

## **Presidential Remarks for 2001 Life-time Achievement Award**

It is my distinct pleasure to present the 2001 Alumni Award for Achievement to Dr. Dennis Slamon, class of 1970, in recognition of his contributions to the advancement of science, Washington & Jefferson College, and our society.

A clinical oncologist and associate professor of medicine at UCLA's School of Medicine, Dr. Slamon has conducted breakthrough clinical research in breast cancer and has saved the lives of women who were once told their cancer was terminal.

His work with the HER-2 gene and Herceptin is the first fully realized cancer therapy to come out of what is now being viewed as a golden age of molecular biology.

While at Washington & Jefferson College, Dr. Slaman began to prepare for a career in medicine as a biology student and was awarded the Phi Sigma Award in Biology.

After graduating from W&J in 1970, he pursued his M.D. and Oh.D. at the Pritzker School of Medicine, University of Chicago in 1975. He continued his training in an oncology fellowship in the

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Division of Hematology-Oncology at UCLA School of Medicine. After this time, Dr. Slamon became Chief Resident of the Department of Medicine at the University of Chicago and set out to study the role played by genetic alterations in causing tumors. He believed that if he could identify what's broken in a cancer cell, he could identify the role that break plays in causing cancer, and perhaps figure out a way to target what's broken.

More than 25 years later, Dr. Slamon has continued his tenacious efforts to find a cure for cancer, and has made significant strides for the scientific community, and our society at large.

Throughout his distinguished career, Dr. Slamon has been recognized for his outstanding achievements as he has been presented with the Upjohn Award in Internal Medicine; the Triton Biosciences, Inc. Research Directors Award for Outstanding Biomedical Research; the Western Society of Clinical Investigation's Outstanding Young Investigators Award; the Milken Family Medical Foundation Award in

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Cancer Research, the National Breast Cancer Coalition's 1998 Special Recognition for Scientific Advances in Human Breast Cancer; the American for Medical Progress Education Foundation's Albert B. Sabin Heroes of Science Award; the American Association of Cancer Researchers 23<sup>rd</sup> Richard and Hinda Rosenthal Foundation Award; and the Salk Award for Translational Medicine.

While spending much of his time in the research lab, Dr. Slamon has also found time to share his knowledge with the next generation of scientists as an associate professor of medicine in the Department of Medicine at UCLA School of Medicine.

In honor of his lifetime commitment to medicine, teaching and research, I am pleased to present the 2001 Alumni Award for Achievement to Dennis Slamon.