

Friday, Oct. 1st

PHOTOCOPY
PRESERVATION

1993

Albert Lasker Medical Research Awards Luncheon *Presented by the Albert and Mary Lasker Foundation*

Winners

ALBERT LASKER
BASIC MEDICAL RESEARCH AWARD

Günter Blobel, M.D., Ph.D.

ALBERT LASKER
CLINICAL MEDICAL RESEARCH AWARD

Donald Metcalf, M.D.

ALBERT LASKER
PUBLIC SERVICE AWARD

The Honorable Paul G. Rogers

Nancy S. Wexler, Ph.D.

Keynote Speaker

First Lady Hillary Rodham Clinton

Honorary Luncheon Chairman

Michael E. DeBakey, M.D.

Chairman of Awards Jury

Presentations

Jordan W. Sutterman, M.D.

Director, Albert Lasker
Medical Research Awards Program

The Pierre Hotel
Cotillion Room
Friday, October 1, 1993

Albert Lasker Medical Research and Public Service Awards

History and Purpose

The purpose of the Albert Lasker Medical Research Awards Program is to recognize and honor individuals who have made significant contributions in basic and clinical research in the diseases which are the main causes of death and disability. In the United States, these are the cardiovascular diseases, cancer, mental illnesses, respiratory diseases, arthritis, and neurological diseases.

Winners of Albert Lasker Medical Research Awards have contributed to prolonging the prime of life, to saving hundreds of thousands of lives, and alleviating the suffering of millions of people.

The Basic Medical Research Award honors scientists whose fundamental investigations have led to techniques, information, or concepts contributing to the fight against the major causes of disability and death, and to the prolongation of the prime of life.

The Clinical Medical Research Award honors investigators whose achievements have improved the clinical treatment of patients, helping to prolong the prime of life, and alleviating or eliminating major causes of disability and death.

The Public Service Award, which is not given annually, honors individuals who have encouraged Federal legislation and support of medical research and advances in public health programs in lay publications and on television.

1993 is the 46th year of the presentation of the Albert Lasker Medical Research Awards. Since these Awards were first established, 50 Albert Lasker Medical Research Award winners have later won Nobel Prizes.

Each year's Albert Lasker Medical Research Award winners are selected by a Jury of distinguished scientists and physicians under the Chairmanship of Dr. Michael E. DeBakey. Each winner receives (or shares) a \$25,000 honorarium, a citation highlighting the winner's achievements, and an inscribed statuette of the Winged Victory of Samothrace, the Albert and Mary Lasker Foundation's traditional symbol of victory over premature death, disability, and disease.

This Year's Award

This year's Medical Research Awards recognize two researchers whose discoveries revealed profound biological principles and upon whose work many others have based remarkable medical advances.

The 1993 \$25,000 Albert Lasker Basic Medical Research Award is won by a scientist whose elegant studies resolved the fundamental problem of how a cell can organize itself into various compartments while using only one mechanism for protein production.

Günter Blobel literally created the field of protein translocation and has dominated it since the early 1970s when he first postulated that information for translocation of a secretory protein across the ER membrane is encoded in the protein itself — a proposal which he later shaped into the "signal hypothesis." The experimental paradigms he developed led to key discoveries on the mechanism of protein translocation across cellular membranes. They also led to the important realization that protein integration into distinct cellular membranes is a related process. These findings have been seminal and have led to our present understanding of protein traffic across membranes and of membrane assembly.

The winner of the 1993 \$25,000 Albert Lasker Clinical Research Award has made revolutionary discoveries of the cell biology which now bring tangible, measurable and clinically welcome advances in cancer treatment. Dr. Donald Metcalf discovered the specific white cell regulatory hormones, the colony stimulating factors (CSFs), performed the arduous task of purifying them and used the recombinant CSFs to show their control of white cell formation. Today CSFs are firmly established as important therapeutic agents in the management of infections, especially those associated with chemotherapy or marrow transplantation. Because of this remarkable work, hospitalizations for many patients have been shortened, treatment is simplified and chemotherapy can be more intensive.

The 1993 \$25,000 Albert Lasker Public Service Award is shared by two towering figures in biomedical research — one whose single-minded commitment to finding a cure for Huntington's disease has mobilized the public, government and health community; the other a public servant who has left his stamp on virtually every major piece of health legislation in the quarter century.

