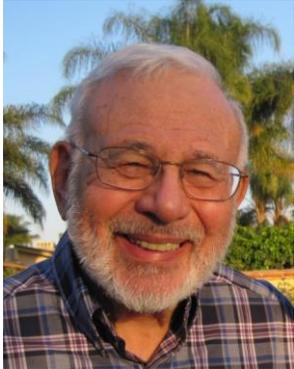




Lifetime Achievement Award

AWARD RECIPIENTS

2014 Lifetime Achievement Recipient - Dr. Irving Kushner, MD



Dr. Irving Kushner has built a reputation as a clinician, teacher and internationally recognized investigator. He grew up in the borough of The Bronx in New York City and was fortunate in the schools he attended: the Bronx High School of Science, which stimulated his interest in science, undergraduate studies at Columbia University, and medical school at Washington University in St. Louis, which introduced him to the excitement of clinical medicine and biomedical science.

In 1958 he came to what was then Metropolitan General Hospital in Cleveland as a research fellow in immunology. Over the next few years he saw patients in Dr. Robert Stecher's arthritis clinic once a week. In 1963 he took over that clinic, established a rheumatology consultation and teaching service, and later served as Director of the Division of Rheumatology for 14 years. He trained a stream of rheumatology fellows from 1966 on, and participates in the training of fellows to this day.

Dr. Kushner has made signal contributions to clinical rheumatology. Among these were the first description of the clinical picture of gonococcal arthritis in the antibiotic era (1968) and a landmark paper questioning the disease-modifying power of RA treatment in the pre-methotrexate era (1983) - both in the *New England Journal of Medicine*. In addition, his group introduced the Crithidia assay for antibodies to DNA to the American readership (1977).

His laboratory research, focused on CRP and the acute phase response, was funded by the NIH from 1965 to 2005. Many of the resulting publications are included in over 170 published papers, one of which was recognized as a *Citation Classic*. He has edited 3 books and authored or coauthored 30 book chapters, including the chapter on the acute phase response in all 8 editions of the *Kelley Textbook of Rheumatology* over a 29 year period. He is the author of two current chapters in *UpToDate*. For 5 years he served as President of *Groupe d'Etude et de Recherche sur les Marqueurs de l'Inflammation* in Lyons, France.

Dr. Kushner served as President of the Central Region of the *American Rheumatism Association* in 1980 and was named a *Master of the American College of Rheumatology* in 1995. An outstanding teacher, he was the initial recipient of *The Teaching Excellence Career Achievement Award* from MetroHealth's Department of Medicine in 2007. In 2011, Dr. Kushner was one of the initial inductees into the MetroHealth Medical Hall of Honor – established to honor medical professionals instrumental in shaping MetroHealth into a nationally renowned medical institution.