Robert C. Gallo, MD, Alpha Omega Alpha National Honor Society Visiting Professor at New Jersey Medical School, April 23, 2012

Robert C. Gallo, MD, human immunodeficiency virus-codiscoverer and acclaimed scientist, returned to New Jersey Medical School after about a quarter century to serve as Alpha Omega Alpha (AΩA) Visiting Professor. The legendary Prof. Gallo and his co-workers discovered interleukin-2 in 1976, which set the stage for culturing human T-cells. Accordingly, he was able to discover HHV-6, HTLV-1 and HTLV-2, and co-discover HIV (HTLV-3) as well as devised the first blood test for HIV disease. He has won the vaunted Albert Lasker Prize twice and has 30 honorary doctorates and a multitude of other awards and accolades. It was a wonderful experience for faculty, residents and students as Prof. Gallo graciously shared his experiences in two overpacked one-hour lectures, discussions with individual faculty members, and an inspirational evening talk (Fig. 1).

The inspiring keynote address, introduced by Stan Weiss and Robert A. Schwartz, was delivered by AΩA Visiting Professor Robert C. Gallo MD, who had himself been inducted into AΩA 50 years earlier as a medical student at the Jefferson Medical College. He enchanted the audience with inspiring stories of his early life complete with trepidation and challenges. He urged medical students to pursue a career in research, especially in virology. It was a day that faculty, residents, and students will long recall, thanks to the extraordinary graciousness and enthusiasm of legendary AΩA Visiting Professor Robert C. Gallo, MD.

Robert A. Schwartz, MD, MPH
New Jersey Medical School, Newark
roschwar@cal.berkeley.edu

Figure 1. AΩA Visiting Professor Robert C. Gallo being honored: W. Clark Lambert, Robert A. Schwartz, Stanley Weiss, Robert C. Gallo, Teresa Valentin, Patrick H. McDonough, and James Oleske (left to right)
Women’s Dermatologic Society Award to Jean Bolognia

On March 18, 2012, at the Annual Meeting Luncheon in Indigo Ballroom of Hilton Hotel in San Diego, WDS Awards delivery was successfully organized by Prof. Diane Berson, president of the Women’s Dermatologic Society (WDS 2011-2012) Physicians Leaders Mentors. Awards were designated for particular areas of professional skill development and goal-oriented projects. Up to $10,000 were awarded!

WDS Mission is to foster, promote and support women’s issues in dermatology; to identify, train, and recognize women leaders in dermatology; to provide a forum for developing relationships through mentoring and building of coalitions; to provide a forum for the exchange of ideas and research relevant women’s issues; to promote the highest possible standards of ethics, support of research, patient care, patient education and public education.

The WDS Career and Community Advancement Award encourages projects and initiatives focusing on community service, career enhancement, and advancement of the specialty of dermatology. This year, the 2012 Rose Hirschler Award Recipient is Jean L. Bolognia, Professor of Dermatology at the Yale University School of Medicine, the author of over 180 articles and book chapters, especially as senior editor of the textbook Dermatology, which has been translated into four other languages. She is “walking encyclopedia”! Rose Hirschler Award is named in honor of Dr. Rose Hirschler, the first known female dermatologist in the United States. The Award is presented annually by the WDS to a physician chosen for significant contributions to medicine and dermatology and who by their achievement has served to enhance the role of women in the specialty of dermatology.

Jasna Lipozenčić (2010-2013) and Branka Marinović (2012-2015), members of the International Affairs Committee of WDS from Europe, participated in this ceremony together with Luitgard Wiest co-chair (2010-2013) Dedee F. Murrell previous chair and current senior advisor of International Affairs Committee. Congratulation to Jean!

Professor Jasna Lipozenčić, MD, PhD

American Academy of Dermatology Annual Meeting Awards

In recognition of his outstanding service to dermatology, his efforts through the Academy, and his commitment to the future of teaching and practice of cutaneous medicine, C. William Hanke, MD, former Academy president, was awarded the Academy’s Gold Medal as a high honor. Wilma Bergfeld, MD, received the Academy’s Marion B. Sulzberger MD Award and Gold Triangle Award, and is the namesake of WDS Visionary and Leadership Award. Thomas Waldinger, MD, receives Arnold P. Gold Foundation Humanism in Medicine Award to physicians who demonstrate commitment to patient care. Drs. Amandasabapathy and Cho win the Young Investigators Award of the Academy 2012. Dr. Raymond Cho and his group at UCSF investigate how the cells of the skin become vulnerable to genetic damage, acquire genomic mutations and progress to a cancerous state. AAD and the Dermatology Foundation play a critical role in encouraging new investigators and rendering the field contributions to molecular medicine.

Professor Jasna Lipozenčić, MD, PhD