This year's Public Service Award honors Nancy Sabin Wexler, Ph.D. for her inexhaustible energy, leadership and dedication to finding a cure for Huntington's disease and other hereditary disorders. Her quest was triggered by her own family history and fueled by a remarkable ability to catalyze and marshal the commitment of every sector of American society. From her first efforts in Venezuela, studying the world's largest extended family with Huntington's disease, to the subsequent localization and identification of the gene that causes this disease, to her indefatigable work with the Hereditary Disease Foundation, Dr. Wexler has left an indelible mark on the world of medicine and on the lives of those threatened by this devastating and elusive disease.

Sharing the Award is the Honorable Paul G. Rogers who served for 24 years in the U.S. House of Representatives from Florida. Known for his vision, compassion, ability, energy and effectiveness, Mr. Rogers spent eight years as Chairman of the House Subcommittee on Health and the Environment.

Nearly every major health law passed in that period bears his mark: the National Cancer Act of 1971 and 1977; Heart, Lung and Blood Act; Health Manpower and Training Act; Comprehensive Drug Abuse Prevention and Control Act of 1970; Clean Air Act; and the Safe Drinking Water Act, to name a few. Although now in private law practice in Washington, D.C., he continues his prodigious commitment to better health for Americans by his service to scores of national organizations that reflect the most pressing health concerns of our time: cancer, heart and kidney disease, medical education, health care reform, aging, osteoporosis, and rehabilitation medicine.

Highlights of Previous Albert Lasker Medical Research Awards

The Discovery of Penicillin As a Cure For Syphilis.

In 1946, By John Friend Mahoney, M.D., and the timely mass production of penicillin under Alfred Newton Richards, Ph.D.

Advances In The Understanding of The Nature of The Gene.

In 1950, by George Wells Beadle, Ph.D.*, for contributions to the understanding of genetic control of metabolic processes; In 1958, by Alfred D. Hershey, Ph.D.*, Gerhard Schramm, Ph.D., and Heinz Fraenkel-Conrat, M.D., Ph.D., for their part in the discovery of the role of nucleic acid in the transmission of inherited characteristics; In 1981, by Barbara McClintock, Ph.D.*, for her revolutionary discovery that certain genetic elements are not static.

Contributions In Revealing The Structure of The DNA Molecule.

In 1960, by M.H.F. Wilkins, Ph.D.*, F.H.C. Crick, Ph.D.*, and James D. Watson, Ph.D.*

Laying The Foundations For The Rapid Development of Research In Human Genetics.

In 1960, by James V. Neel, Ph.D., M.D., and L.S. Penrose, M.D., F.R.S.

Determining The Chemical Structure of An Amino Acid Transfer RNA.

In 1965, by Robert W. Holley, Ph.D.*

*Albert Lasker Award Winner who later received the Nobel Prize

THE WINGED VICTORY OF SAMOTHRACE

The statue the Winged Victory of Samothrace, now in the Louvre, is of ancient Greek origin and is believed to date from 180 BC. It was found in the 18th century broken in 118 pieces and scattered on the Greek island of Samothrace.

It is a statue of Nike, the Greek goddess of victory whose role was to bring news of great victory from the gods. Nike, who was closely associated with Athena, the goddess of wisdom, was the "dispenser of sweet gifts ... allot[ing] to mortals and the immortalized the prize of valor."

Inscribed statuettes of the Winged Victory are traditionally presented to winners of the Albert Lasker Awards to symbolize victory over premature death, disability and disease.

