Dr. Michael Oldstone Presented Rous-Whipple Award
by American Association of Pathologists

La Jolla, CA. April 6, 1993 -- Michael B. A. Oldstone, M.D., was presented the Rous-Whipple Award at the annual meeting of the American Association of Pathologists on March 30 in New Orleans. He is head of the Division of Virology and a member of the Department of Neuropharmacology at The Scripps Research Institute, where he has been on staff since 1966.

The award recognizes an experimentalist in the area of pathogenesis age 50 years or older with a distinguished career in research and continued productivity at the time of the award. In addition to attending a ceremony and award presentation in his honor, Oldstone presented a lecture entitled, Viral Diseases of the 21st Century. "Described as a piece of bad news wrapped in a protein coat," he said, "viruses are best known by the diseases they cause, diseases characterized by a relatively defined clinical picture reflective of histologic injury accompanied by an inflammatory infiltrate. "Yet," he continued, "viruses do much more."
An important variation on this theme is that viruses cause disease by interfering with the function of an infected cell without killing it. Recognizing that viruses could persist and thereby cause disease has been one of the major accomplishments in virology. By this means, viruses can underlie a wide variety of diseases, currently of unknown etiology, that affect the endocrine, immune, nervous and other differentiated systems, he explained.

Oldstone worked in the M.D./Ph.D. program and received his medical degree from the University of Maryland where he completed an internship in medicine and a residency in medicine and neurology. He joined the Scripps organization as a fellow in the Department of Experimental Pathology in 1966, became an associate member of the Department of Immunopathology in 1971 and a member of the Department of Immunology in 1978.

He is the recipient of numerous honors and awards, including the Abraham Flexner Award and Lectureships for contributions in biomedical research from Vanderbilt University, the Cotzias Award and Lecture for Research Excellence in Nervous System Disease from the American Academy of Neurology, The Maurice C. Pincoffs Award and Lecture in Medicine from the University of Maryland Medical School, the National Institutes of Health Visiting Scholar Award, and the Andrew Mark Lippard Award and Lecture from Columbia University College of Physicians and Surgeons.
Oldstone has served on a number of prestigious advisory boards and is currently a scientific counselor for NIAID, and a member of the scientific advisory group of experts for the World Health Organization, Geneva Program for Vaccine Development.

He has held positions on many editorial boards including those of the Annual Review of Immunology, Journal of Immunology, Journal of Infectious Diseases, Archives of Virology, Journal of Neuroimmunology, and currently serves as editor of the Journal of Virology and advisory editor of the Journal of Experimental Medicine.

In addition to his appointment at Scripps, Oldstone is an adjunct professor in the Departments of Neurosciences and Pathology at the University of California, San Diego School of Medicine.

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