

APPENDIX G

Citation

OLIVER SMITHIES

It's one of the strongest of stereotypes: The white-coated man with an Einstein hairdo, hunched over a laboratory table, tinkering with a microscope and oddly shaped glassware, talking in impossible six-syllable words — and scoffing at lay people who just don't understand. The research scientist.

DR. OLIVER SMITHIES, Excellence Professor of Pathology and Laboratory Medicine, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, through his remarkable discoveries in molecular genetics and his design and investigation of valuable innovative animal models of human diseases, has helped fellow scientists make dramatic improvements in human health and welfare during the new millennium. His discoveries in genetics and molecular biology, especially his pioneering work on targeted genetic modifications in experimental animals, have been of enormous value in recent developmental biology research. Professor Smithies' work has advanced the treatment of diseases such as Alzheimer's, cancer, and cystic fibrosis, many of which are now difficult or impossible to treat effectively.

Numerous honors and awards have recognized the importance of Dr. Smithies' scientific and medical accomplishments. He is one of only three people to win the prestigious Gairdner Foundation International Award twice. That award recognizes outstanding contributions to medical science and is an honor that is frequently a prelude to winning a Nobel Prize. Because of the great importance of his research on cardiovascular disease, the American Heart Association recently gave Professor Smithies its Research Achievement Award. Most recently he received the 2001 Albert Lasker Medical Research Award. The Lasker Award, among the nation's most prestigious honors, recognizes extraordinary contributions to basic and clinical medical research.

Oliver Smithies has made a steady stream of remarkable discoveries that are yielding enormous benefits to the human race. The Board of Governors of The University of North Carolina is honored to name DR. OLIVER SMITHIES, Excellence Professor of Pathology and Laboratory Medicine, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, as a recipient of the 2002 Oliver Max Gardner Award.

Response of Oliver Smithies

Over the course of more than 50 years as a scientist, I have received various forms of recognition. Not all of them have been favourable. I recollect, with some amusement, my University Tutor's completely deserved comments on one of my written efforts,

"Diffuse. Indisciplined, and at times inaccurate."

One's faults are clearly apparent to those who are close! So it is that distant bodies, who are not close enough to see personal faults, can more easily find favourable things to recognize. But it is also for this same reason that recognition by one's own Institution is more precious. To be honored by people who have to live with you, or in association with you, is a recognition that is truly appreciated.

And, although I have been in the University of North Carolina for about 14 years, I do come from elsewhere, as you no doubt will recognize from my way of talking, so I am especially honored that you would choose to think of me.