RU-486: We Need Prudence, Not Politics

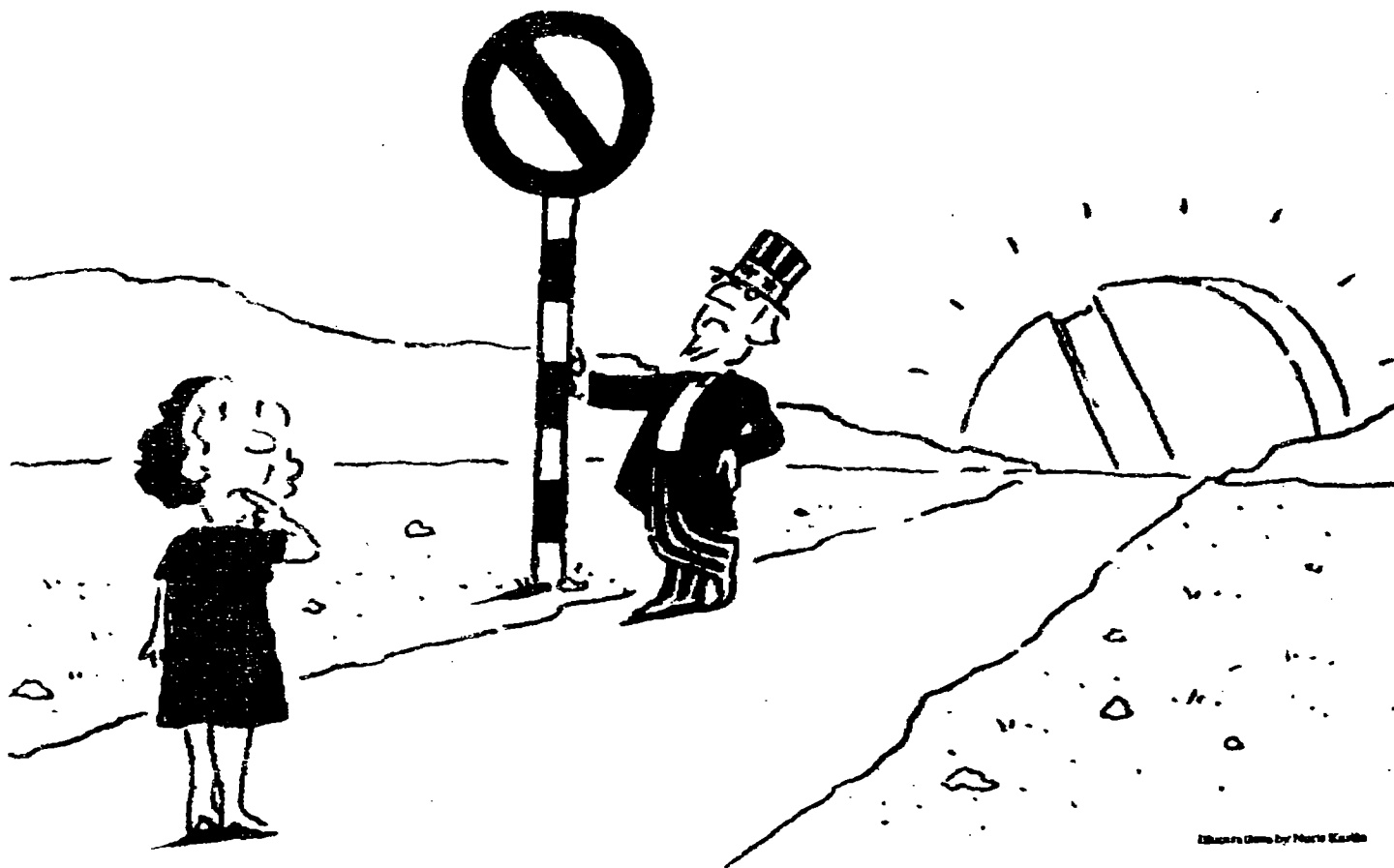


Illustration by Mark Kasten

By Ellen Chesler

It has been 70 years since Margaret Sanger claimed that science would make woman "the owner, the mistress of herself." But the spirit of her words lives on.

Lawrence Lader, a Sanger biographer, helped organize the showdown over a woman's attempt to import RU-486, the French abortion pill to the U.S., after asking himself what Margaret Sanger would have done. Sanger broke the law, went to jail, staged a hunger strike and engaged in just about every publicity imaginable to advance the reproductive rights of women. She

understood the news value of civil disobedience, even if the cause lost in court.

The Supreme Court's decision on July 17 to support the Government's seizure of the drug raised the stakes in the battle over women's bodies. RU-486 holds the promise of allowing us to distinguish the simple termination of an early pregnancy from later, more complicated abortion procedures, which understandably trouble so many people.

