TSRI Scientist Receives 1994 City of Medicine Award

La Jolla, CA. August 24, 1994 — Ernest Beutler, M.D., a research scientist and physician who has developed pioneering treatments for leukemia, sickle cell anemia and other blood disorders, has been named one of four recipients nationwide of the prestigious City of Medicine Awards for 1994, sponsored by Durham, North Carolina.

Chairman of the Department of Molecular and Experimental Medicine at The Scripps Research Institute (TSRI), Beutler is an internationally-recognized hematologist who, together with Dr. Dennis Carson at Scripps, developed a new anti-lymphoid drug, Cladribine, used successfully to treat hairy cell leukemia, a rare and often fatal form of leukemia, and other lymphoid malignancies. Recent clinical trials conducted by Beutler and his associates at Scripps indicate that the drug is an effective therapy for chronic progressive multiple sclerosis. His clinical studies on sickle cell anemia have led to improved approaches to the management of the blood disorder.

Beutler is a member of the National Academy of Sciences, past president of the American Society of Hematology and serves on the advisory council of the Heart, Lung and Blood Institute of the National Institutes of Health.
After receiving his medical degree from the University of Chicago in 1950, Beutler spent four years on the school’s faculty. He then moved to the City of Hope Medical Center in Duarte, California, where he was chairman of the Division of Medicine and director of the Department of Hematology. Beutler was also a clinical professor of medicine at the University of Southern California until 1978 when he joined Scripps Clinic. In addition to his appointment at TSRI, currently he is a clinical professor of medicine at the University of California, San Diego.

Other awardees are King K. Holmes, M.D., Ph.D., of the University of Washington, a world authority on AIDS and other sexually transmitted diseases; and Monroe E. Wall, Ph.D., and Mansukh Wani, Ph.D., of Research Triangle Institute, who will share an award for their joint discovery and development of two cancer-fighting compounds found in the bark of two trees.

Nominations for the City of Medicine Awards are made by medical schools, pharmaceutical companies, non-profit research institutes and other medical organizations. Award recipients are chosen by a prominent national selection committee.

The annual Durham City of Medicine Awards Program honors major discoveries and developments in medicine and medical research, improvements in patient care, new scientific and technological progress, and innovations in medical economics and philanthropy. It is conducted by the City of Medicine Program, an affiliate of the Greater Durham Chamber of Commerce.

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