

Distinguished Achievement Citation

Robert D. Wells

Class of 1960

With this presentation of Ohio Wesleyan's Distinguished Citation, we recognize and celebrate the impressive accomplishments of Dr. Robert Dale Wells, renowned medical researcher.

Dr. Wells serves as the Director of the Center for Genome Research at the Institute of Biosciences and Technology, Texas A&M University Texas Medical Center in Houston. The founding director of the Albert B. Alkek Institute of Biosciences and Technology, he also concurrently served as the head of the Department of Biochemistry and Biophysics at Texas A&M in College Stations during the early 1990's.

After receiving his Ph.D. from the University of Pittsburgh in 1964, Dr. Wells worked alongside his postdoctoral mentor, Dr. H. Gobind Khorana, and assisted in solving the genetic code – work for which Dr. Khorana was awarded the Nobel Prize in 1968. In the mid 1970s, Dr. Wells served a one year sabbatical leave of absence on a Guggenheim fellowship at the Salk Institute for Biological Studies and the University of California-San Diego, where he studied cancer viruses.

Directing an active research program which has been continuously funded by federal, state and foundation sources since 1966, Dr. Wells has made invaluable contributions to the understanding of unusual DNA structures related to gene expression. He was the recipient of uninterrupted support from the national Science Foundation on a series of research grants for twenty-seven straight years.

Given the breadth of his accomplishments, it is no surprise that Dr. wells has received numerous national and international honors, medals, and awards, including the Citation for Distinguished Service from the American Society for Biochemistry and Molecular Biology in 1988. He has presented many distinguished lectures and has provided extensive academic consultations in the United States and abroad. He has served as the Associate Editor of the Journal of Biological Chemistry for thirteen years.

Dr. Wells has actively worked with a number of chemical, pharmaceutical, biotechnology, petrochemical, and venture capital companies, including Eastman Kodak, Phillips Petroleum Company, Upjohn Corporations, Dupont, and Alatech associates, Inc., which he co-founded in 1984.

In 1996, he was given the Distinguished Merit award for Lifetime Career Achievements by his fraternity, Alpha Sigma Phi. He has served as an advisor to the White House on health care reform and presently serves on the Scientific Advisory Council of the National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences. He will act as president of the American Society for Biochemistry and Molecular Biology for 2000-2001.

For his significant contributions through scientific research, we salute Dr. Robert Dale Wells as an outstanding fellow alumnus of Ohio Wesleyan.

May 20, 2000

