



American Society for Investigative Pathology

Investigating the Mechanisms of Disease

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For Immediate Release...

**American Society for Investigative Pathology (ASIP) to Award
Christopher R. Weber, MD, PhD, the ASIP 2013 Excellence in Science Award**



Bethesda, MD - Dr. Christopher R. Weber has been selected as the 2013 recipient of the ASIP Excellence in Science Award, which recognizes outstanding achievement at the earliest stages of a career in biomedical research. Accomplishments include, but are not limited to, publications and presentations as well as volunteered service to the ASIP or other professional societies, institutional committees, and the pathology community. This award is funded through the generous support of the A.D. Sobel-ASIP Education Fund.

Dr. Weber received his undergraduate degree at the University of Illinois, and his M.D. and Ph.D. from the Stritch School of Medicine, Loyola University of Chicago. Since joining Dr. Jerrold R. Turner's laboratory at the University of Chicago, Weber's studies have focused on fundamental aspects of epithelial barrier function. According to Dr. Turner, Dr. Weber has recently "developed an approach to measure electrical currents at the level of a single intercellular space and is the first to demonstrate, through these local recordings, that tight junctions display opening and closing properties not unlike single ion channels." As stated by Dr. Turner, "the existence of such events has long been theorized, but detections of such events have eluded multiple researchers over the past 20 or so years."

Dr. Vinay Kumar of the University of Chicago describes Dr. Weber as "an exceptional individual who adds to the fabric of our institution. He does this as both a gastrointestinal pathologist and as a scientist, where he has combined his skills as a pathologist with his investigative abilities to create a unique niche."

Dr. Deborah J. Nelson of the University of Chicago calls Dr. Weber "an 'outside-the-box' thinker applying techniques that are usually used to study cellular ion channels now used to study tight junction physiology." She feels that Dr. Weber "has a true passion for science and understanding mechanisms of disease that drive him to a career in academic medicine," and adds that he is highly committed to a career in academics. Dr. Nelson writes "I truly look forward to his appearance in my doorway with laptop in hand ready to show me the newest data and his interpretations." With his skills and intellectual capacity Dr. Nelson looks forward to seeing Dr. Weber "ultimately revolutionize the field of tight junction research."

Dr. Weber will present his award lecture, "Dynamic Properties of Tight Junction Structure and Function", on Saturday, April 20, 2013 at the ASIP Annual Meeting and Centennial Celebration at Experimental Biology 2013 in Boston, MA. He will receive the Excellence in Science Award on Monday, April 22, 2013 during the ASIP Awards Presentation and Membership Business Meeting.

The **American Society for Investigative Pathology** (ASIP) is a society of biomedical scientists who investigate the mechanisms of disease. Investigative pathology is an integrative discipline that links the presentation of disease in the whole organism to its fundamental cellular and molecular mechanisms by implementing a variety of structural, functional, and genetic techniques, and ultimately applies research findings to the diagnosis and treatment of diseases. ASIP is a member of the Federation of American Societies for Experimental Biology (FASEB), a coalition of 24 independent societies that plays an active role in lobbying for the interests of 100,000 biomedical scientists.

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