

Plenary Session

State-of-the-Art Lecture

Epigenetics Expert to Examine Environment's Link to Disease



Andrew P. Feinberg, MD, MPH

Andrew P. Feinberg, MD, MPH, will deliver a state-of-the-art lecture entitled "Epigenetics at the Crossroad of Genetics and Environment Leading to Disease" on Saturday, Nov. 4.

Dr. Feinberg is director of the Center for Epigenetics at the Johns Hopkins University. He also holds an adjunct professorship at the Karolinska Institute in Sweden and is a presidential scholar at Harvard's Dana Farber Cancer Institute.

Dr. Feinberg made the first discoveries of altered DNA methylation in human cancer. He discovered human imprinted genes and loss of imprinting in cancer, and proved the epigenetic hypothesis of cancer through his work on Beckwith-Wiedemann syndrome. He also identified the first common genetic or epigenetic variant for cancer risk—loss of imprinting of insulin-like growth factor 2 in colorectal cancer. His discovery of epigenetically altered progenitor cells led to a paradigm shift in our understanding of carcinogenesis.

Recently, he pioneered genome-scale epigenetics with the first epigenome center funded by the National Institutes of Health (NIH). The center has pioneered methods such as the first comprehensive genome-scale methylation, which led it to identify the major target for epigenetic variation in humans. Dr. Feinberg led the first whole genome bisulfite sequencing analysis of human cancer.

He received the NIH Pioneer Award for his idea in 2009 that genetic variants, in evolution or in cancer, could lead to increased epigenetic plasticity, enhancing survival in a changing environment. His studies of metastasis driven by stochastic epigenetic change rather than metastasis-specific mutations provided evidence for this idea.

His honors include a MERIT Award from the National Cancer Institute, election to the National Academy of Medicine, and the Feodor Lynen Medal from the German Society for Biochemistry and Molecular Biology. The Institute for Scientific Information ranks him among the most cited authors.

Dr. Feinberg received his MD and MPH from Johns Hopkins University. As a postdoctoral fellow at the University of California, San Diego, he identified epigenetic memory of cell fate in *Dictyostelium*. He received clinical training in medicine at the University of Pennsylvania and in medical genetics at Johns Hopkins. As a fellow there from 1983 to 1986, he developed the random priming method, which is ranked in the top 100 papers of all time in citations. He was a Howard Hughes investigator at the University of Michigan from 1986 to 1994, and returned to Johns Hopkins as the King Fahd Professor of Medicine, Molecular Biology, and Genetics.

ASN to Bestow Belding H. Scribner Award on Raymond M. Hakim



Raymond M. Hakim, MD, PhD

The Belding H. Scribner Award will be tendered to Raymond M. Hakim, MD, PhD, on Saturday, Nov. 4, for his career-long contributions to the practice of nephrology. Dr. Hakim is professor of medicine in the division of nephrology and hypertension at the Vanderbilt University Medical Center. Established in 1995, the Belding H. Scribner Award is presented to individuals who have made outstanding contributions to the care of patients with renal disorders or have substantially influenced the clinical practice of nephrology.

Dr. Hakim has made significant contributions in patient care, research, and service to professional organizations. Dr. Hakim began his career as an engineer. He received a master of science degree from Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute and a PhD in engineering from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology in 1967. He worked in Montreal as a research engineer at Hydro-Quebec. He changed his career path to study medicine at McGill University and completed his residency in internal medicine at the Royal Victoria Hospital in 1979. He followed this with a fellowship in nephrology at Harvard Medical School and Brigham and Women's Hospital.

From 1981 to 1987, he was associate professor of medicine at Harvard and attending nephrologist at Brigham and Women's Hospital. In 1987, he became professor of medicine at Vanderbilt University School of Medicine, and medical director of the Vanderbilt University Medical Center dialysis facility.

In 1995, Dr. Hakim was one of the founders and chief medical officer of the Renal Care Group, a provider of outpatient dialysis services. By 2005, the Renal Care Group had more than 35,000 patients and had the lowest mortality and hospitalization rates among all dialysis providers, according to the United States Renal Data System (USRDS). The group merged with Fresenius Medical Care in 2007, and Dr. Hakim became the chief medical officer, serving from 2009 to 2012. His tenure was associated with a 20% reduction in mortality and hospitalization of its patients.

Dr. Hakim has spoken at many patient and health care professional meetings, authored more than 190 articles on clinical and basic research in dialysis and plasmapheresis, and contributed 35 chapters to medical books.

He has served as a member of the editorial boards of several journals and received the National Kidney Foundation Joel D. Kopple Award and the Medal of Excellence Award from the American Association of Kidney Patients.

John P. Peters Award to Honor Ronald J. Falk



Ronald J. Falk, MD, FASN

ASN will recognize the wide-ranging contributions of Ronald J. Falk, MD, FASN, with the presentation of the John P. Peters Award on Saturday, Nov. 4.

The John P. Peters Award is given for outstanding contributions to improving the lives of patients and to furthering the understanding of the kidney in health and disease.

Dr. Falk is an internationally recognized physician-scientist who has devoted more than three decades to the study of autoimmune kidney disease and ANCA vasculitis in an effort to improve the lives of patients afflicted with these conditions. His research has led to a deeper understanding of the causes and conditions that lead to the development of ANCA vasculitis.

Dr. Falk chairs the department of medicine at the University of North Carolina. He is also chair of Carolina Dialysis, LLC, and chair and co-founder of the Carolina Vascular Access Center. In 2005, he founded and became director of the UNC Kid-

ney Center.

Dr. Falk served as ASN president from 2011 to 2012. He has served ASN in various other capacities, including on the council, finance committee, education committee, and annual meeting program committee. He has served as chair or a member of several National Institutes of Health study sections and steering committees. He founded Kidney Health Initiative, a public-private partnership with the ASN and the U.S. Food and Drug Administration.

He has served on many editorial boards, including for *Kidney International*, *Journal of the American Society of Nephrology*, *Journal of Nephrology*, *American Journal of Kidney Diseases*, and *American Family Physician*. His research has resulted in more than 230 publications in peer-reviewed journals, and he has contributed some 140 book chapters and reviews and more than 300 abstracts.

Dr. Falk has received a number of distinguished professorships at UNC and was most recently honored with the Nan and Hugh Cullman Eminent Professorship in 2016. He has received numerous other honors and awards, including recognition as one of the "Best Doctors in America" every year since 1982.

Dr. Falk obtained his MD from the University of North Carolina School of Medicine. He served as chief of the division of nephrology and hypertension at the University of North Carolina from 1993 through 2015.