

The Obesity Society Honors Leading Scientific Professionals at *Obesity 2009*

Awards Presented at the 27th Annual Scientific Meeting of The Obesity Society

Washington, DC, November, 2009, At *Obesity 2009*, the 27th Annual Scientific Meeting of The Obesity Society, several leading professionals were honored for their research, scientific achievements, advancements, and contributions to the field of obesity.

At the Opening Session, held Saturday, October 24, Dr. Thomas A. Wadden, was presented with the George A. Bray Founder's Award. Making the presentation, Dr. Robert F. Kushner, outgoing president of the society, thanked Dr. Wadden for his significant contributions to The Obesity Society and advancements to the scientific and clinical basis for understanding or treating obesity. Wadden shared a lecture titled *New Life in Lifestyle Modification for Obesity*. Dr. Wadden was applauded for donating his award to the society's New Investigator Grant Fund.

In the same Opening Session, the 2009 New Investigator Grant (NIG) recipients were recognized. The New Investigator Grants fund studies proposed by new investigators who have completed their doctorates (or residency training) within the past five years. Awards of \$25,000 were presented to the two 2009 recipients, Dr. J. Graham Thomas from The Warren Alpert Medical School of Brown University, and Dr. Elinor L. Sullivan from the Oregon Health & Science University. The 2009 Annual Awards for Outstanding Journal Articles published in *Obesity* were awarded to Thomas A. Wadden, PhD and Bradley Appelhans, PhD for Best Research and Jacqueline M. Stephens, PhD for Best Reviewer.

On Sunday, October 25, George L. Blackburn, MD, from the Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center was presented with the 2009 Mickey Stunkard Lifetime Achievement Award. The award recognizes people who, like Albert (Mickey) Stunkard, have made a lifetime of outstanding contributions to the field of obesity in terms of scholarship, mentorship, and education. Dr. Blackburn, who received his award from Immediate Past President Gary Foster, PhD, received a \$1,000 cash prize and spoke about the changes over time in physical activity and human obesity.

The TOPS Research Achievement Award, sponsored by Take Off Pounds Sensibly (TOPS) Club, Inc., was presented by Barbara Cady of TOPS in a session on Monday, October 26 to David B. Allison, PhD, from the University of Alabama at Birmingham. The TOPS Award honors singular achievement or contribution to research in the field of obesity. Accepting the \$5,000 cash award during the ceremony, Dr. Allison presented his lecture entitled, *Experiments With Truth*.

The Lilly Scientific Achievement Award, sponsored by the Eli Lilly Pharmaceutical Company, recognizes excellence in an established research career. On Tuesday, October 27, award winner, Martin G. Myers, Jr., MD, PhD, from the University of Michigan, gave a lecture on *Mechanisms of Leptin Action*. During the same session, the Ethan Sims Young Investigator Awards were presented. The award, which recognizes excellence in research by young investigators based on their submitted abstracts and their presentations during *Obesity 2009*, allows each finalist up to \$1,000 to cover annual meeting expenses. This year's five finalists were: Anthony Molina, PhD, Gavitt Woodard, Kiyah Duffey, PhD, Henriette Kirchner, MS, PhD candidate, and F. Martin Fisher, PhD. The winning abstract presentation was made by Ms. Kirchner, who received an additional \$1,000 award.

Finally, the 2009 Pat Simons Travel Awards were awarded prior to the annual scientific meeting to 15 finalists to help cover their transportation expenses to *Obesity 2009*.

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About The Obesity Society

The Obesity Society (www.obesity.org) is the leading scientific organization dedicated to the study of obesity. The Obesity Society is committed to encouraging research on the causes and treatment of obesity and keeping the medical community and public informed of new advances. The Obesity Society's vision is to be the leader in understanding, preventing and treating obesity and in improving the lives of those affected. The Obesity Society's membership comprises approximately 2500 basic and clinical researchers, who have published extensively, and care providers in obesity treatment and prevention.