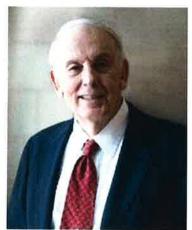
The History of a Name: The American Society for Preventive Oncology Renames Its Highest Honor the Joseph F. Fraumeni, Jr., Distinguished Achievement Award

Polly A. Newcomb 1,2 , Ann B. $\rm Hsing^{3,4}$, Melissa L. Bondy 5,6 , and Alfred I. Neugut 7,8,9



Joseph F. Fraumeni Jr. Photo Credit: Jonathan Newton

Since its inception more than 40 years ago, the American Society for Preventive Oncology (ASPO) has made its mission impactful cancer prevention research. Its topmost recognition, the ASPO Distinguished Achievement Award, is given annually to an outstanding scientist in the area of preventive oncology, cancer control, and/or cancer prevention. The first Distinguished Achievement Award was received in 1983 by Michael

Shimkin for his work establishing the links between smoking and lung cancer. The most recent Distinguished Achievement Award was bestowed in 2016 on Alfred Neugut in part for his work on the risk and benefits of colon cancer screening (for a full list of Distinguished Achievement Award awardees, see the table that follows).

¹Public Health Sciences, Fred Hutchinson Cancer Research Center, Seattle, Washington, ²Department of Epidemiology, School of Public Health, University of Washington, Seattle, Washington, ³Stanford Prevention Research Center, Stanford School of Medicine, Stanford University, Palo Alto, California, ⁴Stanford Cancer Institute, Stanford School of Medicine, Stanford University, Palo Alto, California, ⁵Cancer Prevention and Population Sciences, Dan L. Duncan Comprehensive Cancer Center, Baylor College of Medicine, Houston, Texas, ⁶Section of Epidemiology and Population Sciences, Department of Medicine, Baylor College of Medicine, Houston, Texas, ⁷Department of Medicine, College of Physicians and Surgeons, Columbia University, New York, New York, ⁸Herbert Irving Comprehensive Cancer Center, College of Physicians and Surgeons, Columbia University, New York, New York

Corresponding Author: Polly A. Newcomb, Cancer Prevention Program M4-B402, Fred Hutchinson Cancer Research Center, 1100 Fairview Avenue N, Seattle, WA 98109. Phone: 206-667-3476; Fax: 206-667-7850; E-mail: pnewcomb@fhcrc.org

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ASPO Distinguished Achievement Award Recipients (1983-present)

Michael Shimkin (1983) Ernst Wynder (1984) Sam Shapiro (1985) William Haenszel (1986) Lester Breslow (1987) Nicholas Petrakis (1988) Alfred Knudson (1989) Saxon Graham (1990) Barbara Hulka (1991) David Schottenfeld (1992) Joseph F. Fraumeni Jr. (1993) Anthony Miller (1994) Pelayo Correa (1995) Walter Willett (1996) Barbara Rimer (1997) Peter Greenwald (1998) J. Potter/W. Ki Hong (1999)

Margaret Spitz (2000) I.B. Weinstein/Ellen Gritz (2001) Robert Hoover (2002) Leslie Bernstein (2003) Dave Alberts (2004) Graham Colditz (2005) Frank Meyskens (2006) Bernard Levin (2007) Malcolm C. Pike (2008) Mitchell H. Gail (2009) Paul F. Engstrom (2010) Patricia A. Ganz (2011) Electra D. Paskett (2012) Polly Newcomb (2013) Robert T. Croyle (2014) Richard R. Love (2015) Alfred I. Neugut (2016)

This year, by unanimous vote of the Executive Committee, the ASPO Distinguished Achievement Award was renamed the ASPO Joseph F. Fraumeni, Jr., Distinguished Achievement Award in recognition of Dr. Fraumeni's visionary leadership in cancer prevention and control. Born in Boston in 1933, he received an AB from Harvard College, an MD from Duke University, and an MSc in epidemiology from the Harvard School of Public Health. He completed his medical residency at Johns Hopkins Hospital (Baltimore, MD) and Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center (New York, NY). He then joined the NCI at the NIH (Bethesda, MD) in 1962 as a commissioned officer of the U.S. Public Health Service, becoming the founding Director of the Division of Cancer Epidemiology and Genetics (DCEG) in 1995. He stepped down from this position in 2012 to become a senior investigator and advisor at the NCI.

Dr. Fraumeni has contributed critical findings to cancer etiology and prevention over the past 50 years. One of his early research accomplishments was the identification in 1969, with Frederick Pei Li, of four families with an increased susceptibility to multiple forms of cancer in children and young adults (1). Following these families and others for 20 years (2) led to the characterization of what became known as Li–Fraumeni syndrome, and the 1990 discovery of inherited mutations of the tumor suppressor gene, p53, as the underlying mechanism in most of these affected families (3). Through epidemiologic and interdisciplinary studies of high-risk populations, Dr. Fraumeni has contributed to a better understanding of cancer causation and prevention. In particular, as p53 is commonly mutated in many human cancers, the discovery of this gene has continued to stimulate new avenues of mechanistic and translational research.

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In 1975, Dr. Fraumeni led the development of computergenerated atlases of U.S. cancer mortality at the county level (4). The distinctive geographic patterns for certain malignancies prompted a series of studies in the United States and in China that helped to identify several carcinogenic exposures and inform population-level approaches to cancer control. In recent years, Dr. Fraumeni has been involved in developing interdisciplinary research strategies and training programs in cancer epidemiology, statistics, genetics, and related areas. He has more than 900 scientific publications, including several books on the causes and prevention of cancer. Prominent among his publications is Cancer Epidemiology and Prevention, coedited with David Schottenfeld, the most prominent textbook in the field and soon in its fourth edition (5).

In addition, indeed central to his scientific legacy is the role Dr. Fraumeni has played in mentoring generations of young population health scientists. From high school students to DCEG faculty to visiting scholars from around the world, he has been thoughtful, generous, and wise. He has always recognized the central role of epidemiology in moving cancer science forward. The numerous awards for his research into the genetic and environmental determinants of cancer include the Abraham Lilienfeld Award from the American College of Epidemiology, the John Snow Award from the American Public Health Association, the James D. Bruce Award from the American College of Physicians, the Nathan Davis Award from the

American Medical Association, the Charles S. Mott Prize (with F.P. Li) from the General Motors Cancer Research Foundation, the Medal of Honor from the International Agency for Research on Cancer and from the American Cancer Society, and a Lifetime Achievement Award from the American Association for Cancer Research. Dr. Fraumeni is an elected member of the National Academy of Sciences, the National Academy of Medicine, the Association of American Physicians, and the American Academy of Arts and Sciences. It is also eminently fitting that Dr. Fraumeni was also himself the recipient, nearly 25 years ago, of the ASPO Distinguished Achievement Award, an apt honor for this extraordinary scientific leader.

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