



Award Lecture

2002 Pioneer in NeuroVirology lecture

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V. ter Meulen (Würzburg, D)

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2002 Pioneer in NeuroVirology Award

Brian Wigdahl, Ph.D., President
International Society for NeuroVirology

The Board of Directors of the International Society for NeuroVirology (ISNV) established the Pioneer in NeuroVirology Award in 1998 to recognize the lifetime research career achievements of outstanding investigators working in the area of neurovirology and related disciplines. The ISNV Board of Directors selects the Awardee after consideration of nominees provided by the Society Membership.

The first ISNV Pioneer in NeuroVirology Award was presented to Dr. Richard T. Johnson, Professor of Neurology at The Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine. The award recognized Dr. Johnson for his many important contributions to the field of neurovirology, and was presented at the Second International Symposium of NeuroVirology, a Gordon Research Conference, which was held in June of 1999. Dr. Richard Johnson's interest in viral infections of the central nervous system began in the 1960's when he was in the Department of Viral Diseases at Walter Reed Army Institute of Research. He worked with Dr. Edward Buescher, a virologist, and characterized the effects of enterovirus infections in the central nervous system. He then went on to the Massachusetts General Hospital where he trained in neurology. Dr. Johnson has been the leader in synthesizing the fields of virology and neurology. The major part of Dr. Johnson's career was at the Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine as the Dwight D. Eisenhower Professor of Neurology, a position he held from 1969 until his appointment as neurologist-in-chief and director of the Department of Neurology in 1988. Both his clinical and basic research work over the past

30 years has focused on viral infections of the nervous system. Dr. Johnson is considered by many to be a founding father of neurovirology and is responsible for training many leaders in the field.

The second Pioneer in NeuroVirology Award was presented to Dr. Volker ter Meulen, Chairman of the Research Centre for Infectious Diseases at the University of Würzburg, and was presented at the Third International Symposium on NeuroVirology which was held in San Francisco, CA in September of 2000. Dr. ter Meulen's contributions to the field of neurovirology span a period of more than thirty years in which his research has been directed toward the study of virus persistence in the central nervous system (CNS). His research has targeted acute measles encephalitis, measles inclusion body encephalitis, and subacute sclerosing panencephalitis. His seminal observations have greatly contributed to our current understanding of virus persistence and pathogenesis in the CNS. In addition, his research has been instrumental in determining the etiology of other viral-associated neurological syndromes. Dr. ter Meulen's studies on measles virus pathogenesis have contributed to our understanding of the mechanisms by which viruses are able to escape the immune response. In addition, his work has shown how measles and coronavirus infections are able to induce MHC expression and initiate an autoimmune response. Dr. ter Meulen received an M.D. degree from the University of Göttingen in 1960 and research fellowship training at Philadelphia Children's Hospital. He is a past Chair of the Institute of Virology and Immunobiology and Dean of the Faculty of Medicine at the University of Würzburg. Dr. ter Meulen is a dedicated researcher whose contributions have had considerable impact on the field of neurovirology.

The 2002 Pioneer in NeuroVirology Award will be presented at the Symposium Banquet.