

## The President's Lecture

In October 2004, the International Council created a new distinguished lecture, named The President's Lecture, which is a highlight of ISHR World Congresses and Section meetings.

The President's Lecture is held at each World Congress of the ISHR and, in non-Congress years, at the annual meeting of one of the 3 largest ISHR Sections on a rotating basis. This lecture is intended to be a high profile event and is scheduled as a keynote plenary lecture. The International Council selects the speaker. **The topic of the lecture is in the field of molecular biology, genetics, genomics or proteomics, but the content should be chosen to be of broad interest to the cardiovascular community.** The speaker is reimbursed for travel expenses, and receives a plaque and a \$1,000 honorarium. A photograph and biosketch of the speaker is published in *Heart News and Views*, and is posted in the ISHR website.

The President's Lecture enhances the content of the ISHR scientific meetings by providing a high-quality presentation in a topical area that is not covered by other distinguished lecture awards, and reflects the continuing growth of the ISHR as a professional Society.

This award is funded by a generous donation from **Roberto Bolli, MD**, Winner of the ISHR 2004 Research Achievement Award, who declined to collect the monetary prize associated with the Award and requested that it be used for this purpose.



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# ISHR

International Society for Heart Research

## The President's Lecture 2009



### Honored Speaker

### R. John Solaro, Ph.D.

"Integration of Cardiac  
Sarcomeric Control  
Mechanisms with EC Coupling  
and Metabolism"

R. John Solaro, Ph.D.

2009 Honored Speaker

Baltimore, MD

R. John Solaro graduated from the University of Pittsburgh, College of Medicine with a PhD degree in 1971. In the same year he was appointed to the faculty at Medical College of Virginia. In 1975-76, as a British-American Heart Fellow, he studied with Professor S. V. Perry in Birmingham, England. In 1977, he joined the faculty at University of Cincinnati, where he was supported by an NIH Research Career Development Award and was offered an AHA Established Investigator award. In 1987, he was a Fogarty International Fellow at University College London working with Professor David Allen. In 1988, Dr. Solaro was appointed Head of the Department of Physiology and Biophysics in the College of Medicine at the University of Illinois at Chicago. In 1998 he was appointed Distinguished University Professor at the University of Illinois. He is also Co-Director of the UIC Center for Cardiovascular Research. At UIC, Dr. Solaro has received the University Scholar Award, the Faculty of the Year Award, and the Mentor of the Year Award.

Dr. Solaro's major research interest is in the general area of cellular and molecular mechanisms controlling the contraction and re-

laxation of the heart, how these mechanisms are altered in pathological conditions, and how they are modified by pharmacological interventions. The focus is on the integration of signaling and signal transduction at the level of the cardiac sarcomere. He has done seminal work on the role of troponin in switching on contraction, on the role of myofilament protein phosphorylation in the control of cardiac dynamics and in the transition to heart failure, and on the enhancement of myofilament activation by pharmacological agents, two of which Acardi (Pimobendan) and Simdax (Levosimendan) are in clinical use. His current studies focus on multiplex functions of sarcomeric proteins and the Z-disc protein network in contraction/relaxation and signaling. A goal of integration of these sarcomeric functions into cardiac electrophysiology and metabolism forms a new direction for the lab. Dr. Solaro has been and is supported by an NIH Program Project Grant as well as RO1 and MERIT Awards. He also directs an NIH Institutional Training Grant.

Dr. Solaro served as Secretary General of the ISHR, as Chair of Scientific Council of the American Heart Association of Metropolitan Chicago, and as a member of Councils of the ISHR American Section and AHA Council on Cardiovascular Sciences, and as Chair of the Gordon Research Conference on "Cardiac Regulatory Mechanisms". Dr. Solaro was a full member of the NIH Physiology Study Section and Chair of the Cardiovascular Sciences Study Section. He is currently a member of the Skeletal Muscle Exercise Physiology Study Section..

He is past-president of the Cardiac Muscle Society and the Association of Chairs of Departments of Physiology. He serves as Associate Editor of the *Journal of Molecular and Cellular Cardiology* and *American Journal of Physiology (Heart)*, and is on the editorial board of *Circulation Research*. He has served as guest editor for special issues of *Circulation Research* and *Cardiovascular Research*.

#### Previous Award Winners.....

**Dr. Mark Sussman Toronto, 2006**

"Akt/PKB and Me: Our Nuclear Relationship"

**Dr. Jeffrey Robbins Bologna, 2007**

"Genetic Manipulation of the Mammalian Heart: What Have We Learned?"

**Dr. Gerd Hasenfuss Yokohama, 2008**

"Stem Cells for Cardiac Regeneration - Dream or Therapeutic Option"