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**Membership**

**Lewis S. Rosenstiel Award for Distinguished Work in Basic Medical Research**

The 45th Lewis S. Rosenstiel Award for Distinguished Work in Basic Medical Research has been awarded to **Yoshinori Ohsumi**, Frontier Research Center, Tokyo Institute of Technology, Japan, honoring his work in elucidating the process of autophagy. Autophagy is an essential cellular process to degrade defective or unnecessary cellular components by sequestering and transporting them into a cellular compartment known as the lysosome or vacuole. Autophagy is induced by starvation conditions to recycle cellular building blocks to maintain essential life processes; but autophagy is a critically important process under other cellular stress conditions, including cancer.

Although the lysosome was first identified in the 1950s, it was not until Ohsumi’s work that the many protein components of this degradative machine were identified. Using budding yeast cells as a model system, Ohsumi and his colleagues identified mutations in most of the genes encoding the proteins of the core autophagy machinery and delineated how autophagy is regulated. Although there have been important contributions to the understanding of this critical process both in yeast and in mammalian cells, the contributions from Ohsumi and his colleagues stand out for their pioneering nature, their originality, and their importance.

The Rosenstiel Award has had a distinguished record of identifying and honoring pioneering scientists who subsequently have been honored with the Lasker and Nobel Prizes. A full list of awardees can be found at http://www.brandeis.edu/rostenstiel/rostenstielaward/past.html. Ohsumi will present a lecture at Brandeis University on his award-winning work on 6 April 2016, followed by a dinner honoring the Rosenstiel Award recipient.

The Rosenstiel Award selection committee, composed of scientists from Boston-area universities, welcomes nominations for the 46th award. We especially encourage nominations of distinguished women and minority scientists. Details of the nomination process can be seen at http://www.brandeis.edu/rostenstiel/rostenstielaward/index.html.

**Obituary**

**Edward Renton Leadbetter**

Edward Renton Leadbetter, 81, a member of ASM for 60 years, died peacefully in April at his residence near Woods Hole, Mass. He had just completed a week lived exactly as he liked to, as a microcosm of his entire adult life: in the research laboratory every day, thinking and doing science, conversing with colleagues of all ages; and at home, enjoying food, drink, music, books, and conversation with his spouse of 58 years, Gloria. He had spent the last decade as a guest investigator at the Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution, after “retiring” from a 46-year professorial career (18 years at Amherst College, followed by 28 years at the University of Connecticut-Storrs [UCONN-Storrs]).

Ed was born in Appalachia, spending his early years in several small coal-mining hamlets of Indiana County, Pa. He attended Franklin & Marshall College, where he was introduced to microbiology by his lifelong mentor, colleague, and friend, Ralph Slepecky. After receiving his degree in Biology there in 1955, Ed initiated pioneering studies on bacterial methane degradation, alkane oxidation, and cometabolism with the late Jackson Foster at the University of Texas-Austin (UT).

After completing his Ph.D. at UT in 1959, he joined the faculty at Amherst College, rising to the rank of full professor and rotating department head. In 1978, Ed left Amherst College, serving a term as Chair of the Biological Sciences Group at UCONN-Storrs, before continuing to devote his professional efforts to the teaching and mentoring of graduate and undergraduate students, retiring from UCONN in 2005 and moving to Woods Hole.

Although he had first visited Woods Hole in 1960, it was the long-term impact of a life-changing academic experience on the West Coast that ended up deepening his relationship with the village. For his first sabbatical, Ed spent the academic year of 1962–1963 in the laboratory of influential Dutch microbiologist (and past ASM President), Cornelis “Kees” van Niel. He participated in the last of van Niel’s famous summer microbiology courses at Stanford’s Hopkins Marine Station. van Niel’s approach to a focused, disciplined, and artful love of teaching, research, friendship, and wine deeply influenced and changed Ed, an experience shared by many others, including the marine microbiologist Holger Jan纳斯ch, who had moved to Woods Hole in the early 1960s. Dismayed by the educational gap left open by the retirement of van Niel, Jan纳斯ch was able to revive his version of the summer course tradition under the masthead of the summer program in Marine Ecology at the Marine Biological Laboratory in 1971. He invited Ed to be a founding co-instructor, leading to the purchase of the summer home that Ed and Gloria enjoyed together with family, friends, and students for the next 44 years. He taught at the MBL program 1971–1977. One outgrowth of that was a book series of three volumes, *Bacteria in Nature*, that he co-edited with...
Jeanne S. Poindexter. Later, Ed returned to codirect the program with Abigail Salyers for five summers, 1995–1999. The opportunity to expose “The van Niel Approach” to another generation of microbiologists provided him with great satisfaction. This program has now, since its 1971 inception, impacted more than 800 graduate and postdoctoral students from around the world, including many who have subsequently developed esteemed careers in research and mentoring. In 2013, the program gained ASM’s “Milestones in Microbiology Site” status.

During 6 decades of research, Ed enjoyed pursuing the secrets of the microbe, and published on a variety of topics: from biological alkane oxidation, to the ecology and ultrastructure of spore-forming bacteria, to the enzymology of denitrification, to the utilization of novel electron donors by sulfur and non-sulfur anoxygenic phototrophic bacteria, to the elucidation of sulfonolipids as determinants of bacterial gliding motility, to the microbial metabolisms of sulfonic acids by microbes. In recent years his attentions had turned to ciliates and bacterial symbionts, and to revisiting long held interests in yeast diversity. But for most of his career, his fundamental interests lay in the so-called gliding bacteria, which “can move over solid surfaces but cannot swim through liquids.”

Ed spent sabbaticals in Sevilla, Spain (1972) and Szeged, Hungary (1985). In 1991, he served as a program manager at the National Science Foundation. Ed was a Fellow of the American Academy of Microbiology, and twice an ASM Lecturer. In 2014, he gratefully received ASM’s D.C. White Research & Mentoring Award, and was joyfilled while greeting several hundred wellwishing microbiologists in what was truly a capstone experience in his long career and affiliation with the Society.

While Ed cultivated an almost monastic dedication to the study of bacteria (which he often simply called “The Microbe”) with an energized, rare passion that never waned over 60 years, it takes people to study microbes, and he cultivated as many long-term friendships as he did bacteria. Former students can attest that Ed enjoyed sharing his love of wine and a full breadth of ethnic cuisines. He had a quirky, idiosyncratic style, typified by his love of Clark’s shoes, his sagging white cotton socks, and his first choice in automobiles for most of his adult life, the Peugeot. Missed will be his whimsical demeanor, his friendly, bellowing voice, and his epic smile. He is survived by his wife, Gloria; their four children and families; and many “Adjacent Leadbetters.” His family gratefully acknowledges with warm appreciation all those mentors, colleagues, and students who had so enriched his professional life.

**Jared Renton Leadbetter**  
California Institute of Technology, Pasadena