



THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS SOUTHWESTERN MEDICAL SCHOOL AT DALLAS

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NEW YORK--Dr. Morris Ziff of Dallas, internationally known as an authority on arthritic and rheumatic disorders, was honored by his alma mater New York University Saturday (April 22) for his "classical contributions" to the understanding of connective tissue disease in man.

Dr. Ziff, professor of internal medicine at The University of Texas Southwestern Medical School at Dallas, received the Medical Alumni Achievement Award of the NYU School of Medicine Alumni Association during ceremonies that were part of annual Alumni Day at the school. Dr. Saul J. Farber, chairman of the awards committee, made the presentation in the university's Alumni Hall.

The Dallas medical scientist earned three degrees from NYU--a B.S. in 1934, a Ph.D. in chemistry in 1937, and an M.D. in 1948--and was on the School of Medicine faculty there until 1948, when he joined Southwestern in Dallas.

The citation accompanying Dr. Ziff's award describes him as "an innovator in the forefront of basic as well as clinical investigation of rheumatic diseases." Many laboratories throughout the world follow his leads and elaborate on his original contributions, it said.

"As an acknowledged leader of international repute in Rheumatology, he combines unusual talents of the resourceful, imaginative basic scientist in biochemistry and biochemical immunology and the wisdom and perception of the astute clinician." the citation states.

Dr. Ziff's studies of the rheumatoid factor, the citation said, "supplied vital clues to the immunopathology and genetics of rheumatoid arthritis."

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The award cited Dr. Ziff's investigation of the biochemical mechanisms of joint destruction, pointing out that he was the first to describe a key enzyme involved in this process and to define its "deleterious biologic and clinical effects."

His continuing metabolic studies in health and disease represent "major contributions" to deeper basic understanding of connective tissue and its diseases, the citation said. It continued:

"In the past decade, he has made classical contributions in immunology and "has delineated the relationship of this disorder to the autoimmune origins of connective tissue disease in man."

His early studies with others in enzymology and biochemistry represent "singular achievements which created new insights into biochemical mechanisms that control biological phenomena," said the award commentary.

"Following his entry into clinical investigation, Dr. Ziff made a series of original contributions that are remarkable for their continued impact on biology and medicine."

These include studies delineating the clinical and physiological effects of ACTH and cortisone. Dr. Ziff's publications describing metabolism, beneficial clinical results and the effects of these hormones on body water and electrolytes, asserts the citation, "are now classics."

"As a foremost physician-scientist he is the biochemist, the immunologist, the cell and molecular biologist dedicated to the study of the mechanisms and the eventual eradication of diseases in man," the citation concludes.

A native New Yorker, Dr. Ziff is a past president of the American Rheumatism Association and past chairman of the medical section of the Arthritis Foundation. Among his previous professional awards are the Marchman Award of the Dallas Southern Clinical Society and the Distinguished Service Award of the Arthritis Foundation, both received in 1968.

An exhibit of Dr. Ziff's scientific contributions was featured in the NYU library during the alumni observance.

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