ISHR Research Achievement Award

This Award recognizes an internationally prominent scientist with a sustained and distinguished record of major scientific achievements in the field of cardiovascular research. Awardees will have already had, and are expected to continue to have, a major impact on our understanding and/or treatment of cardiovascular disease. While both the Outstanding Investigator Award (OIA) and the Research Achievement Award (RAA) recognize established investigators, the OIA is targeted at more junior individuals (at least Assistant/Associate Professor or the equivalent), while the RAA is targeted at more senior individuals (full Professors or the equivalent).

The Research Achievement Award is presented at the triennial ISHR World Congress or, in non-Congress years, at one of the ISHR Section meetings on a rotating basis. The Award consists of a plaque and a monetary prize of $1,500. An announcement of this Award, along with a photograph and a biosketch, will be published in *Heart News and Views*, and posted in the ISHR website.

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Award Winner
Dr. Zoltan Arany

“Understanding human cardiac metabolism”
Zoltan Arany, MD, PhD

Zoltan (Zolt) Arany, MD, PhD is the Samuel Bellet Professor of Cardiology and Director of the Cardiovascular Metabolism Program at the Perelman School of Medicine at the University of Pennsylvania. Dr. Arany graduated Summa Cum Laude from Harvard College. He received his Medical Degree from Harvard Medical School and his doctoral degree from the Harvard Graduate School of Arts and Sciences, in the lab of Dr. David Livingston. After his doctoral studies, Dr. Arany completed internal medicine residency training at the Massachusetts General Hospital, followed by fellowship training in Cardiology at the Brigham and Women’s Hospital, and postdoctoral research fellowship at the Dana Farber Cancer Institute with Dr. Bruce Spiegelman, all in Boston. He started his own lab in 2008 at the Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center in Boston, and he moved to Philadelphia to join the University of Pennsylvania in 2014.

Dr. Arany’s laboratory focuses on the mechanisms that underlie metabolic pathophysiology in the cardiovascular system. He focuses on linking investigations of cardiac and vascular physiology in model organisms to clinical data and observations, and taking a multidisciplinary approach, spanning from molecular biology and numerous ‘omic approaches to model organisms and human clinical studies. Recent focus in Dr. Arany’s laboratory has included the metabolic changes that underlie human heart failure, the role of the vasculature in the development of diabetes, and maternal cardiac disease during and after pregnancy. The Arany lab has been a world leader in understanding the mechanism, social implications, and clinical impact of peripartum cardiomyopathy (PPCM), a disease of often profound heart failure that mysteriously occurs in ~1:1000 women who are recently pregnant, often leaving them incapacitated at a critical moment in their life and that of their child. The lab has also made key observations in human cardiac metabolism and has been at the forefront of the resurgent interest in branched chain amino acids (BCAAs: leucine, valine, and isoleucine), which have taken center stage recently as potential contributors to insulin resistance, heart failure, and other pathologies. Finally, understanding endothelial metabolism has also long been a core lab interest, with key studies identifying moonlighting roles of various metabolic enzymes beyond their canonical metabolic roles.

Dr. Arany is a recipient of several awards including the American Heart Association Established Investigator Award, the Hal Dvorak Young Investigator Award in Translational Research, the Inaugural Yale Calabresi Prize, and the current Research Achievement Award of the International Society for Heart Research (ISHR). He is elected to the American Society of Clinical Investigators, and to the American Association of Physicians.

Dr. Arany has published more than 170 research papers in prominent journals such as New England Journal of Medicine, Nature, Cell, Science, Circulation, PNAS, Cell Metabolism, Nature Metabolism, etc. Dr. Arany is regularly invited to speak nationally and internationally on his basic and translational research in cardiovascular metabolism.

Dr. Arany is also an active clinical cardiologist, teacher, and mentor. He is the current Chair of the Cellular Biology Physiology and Metabolism Graduate Group. He has developed various courses over the years, including ones on Human Metabolism and on Cancer Metabolism. He devotes time and attention to mentoring in his lab and on the clinical wards. His trainees have gone on to successful careers in academic research, biotechnology, pharmaceutical companies, medical practice, and others. He has also received several teaching and mentoring awards.

Past Award Winners...

2023: Zoltan Arany, MD, PhD
Mendoza City, Argentina

2022: Douglas Lewandowski, PhD
2020: Livia Hool, PhD; Walter Koch, PhD
2019: Issei Komuro, MD, PhD
2018: Joseph Hill, MD, PhD
2017: Rong Tian, PhD
2016: Heping Cheng, PhD
2015: Mark Anderson, MD, PhD
2013: Eric Olson, PhD
2010: Jeffrey Robbins, PhD
2007: Martin Lohse, MD
2004: Roberto Bolli, MD
2001: Eduardo Marban, MD