

APPENDIX A

**Citation and Response of the
2008 O. Max Gardner Award Recipient
DR. MYRON SCOTT COHEN**

Citation:

Dr. Cohen completed his training in Infectious Disease at Yale University in 1980, the very year that AIDS was first identified. He has since spent virtually his entire career studying the transmission and prevention of the virus responsible for this illness, HIV. He and his colleagues have developed sensitive assays to measure the concentration of HIV in critical body fluids, using these assays to estimate the risks of HIV transmission. Dr. Cohen and his colleagues were among the first to demonstrate that classical sexually transmitted diseases (STDs) such as gonorrhea, amplify the transmission of HIV and this work has been critical to the development of HIV prevention strategies.

While Dr. Cohen's research efforts are exceptional by any standard, his attention to the global importance of his work deserves special attention. He has married basic research, public health, and medicine, and his ideas have had a profound influence on the worldwide thinking about HIV prevention. His work has benefited the people of North Carolina, the United States, and millions of individuals throughout the world.

Dr. Cohen's contributions have not gone unnoticed. On World AIDS Day in 2000, he was invited to deliver the key note address of the United Nations that focused on HIV transmission and prevention. In 2005, he received the Thomas Parran Award from the American Sexually Transmitted Diseases Association presented annually to a member for long and distinguished contributions in the field of STD research and prevention. The Parran Award is thought to be the most prestigious recognition in this field of research. Also in 2005, Dr. Cohen received the National Institutes of Health MERIT Award for his ongoing research in this critical field. Recognizing his extraordinary vision and the scope of his global health research, the Board of Governors takes great pleasure in presenting the 2008 O. Max Gardner Award to Dr.

Myron Scott Cohen, J. Herbert Bate Distinguished Professor of Medicine at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.

Response by Dr. Cohen:

I thank the Board of Governors and my family and friends who accompanied me to the event. My wife, Gail E. Henderson, had a longstanding commitment to being in China with a whole team of research investigators from UNC Chapel Hill. Thank you, Mr. Webb Gardner for being here.

I read a book about Oliver Max Gardner written by the late professor and author Joseph L. Morrison, to learn more about the Governor Gardner Award. He had great love for higher education. He had great vision of a unified system. He worked tirelessly to make a united UNC system. And by looking at all the Chancellors, the fruits of his labor are fully visualized.

Thank you to UNC Chapel Hill and the leadership of my three departments: Internal Medicine, Microbiology and Epidemiology, and Medicine and Public Health, who supported me in everything I wanted to do over the many years. UNC Chapel Hill allowed me to have big dreams and big ideas and some actually were realized.

Dr. Fred Sparling is the emeritus chairman of two departments: Microbiology and the chairman of Medicine. He is a great leader in internal medicine and has been my friend and colleague and collaborator for all these years and he noted over time, my love of hyperbole and my great difficulty separating aspiration and reality. But the University's tolerance of these traits has been critical to our programs.

Our UNC research time has had the chance to tackle very difficult problems. We work on the transmission of infectious diseases, especially HIV. We made observations that are important to the prevention of HIV and vaccine development. I am receiving the O. Max Gardner Award on behalf of a large research community. The whole research team is credited which includes tireless, creative, and thick-skinned students, post-doctoral fellows, and faculty who work with me over 30 years on all these programs. I pay special tribute to Irving Hoffman, Director of International Programs, and Susan Fiscus who directs our Clinical Retrovirology

Lab. Both of these investigators have been my partners for all the work we have done and it would be impossible to be successful without all their work and effort.

Why should we, as faculty, be given the opportunity to work in other countries? To be able to address important questions on behalf of this University and the University system, we need to work on the world stage. Answers can only be obtained now working globally. To teach today's students properly, we need to understand students everywhere. To improve public health in North Carolina, we need to improve global health. We're part of the world community now and UNC Chapel Hill and the UNC system recognize this. UNC Chapel Hill is becoming a renowned global university and we hope the work we've done in infectious disease contributes to that goal.

Finally, passion and tenacity are the characteristics that I cherish the most. A Chinese proverb says: *May you live in interesting times*. My personal and professional life have fulfilled this wish beyond any dream. We are working to prevent and treat and maybe cure HIV infection. Our research team is too tenacious and too passionate about the goals of their careers. So, this is obviously a terrific and remarkable honor to receive this award in this setting.

On behalf of myself and on behalf of our research group, I cannot thank you enough. Thank you to the UNC system and UNC Chapel Hill for making this possible. I truly hope and believe that our greatest contribution lay ahead of us. Our greatest work will be in the future years. I thank you for letting me work here for the past 30 years!