress in saving lives and preventing disease.
After receiving his medical degree in 1931, Dr. Sabin began research on poliomyelitis (polio), which at the time had reached epidemic proportions around the globe. At the Children’s Hospital Research Foundation in Cincinnati, Ohio, he was able to prove that polio was an infection of the alimentary tract, indicating that polio might be prevented by an oral vaccine.

Dr. Sabin’s early research was interrupted by World War II. He joined the U.S. Army Epidemiological Board’s Virus Committee in 1941 and accepted assignments abroad, where he worked on vaccines for encephalitis, sand-fly fever and dengue fever. At the end of World War II, Dr. Sabin returned to Cincinnati and resumed his research.

He focused on isolating a mutant form of the polio virus incapable of producing the disease and thereby safe for introduction to the human body. The avirulent virus reproduced rapidly in the intestines, displacing lethal forms of the polio virus and providing protection from the disease.

The oral vaccine was first tested outside the United States from 1957 to 1959, and, ultimately, a successful Sabin vaccine was used to eliminate polio in countries throughout the world.

Dr. Sabin not only dedicated his entire professional career to the elimination of human suffering though his
groundbreaking medical advances, but also waged a lifelong campaign against poverty and the resulting health inequities.

It was in this spirit of commitment and dedication that his longtime friends and colleagues - led by Heloisa Sabin, his widow, and the late Dr. H.R. Shepherd, Sabin’s Founding Chairman - established the Sabin Vaccine Institute in 1993 following Dr. Sabin’s death.

*Photo Captions (left to right): Dr. Albert B. Sabin with Dr. Viktor M. Zhdanov; Dr. Albert B. Sabin at 75 years, holding Ranata at 75 days, in Brazil. Photos courtesy of the University of Cincinnati.*
Dr. Anne Gershon is Director of the Division of Pediatric Infectious Disease and Professor of Pediatrics at Columbia University College of Physicians and Surgeons, a position she has held for the past 26 years.

Her research has included epidemiology, diagnosis, immunology, latency, prevention and treatment of varicella and zoster virus infections (VZV).

Her studies with varicella vaccine, which examined the safety and efficacy of the vaccine in leukemic children and healthy adults were important in its licensure; the vaccine is now recommended for all healthy children in the United States. She is continuing to study the safety and efficacy of varicella vaccine in the “vaccine era.” She has also focused on HIV infection in children, particularly with regard to opportunistic infections.

She has received research funding from NIH to study the growth and pathogenesis of VZV in cell culture and latency of VZV in humans and animal models. Dr. Gershon has served on the Committee on Infectious Diseases of the
American Academy of Pediatrics ("Red Book" Committee) and the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).

She was a member of CDC’s Working Group for varicella vaccine and played a major role in recommending a second routine dose of the vaccine for all children. She was a member of the Councils of the Infectious Diseases Society of America (IDSA) and the Pediatric Infectious Disease Society. She was President of IDSA from 2008 to 2009. She is the author of more than 300 publications and has edited 11 books, including Rudolph’s Textbook of Pediatrics.

She was a member of a March of Dimes Research Committee Study Section from 2004 to 2010. Her awards include the Senn Award of the American Academy of Pediatrics in 1997; Best Doctors in America and New York for multiple years; Saul Krugman Memorial Lecture at New York University in 2000; Distinguished Women from Smith College in 2000; Scientific Achievement Award from the Varicella-Zoster Research Foundation in 2001; the Distinguished Alumnus Award from Babies Hospital in 2003; the Distinguished Physician Award of the Pediatric Infectious Disease Society in 2008; and, the Distinguished Alumnus of Weill Cornell Medical School in 2011. She was awarded an honorary D.Sc. from Smith College in 1993.

Dr. Gershon has been married for the past 52 years to Dr. Michael Gershon, who is both her husband and a scientific colleague; they have three children, eight grandchildren, and 20 joint publications.
Photo Captions (left to right, top to bottom): Dr. Anne A. Gershon, Dr. Saul Krugman and Dr. Albert B. Sabin (1980); Dr. Michiaki Takahashi, Dr. Thomas H. Weller and Dr. Anne A. Gershon at a varicella zoster virus meeting (1995); and, Dr. Anne A. Gershon and Dr. Samuel L. Katz at the Albert B. Sabin Gold Medal Award Ceremony (2003). Photos courtesy of Dr. Anne A. Gershon and Sabin Vaccine Institute.
Awarded annually since 1994, the Albert B. Sabin Gold Medal Award recognizes a researcher who has made extraordinary contributions in the field of vaccinology or a complementary field.

This year marks the 20th year that Sabin has bestowed the award. We applaud all of our past winners on their contributions to improving health worldwide.

Albert B. Sabin Gold Medal Award Recipients (2013-1994)

2013 Anne A. Gershon, M.D.
2012 F. Marc LaForce, M.D.
2011 Douglas R. Lowy, M.D.
2011 John T. Schiller, Ph.D.
1998 Allen C. Steere, M.D.
1997 Maurice R. Hilleman Ph.D., D.Sc. (d. 2005)
1996 Joseph L. Melnick, Ph.D. (d. 2001)

1995 Robert M. Chanock, M.D. (d. 2010)
1994 Donald A. Henderson, M.D., M.P.H.
The Sabin Vaccine Institute gratefully acknowledges Serum Institute of India, Ltd., Sanofi Pasteur and MedImmune, who helped make the 2013 Albert B. Sabin Gold Medal Award Ceremony possible.

LEADERS

SUPPORTER

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