

Distinguished Achievement Citation

David H. Smith

Class of 1953

It is a privilege to honor David Hamilton Smith for significant accomplishments in the fields of pediatric medicine and immunology.

Dr. Smith received his medical degree from the University of Rochester School of Medicine and Dentistry and then interned with the Children's Hospital Medical Center in Boston. After serving in the United States Air Force Medical Corps, he returned to Boston to complete his residency at Children's Hospital and then taught at Harvard Medical School and Children's Hospital. Following a year as Professeur Invite at the University of Geneva's Clinique Medicale, he became chairperson of the Department of Pediatrics at the University of Rochester School of Medicine and Dentistry. During this years, he consistently devoted research time to the study of Haemophilus influenzae, type 6, a bacterial disease in young children that can cause meningitis.

Subsequent practical application of his research has enhanced the well-being of millions of children yearly.

His founding in 1983 of Praxis Biologics, a company which develops and manufactures highly purified vaccines for the prevention of infectious diseases, was the culmination of many years of medical research and service to the academic medical community. The company became the first to license, manufacture and market HibTiter, a vaccine designed to prevent the disease Dr. Smith has been studying for so many years.

The company, which merged in 1989 with American Cyanamid, currently is working on several other pediatric vaccines, including those against lower respiratory infections, whooping cough, middle ear infections, and certain form of pneumonia and meningitis.

Author and co-author of approximately 70 articles in well-respected medical publications and of numerous textbook chapters, editorials, and reviews, Dr. Smith is recipient of many honors. These include the E. Mead Johnson award for Research in Pediatrics, a Guggenheim Memorial Foundation Fellowship, a post-doctoral fellowship from the National Institute of allergy and Infectious Diseases, and the Distinguished Scientist Award from the Medical Society of Czechoslovakia.

We applaud David Smith for the benefits to humankind of his scientific research and for his spirit of philanthropy and salute him as outstanding fellow alumnus of Ohio Wesleyan.

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