

Peter Harris, M.D., Ph.D. 1923 - 2002

Peter Harris was an influential international statesman in cardiology. A science scholar at King's College, London, UK, Harris trained in medicine at Kings College Hosp., qualifying in 1946. During house appointments at King's and the Brompton Hosp., he obtained his MD in 1951, winning the university gold medal and a PhD in 1955. He was appointed lecturer, in 1957, and reader in medicine, in 1962, at Birmingham University. In 1966, he was appointed the first Simon Marks' Professor of Cardiology at the Cardiothoracic Institute and Director of the Institute of Cardiology, in the Univ. of London.

His career, which was dedicated to exploring the cardiovascular system and the origins of heart disease, can be viewed as three chapters. During the 1950's and early 1960's, he was in the mainstream of research, and used established methods of haemodynamic measurements to explore cardiac output and pulmonary blood flow and the metabolism of the heart muscle. [During]... the second stage of his career ... his research into the heart muscle turned to experiments at the cellular and molecular level. In 1970, Harris organized a meeting of ... an international study group for research in cardiac metabolism, which resulted in the publication of one of the most influential works on cardiology: *Calcium and the Heart*. The third element to Harris's career involved his fascination with the evolution of the cardiovascular and related systems. In a series of essays in 1983, he traced the way that the origins of clinical heart failure might lie in ancient reflexes. His study of the right ventricle of the heart and the blood flow to the lungs of yaks showed they had adapted genetically to high altitude by eliminating the vasoconstrictor response due to reduction of oxygen.

Away from the laboratory, he was a talented musician and artist, and he showed a leaning toward satirical writing. His wife Francesca survives him.

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About the Award...

Created in 1986, this very distinguished Award of international importance is the highlight of each World Congress of the ISHR. It is conferred in recognition of a lifetime of distinguished scientific achievements in the field of cardiovascular research.



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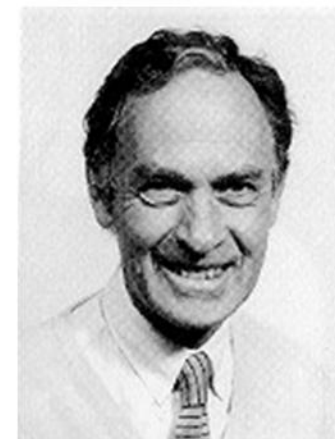
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International Society for Heart Research

The Peter Harris Distinguished Scientist Award 2004



Award Winner

Arnold M. Katz, M.D.

“Basic Science and the Cardiac Patient:
Lessons from the Past, Promise
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Arnold M. Katz, M.D.

2004 Award Winner
Brisbane, Australia



Dr. Katz's research centers on the link between basic science and clinical cardiology and has been published in more than 400 articles and chapters and 2 single-authored books. His research career began in 1951 when, as a student at the University of Chicago, he found that short-

chain fatty acids inhibit yeast metabolism. He spent the following summer at Woods Hole, MA, examining cold-induced contraction of smooth muscle. During vacations from Harvard Medical School he worked with his father, Louis N Katz, with whom he recorded left ventricular pressure-volume loops and described the hypoxia-induced decrease in left ventricular compliance. While an intern at Massachusetts General Hospital he published a review of Echinococcus disease in the United States and, between 1957-1959 with Christian B Anfinsen Jr. at the NIH, he described a method for peptide analysis that became a "Citation Classic". In 1961, as a cardiology fellow with Paul Wood in London, he measured the trans-septal conduction time in patients with intermittent bundle branch block. Between 1961-1964, during a research fellowship with WFHM Mommaerts at UCLA, he characterized the cardiac contractile proteins and, in 1963, was the first to show that purified tropomyosin regulates muscle contraction.

At Columbia University in New York, where he was Assistant Professor of Physiology from 1964-1967, he quantified the effects of calcium on the cardiac contractile proteins, demon-

strated that calcium uptake by the cardiac sarcoplasmic reticulum was sufficient in rate and extent to relax the heart, and showed that the failing heart could not operate on the descending limb of the Starling curve. Between 1967-1969, as Associate Professor of Medicine and Physiology at the University of Chicago, he postulated that acidosis contributes to the early pump failure of the ischemic heart. After becoming the first Philip J and Harriet L Goodhart Professor of Medicine (Cardiology) at the Mount Sinai School of Medicine in New York (1969-1977) he and his colleagues discovered phospholamban and described how loss of the allosteric effect of ATP could impair relaxation. In 1973 he postulated that inotropic therapy might be harmful in heart failure and suggested that beta-blockers could be beneficial for these patients. In 1977, after moving to the University of Connecticut School of Medicine to become the first Chief of a new Cardiology Division, he studied the ATPase reaction of the sarcoplasmic reticulum calcium pump and the effects of lipids and amphipathic drugs on membrane structure and function. He stepped down as Division Chief in 1995 after gaining approval for an Open Heart Surgery/Interventional Cardiology program at the University of Connecticut, and in 2000 became Professor Emeritus. He is currently Visiting Professor of Medicine and Physiology at Dartmouth Medical School where, in addition to continuing to study the pathophysiology of heart failure, he is pursuing his long-standing interest in Medical History.

Dr. Katz has been a member of the ISHR since 1969, was a member of the International Advisory Committee from 1976-1992, and President of the American Section from 1986-1988. He served on the Editorial Board of the Journal of Molecular and Cellular Cardiology since its founding in 1970; in 1979 he became an Associate Editor and from 1986-1992 was the first elected Editor. He served 3 terms on the Basic Science Council of the American Heart Asso-

ciation, which he chaired from 1992-1994, after which he became Vice President for Councils and a member of the Board of Directors. He served many years on the Stanley J. Sarnoff Endowment for Cardiovascular Science and was the first chair of its Scientific Board. He was Mosely Traveling Fellow of Harvard University from 1960-1961, received a Humboldt-Prize in 1976, and in 1994 was awarded an honorary Doctorate in Medicine from the Carol Davila University, Bucharest, Romania. In 1989 he shared the Research Achievement Award of the American Heart Association, which in 1995 joined his name to that of his father in the "Louis N. and Arnold M. Katz Prize" for outstanding basic science research by a young investigator. He received several teaching awards at the University of Connecticut including the 21st Charles N. Loeser Award for Outstanding Teaching of Basic Biomedical Sciences. Dr Katz has been married for 45 years to Phyllis, a classicalist who named phospholamban and lusitropy; they have 4 children, 8 grandchildren, and live in Vermont with 2 springer spaniels.

Past Award Winners

- Setsumo Ebashi, Japan**
(Melbourne, Australia: 1986)
- Albrecht Fleckenstein, Germany**
(Ann Arbor, MI, USA: 1989)
- Robert B. Jennings, USA**
(Kobe, Japan: 1992)
- Howard E. Morgan, USA**
(Prague, Czech Republic: 1995)
- Lionel H. Opie, South Africa**
(Rhodes, Greece: 1998)
- Robert J. Lefkowitz, USA**
(Winnipeg, Canada: 2001)