Developed and marketed by the French pharmaceutical company Roussel Uclaf, for which it is named, the synthetic drug works by blocking the naturally produced hormone progesterone. It prevents the implantation of the fertilized egg in the uterus,

and in this sense, then, no "life" is ever created.

With this in mind, Etienne-Ernest Baulieu, the inventor of RU-486, calls the pill a "contragestive," rather than an abortifacient, linking it to the routine and widely accepted prevention of pregnancy through hormonal contraception, which in many ways it resembles.

If naming conveys ownership, as Margaret Sanger insisted when she invented the term "birth control" and later the even more user-friendly "family planning," then we may be able to add an important new dimension to the abortion debate.

Administered orally along with a low dose of prostaglandin, a chemical agent that stimulates uterine contrac-

tions, RU-486 has so far been found to be safe and effective. The two drugs, however, must be given sequentially on consecutive days, and because there may be side effects, including prolonged and possibly painful contractions and bleeding, the procedure must be medically supervised. It does not provide the autonomous, private, pill-popping experience some of its most euphoric partisans promise, and its most vocal opponents fear.

The unregulated distribution of the two potent chemicals that make up the RU-486 regimen — or their careless use in later pregnancies — may be dangerous, a fact that feminists concerned about women's reproductive health have gone to great lengths to point out. In fact, the principal

argument of those who favor letting the drug into the country is to allow for more reliable Government testing.

With additional investigation, RU-486 also holds promise as a "morning after" pill. It may provide a breakthrough as well against breast cancer and other tumor-related diseases in which progesterone plays a role.

And though RU-486 must be taken under the supervision of a doctor or a nurse, it does not require clinics, expensive machinery or intrusive equip-

The critical stage between birth control and abortion.

ment. These are important considerations in a country where 1.5 million abortions are performed yearly, many at great cost and sacrifice.

Further testing of RU-486, along with the opportunity to invent newly liberating language, may help us find the common ground that so many Americans seem to be seeking on the abortion issue this year.

Thus the only possible explanation for the Government's dogged objections to lifting the import ban is the politics of the abortion issue.

What a pity that George Bush, who as a Congressman helped pass the family planning acts of 1967, which finally guaranteed Federal financing for contraceptive programs, should stand in our way now. What a pity that the man who as our chief delegate to the United Nations in the 1970's did so much to advance responsible international population control initiatives, including birth control and abortion, should hamper them now.

What a pity that any man still thinks he can play politics with women's bodies.

Ellen Chesler is author of "Woman of Valor: Margaret Sanger and the Birth Control Movement in America."

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Mary Lasker's Laboratory

Scientific research is so expensive that it has few private patrons. But medical research has the next best thing in Mary Lasker, the New York philanthropist. The 40th annual Lasker prizes, nearly as coveted as the Nobel Prizes, were presented in New York last week.

Government would be far less munificent a patron of medical research were it not for years of concerted prodding by Mary Lasker and her allies. She has often persuaded Congress to vote more money for the National Institutes of Health, and to create more institutes devoted to particular diseases.

The strategy is usually opposed by the Administration of the day, and by directors of the National Institutes of Health; but Mrs. Lasker, a formidable lobbyist, generally wins in the end. By a 380-to-32 margin, the House this month overrode President Reagan's veto of a bill to set up a new institute for arthritis research, and the Senate followed its lead last week in an 89-to-7 vote.

The N.I.H. campus at Bethesda, Md., now has a

plethora of national institutes, each in theory devoted to conquest of a different disease. That makes little scientific sense, because the basic research supported by the N.I.H. sheds a common light on the roots of almost all disease. But in the political arena, diseases need names to attract funds, as Mrs. Lasker well understands.

She has been equally adept in celebrating the results of this research. The Albert and Mary Lasker Foundation is often more sensitive to important new research than the Nobel Foundation, and nimbler in recognizing it.

Mrs. Lasker began her career as an art dealer, and married Albert D. Lasker, a pioneer of modern advertising. Asked whether she mightn't become a scientist if in school today, she told Nadine Brozan of The Times: "Oh no, nobody would have me in their laboratory for five minutes. I couldn't cut up a frog, and I certainly couldn't perform surgery. I'm better at making it possible for other people." At that she has clearly succeeded.

