George E. Palade Gold Medal Award & Lecture

Recipient of the Nobel Prize

Professor George E. Palade [Nov. 19, 1912 – Oct. 7, 2008] (Lancet 372:1876, 2008) considered the father of modern cell biology (Pancreatology 3:518-519, 2003), shared the Nobel Prize for Physiology or Medicine in 1974 with Professors Albert Claude and Christian de Duve, for his pioneering studies in the 1950's and 1960's, defining the structure and function of cellular components including the ribosome, secretory vesicles, and the endoplasmic reticulum. Professor Palade's student Professor Günter Blobel similarly for pioneering discovery in the 1970's and 1980's that 'proteins have intrinsic signals that govern their transport and localization in the cell', received the unshared 1999 Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine. "Similar to his grand mentor, George E. Palade, B. Jena's utilization of new nanotechnologies, such as the atomic force microscopy, in combination with conventional technologies like electron microscopy, biochemistry, and electrophysiology, brought understanding of the cell to a new next level" (Pancreatology 3:518-519, 2003). In May of 2003, for their pioneering contributions to cellular and molecular physiology, Babes-Bolyai University in Romania, the country of Professor Palade's birth and origin, jointly honored Professors Palade, Blobel, and Jena with honorary doctorate degree in Medicine. On Nov. of 2003, under the leadership of Wayne State University President Dr. Irvin D. Reid, and with permission of Professor Palade, the "George E. Palade Award" was established at the School of Medicine, with its first recipient being no other than Professor Palade's student Professor Günter Blobel. Among the 14 awards made since its inception by an international panel of experts, in addition to receiving other major prizes such as the Gairdner and the Lasker Award, five have received the Nobel Prize: Professors David Baltimore, Günter Blobel, Ada Yonath, Thomas Steitz, and Joachim Frank.

2003

Günter Blobel

" for his pioneering discovery of the signal peptide in cells "

2004

David Sabatini

"for his contribution to modern cell biology "

2005

Bhanu P. Jena

"for his pioneering discovery of the 'porosome', the universal secretory machinery in cells "

2006

Judah Folkman

"for his pioneering discovery that all tumor growth is angiogenesis-dependent "

2007

Peter Walter

"for seminal contribution on how proteins properly localize within cells"

2008

Thomas A. Steitz

"for his pioneering contributions to our understanding of ribosome structure and function "

Ada Yonath

"for her pioneering contributions to our understanding of ribosome structure and function "

Joachim Frank

"for his pioneering contributions to our understanding of ribosome structure and function "

2009

Michael Berridge

"for his pioneering contributions to discovery of the second messenger ionositol trisphosphate (IP3) "

2010

Walter F. Boron

" for his pioneering work on pH regulation in cells"

William A. Catterall

" for his pioneering discovery of L-type calcium channels"

Richard Tsien

" for his pioneering discovery of N-type calcium channels"

2013

Arthur L. Horwich

"for his pioneering studies elucidating our understanding of protein folding"

2018

David Baltimore

"for pioneering discovery of the transcription factor *NfkB* and major contributions to the field of immunobiology"