Jeffrey M. Isner, M.D.
Endowed Memorial Lectureship
Distinguished Guest Lecturers

2006 – Douglas Losordo, M.D.
Chief, Cardiovascular Research, Professor of Medicine, Tufts University School of Medicine
“The microvasculature as a therapeutic target in ischemic disease”

2007 – Judah Folkman, M.D.
Director, Vascular Biology Program, Children’s Hospital; Julia Dyckman Andrus Professor of Pediatric Surgery, Harvard Medical School
“Angiogenesis regulators in the cardiovascular system”

2008 – Eli Keshet, Ph.D.
Woll Brothers and Sisters Chair for Cardiovascular Research, Professor of Molecular Biology, Hebrew University, Hadassah Medical Center, Jerusalem
“VEGF, vascular manipulations and ischemic heart disease: challenges and opportunities”

2009 – Jean Bennett, M.D., Ph.D.
F. M. Kirby Professor and Vice Chair of Research Department of Ophthalmology University of Pennsylvania
“Gene therapy—mediated reversal of congenital blindness”

2010 – Patricia A. D’Amore, Ph.D.
Ankeny Scholar of Retinal Molecular Biology Schepens Eye Research Institute Professor of Ophthalmology and Pathology Harvard Medical School
“VEGF in the adult: implications for anti-VEGF therapies”

Charitable gifts may be sent to:
The Jeffrey M. Isner, M.D.
Endowed Memorial Lectureship
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The Jeffrey M. Isner, M.D. Endowed Memorial Lectureship

The Jeffrey M. Isner, M.D. Endowed Memorial Lectureship is a thought-provoking forum considering the pioneering work of Jeffrey M. Isner, M.D. Annually, the Tufts University medical and biomedical communities hear internationally recognized basic and clinical scientists present angiogenesis-related research linked to tumor growth, diabetic retinopathy, age-related macular degeneration, and other disorders.

The Jeffrey M. Isner, M.D. Endowed Memorial Lectureship is made possible by the Isner Family and The Jeffrey M. Isner Foundation for New Directions in Cardiovascular Research.

Jeffrey M. Isner, M.D.
1947–2001

Jeffrey M. Isner, M.D. played a pioneering role in developing gene therapies for obstructive atherosclerosis and peripheral vascular disease. This work, as well as his groundbreaking studies revealing that endothelial progenitor cells can arise from adult bone marrow, provide the conceptual and scientific underpinnings for several fields of basic and clinical cardiovascular research.

Dr. Isner graduated from Tufts University School of Medicine (TUSM) in 1973 and pursued his residency in internal medicine at St. Elizabeth’s Medical Center, followed by a cardiology fellowship at Georgetown University Hospital. After several years at the NIH Heart, Lung and Blood Institute, Dr. Isner returned to Boston as Professor of Medicine and Pathology at TUSM. In 1988 he became Chief of Cardiovascular Research and Director of the Human Gene Therapy Laboratory at St. Elizabeth’s Medical Center.

Dr. Isner received many awards, including the American Medical Association’s William Beaumont Award in Medicine, and authored 400 research publications before his untimely death at age 53. A caring physician and groundbreaking researcher, Isner was above all a devoted and loving family man.

Maria B. Grant, M.D.

Dr. Grant’s research focuses on understanding the role of adult bone marrow derived progenitor populations during physiological and pathological neovascularization, in particular in diabetes. The Grant lab studies mechanisms that control circadian regulation of bone marrow cell release in health and chronic conditions such as diabetes. The lab’s goal is to develop novel strategies to optimize dysfunctional diabetic progenitors prior to their use in cell-based therapies targeting vascular complications.

Dr. Grant earned her undergraduate degree in chemistry at the University of Florida. After completing medical school, residency in internal medicine, and an endocrinology fellowship at the University of Florida, she pursued a research fellowship in ophthalmology at Wilmer Eye Institute. Dr. Grant then joined the University of Florida faculty in the Department of Internal Medicine, where she served as Division Chief of Endocrinology and Metabolism for seven years. Currently, Dr. Grant is a professor in the Department of Pharmacology and Therapeutics and holds appointments in the Departments of Physiology and Functional Genomics, Ophthalmology and Psychiatry.

Dr. Grant’s research is supported by the National Eye Institute, National Institute of Diabetes and Digestive and Kidney Diseases, and National Heart Lung and Blood Institute, among others. She has served on numerous panels for the National Institutes of Health and the Florida Governor’s Advisory Board for Diabetes.