EDITORIAL PAGE

NOVEMBER 26, 1985

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ALBERT AND MARY LASKER FOUNDATION

MARY WOODARD LASKER

A Brief Biography

For more than 50 years, Mary Woodard Lasker has brought her relentless determination and energy to the fight to conquer the major killing and crippling diseases of our time. She has devoted a lifetime to encouraging Federal and state recognition of medical research in cancer, cardiovascular disease, mental illness, arthritis, neurological diseases and blindness. And equally important, she has worked tirelessly for increased private and governmental support for such research.

As President of the Foundation which she established with her late husband, Albert D. Lasker, Mrs. Lasker has played a key role in influencing the course of medical research in America by urging increased funding for medical research to prolong the prime of life.

The Albert and Mary Lasker Foundation's renowned annual Albert Lasker Awards for outstanding contributions to medical research and in Public Service are today among the most coveted American honors for scientific achievement and public health advances.

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In addition to her singleminded dedication to improved health care for Americans, Mrs. Lasker has been a leading proponent of urban beautification and has funded hundreds of tree- and bulb-planting projects in New York City and Washington, D.C. In 1985, a new variety of pink tulip was named in her honor.

EARLY YEARS

Mary Woodard Lasker was born in Watertown, Wisconsin, the elder of two daughters of Frank Elwin and Sara Johnson Woodard. Mrs. Lasker first attended the University of Wisconsin, then Radcliffe College where she graduated cum laude with a B.A. degree. Later, she took post-graduate studies at Oxford University, England.

Her first marriage, in 1926 to art gallery owner Paul Reinhardt, ended in divorce. In 1940, she married Albert Davis Lasker, advertising pioneer and owner of the famed advertising agency, Lord and Thomas.

THE LASKER FOUNDATION IS ESTABLISHED

In 1942, she and Mr. Lasker established the Albert and Mary Lasker Foundation to raise public awareness about major killing and crippling diseases and the urgent need for

Mary Woodard Lasker: A Brief Biography...3/

increased research funding to conquer them. Her sister, Mrs. Alice Fordyce, who died in 1992, was Executive Vice President of the Foundation and Director of the Albert Lasker Medical Research Awards Program.

In 1944, they presented the first Albert Lasker Medical Research Awards to encourage and honor physicians and scientists for outstanding achievements in medical research and public health administration. The first Award recipient was Col William C. Menninger for his work during World War II in mental health and War Psychiatry.

In the years since, the Lasker Awards have achieved international pre-eminence, and 50 Lasker Award winners have later won the Nobel Prize.

A NATIONAL HEALTH POLICY TAKES SHAPE

In the 1940's, the Laskers played a central role in encouraging increased funding for basic cancer research. Among their first efforts was a public awareness campaign on behalf of the group which was later to be reorganized as the American Cancer Society. Later, the Laskers were vigorous in encouraging Congress and the Executive Branch to mount an unprecedented national government-sponsored research effort for all medical sciences. This effort not only expanded the scope and budget of the National Cancer Institute but ultimately resulted in the creation of new Institutes within

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the National Institutes of Health.

MARY LASKER WINS MEDAL OF FREEDOM

Although Mr. Lasker died of cancer in 1952, Mary Lasker, undaunted in her quest to conquer disease, redoubled her efforts and carried on alone. In 1969, President Lyndon B. Johnson presented her with the Medal of Freedom, the highest national award given to a private citizen, for her tireless work in improving health care for Americans. Mrs. Lasker was a vigorous proponent of the historic National Cancer Act, which in 1971 launched the United States' War on Cancer.

In 1984, Congress named a new center, the Mary Woodard Lasker Center for Health Research and Education at the National Institutes of Health, in her honor.

GUIDING FORCE FOR MANY ORGANIZATIONS

In addition to serving as President of the Albert and Mary Lasker Foundation, Mrs. Lasker is currently an honorary member of the board and executive committee of the American Cancer Society, vice-president of the Research to Prevent Blindness Committee, and trustee and vice-chairman of the board of the United Cerebral Palsy Research and Education Foundation.

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Under her guidance, the Lasker Foundation produced "Killers and Cripplers," a handbook on illness and disease for Congress and the lay public. Since 1969, four editions of this widely used guide have been published with a fifth scheduled for publication in 1987.

In 1973, Mrs. Lasker organized physicians and laymen into a new national committee with a New York chapter, "Citizens for the Treatment of High Blood Pressure" -- an effort which contributed to a 40% reduction in the number of deaths from high blood pressure in New York State alone.

From 1980 to 1984, she was a member of the advisory committee to the Director of the National Institutes of Health.

LEGENDARY PASSION FOR FLOWERS

Mary Lasker is also legendary for her passion for environmental beautification. As early as 1943, she began brightening New York City's bleak parks and streets with colorful winter-hardy chrysanthemums. In 1956, she created 20 blocks of tulips and daffodils on Park Avenue -- an effort which has resulted in the planting of millions of flowers, shrubs and trees by the City and private individuals.

Through the Society for a More Beautiful National Capital, Mrs. Lasker contributed numerous plantings,

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including 10,000 azalea bushes along Pennsylvania Avenue, 900 flowering trees on Hains Point, 2,500 dogwood trees in Lady Bird Johnson Park, and more than 1,210,000 daffodil bulbs for Rock Creek Park, in Lady Bird Johnson Park and Potomac Parkway, and a jet fountain at the tip of Hains Point.

Mrs. Lasker has a distinguished collection of artwork including watercolors and drawings by Picasso, Matisse, Chagall, Dufy, Dali, Utrillo, Gottlieb, Sam Francis, Mathieu, Okada, Jenkins, Stamos, and pieces of early Greek and Roman sculpture.

MARY LASKER AWARDED CONGRESSIONAL GOLD MEDAL

In April 1989, President Bush presented to Mrs. Lasker on behalf of the Congress, a special Congressional Gold Medal for her humanitarian contributions in the areas of medical research and education, urban beautification, and the fine arts.

MARY WOODARD LASKER PROFESSORSHIP

The Mary Woodard Lasker Professorship of Health Sciences was established at the Harvard School of Public Health in 1989 to perpetuate Mrs. Lasker's life's crusade for the discovery of new knowledge to promote health.

AWARDS AND HONORARY DEGREES

Mrs. Lasker holds honorary degrees from the Albert Einstein College of Medicine of Yeshiva University, University of Wisconsin, Bard College, University of Southern California,

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Women's Medical College of Pennsylvania, New York University, New York Medical College, Jefferson College of Philadelphia, Columbia University and the University of California at Berkeley. Radcliffe has given her its highest honor, the Radcliffe Achievement Award. In 1987 she received a Doctor of Humanities Degree from Harvard University.

Mrs. Lasker is a member of the French Legion of Honor and has received the Cross of the Officer of the Legion of Honor. She is also listed in "Who's Who."

She is the recipient of:

The John H. Finley Medal from City College of New York;

The Gold Heart Award of the American Heart Association;

Mayor Wagner's Award for Distinguished and Special Service to the City of New York;

The Weizmann Award of the American Committee for the Weizmann Institute of Science;

The Heart of Gold Citation of the New York Heart Association;

The Municipal Art Society Award;

The Edward R. Loveland Memorial Award of the American College of Physicians;

The Medallion Award of the Foundation for Research on the 50th Anniversary of the Osteopathic Society of the City of New York (1960);

The 1966 Arthritis Foundation Award;

The 1966 Annual Special Award of the Horticultural Society of New York;

The 1966 New York State Award of the New York State Council of the Arts;

The 1967 Gold Heart Award of the International Cardiology Foundation;

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The 1968 Distinguished Service Award of the American College of Cardiology;

The Sidney Farber Gold Medal of the Children's Cancer Research Foundation (1969);

The "Founders Award" and the Alfred Sloan Award from the American Cancer Society's New York City Division (1971);

The 1973 Ladies Home Journal Women of the Year Award;

Award from Memorial Hospital (1973);

The 1973 Albert Gallatin Associates Award (New York University);

The 1974 James Ewing Society's Cancer Award;

Lifeline Award of the American Health Foundation (1974);

The 1976 United Cerebral Palsy Humanitarian Award;

The Cancer Research Institute's William B. Cooley Award (1977);

The 1977 World Rehabilitation Fund Award;

The National Heart, Lung & Blood Institute Advisory Council's First Distinguished Service Award (1978);

The 1980 Hubert Humphrey Award from Boston University School of Medicine;

The 1980 Distinguished Public Service Award from the American Academy of Ophthalmology;

The Stony Brook Foundation's Award for Distinguished Contributions to Higher Education (1981);

The 1982 Lord & Taylor Rose Award;

The first Nathan S. Kline Medal of Merit from the Nathan S. Kline Institute for Psychiatric Research (1983);

The Central Park Conservancy's Frederick Law Olmsted Award (1984);

The American Tentative Society's Rennie Taylor Award (1985);

The 1985 "Flame of Hope" Award from the Terri Gotthelf Lupus Research Institute;

The 1985 Edwin C. Whitehead Award of the National Center for Health Education;

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The 1985 "Woman of Distinction" Award from Birmingham Southern College;

The Endocrine Society's Endocrine Award (1985);

In 1986, the first recipient of the New York Lung Association's Quality of Life Award;

The Patriot's Award from the Congressional Medal of Honor Society in 1986;

The first woman to receive the Vision Award from the Luminaires of the Estelle Doheny Eye Foundation (1986);

The first Giovanni Lorenzini Foundation Prize for the Advancement of Biomedical Science from the Giovanni Lorenzini Foundation, Inc., in 1987;

The 1987 Mayor's Award of Honor for Science and Technology, presented by Mayor Edward I. Koch;

The 1987 Dorothea Dix Award from the Mental Illness Foundation;

The 1987 Award from the Federation of American Societies for Experimental Biology;

The 1987 Walsh McDermott Award from the Associated Medical Schools of New York;

The National Cancer Institute's Year 2000 Award (1987);

A Franklin D. Roosevelt Freedom Award from the Franklin and Eleanor Roosevelt Institute (1987);

The 1987 Susan G. Komen Foundation Award for Excellence in Public Service;

A 1987 Charles A. Dana Foundation Award for Pioneering Achievements in Health and Higher Education;

The first Gold Medal Award for International Achievement in Medical Research from the National Foundation for Ileitis and colitis (1987);

A 1988 Parks Council Award;

Winner of one of the first annual Caring Awards from the Caring Institute (1988);

The American Federation for Clinical Research's "Distinguished Friend of Medical Research Award" (1989);

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A 1989 Lifetime Public Service and Humanitarian Award
from the Institute for Advanced Studies in Immunology and Aging;

The 1989 Street Trees Award from the New York City Street
Tree Consortium, Inc.;

The Brain Research Foundation's 1990 Creativity Award;

Inducted into the Health Care Hall of Fame (1990);

The Dean's Award from the College of Physicians and Surgeons
of Columbia University (1990);

The 1990 Medal for Distinguished Achievement from the
American Society of the French Legion of Honor (given only
to a former recipient of the French Government's Legion of
Honor Award);

A 1992 Maxwell Finland Award presented by the National
Foundation for Infectious Diseases;

A 1992 Founders Award in a celebration of the 20th Anniversary
of the National Cancer Act - from the National Coalition for
Cancer Research;

The Albert Schweitzer Gold Medal for Humanitarianism in
Philanthropy - given by The Johns Hopkins University on behalf
of the Alexander von Humboldt Foundation (1992).

Over the years Mrs. Lasker has served in various trustee
and board positions for a range of health and cultural
organizations and educational institutions including:

Society for a More Beautiful National Capital
Planned Parenthood Federation of America
National Advisory Heart Council of the National Heart
Institute
National Committee Against Mental Illness
Health Insurance Plan of Greater New York
The New York Foundation
The Museum of Modern Art
New York University
The Norton Simon Museum
The Lyndon Baines Johnson Foundation
National Cancer Advisory Board
Cancer Research Institute
John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts
Leeds Castle Foundation
American Cancer Society
Advisory Committee to the Director of the National
Institutes of Health
United Cerebral Palsy Research and Education Foundation
Research to Prevent Blindness, Inc.

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A Tribute to
Mrs. Albert D. Lasker



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Whitehead Award

1985