

**The American Chemical Society Division of History of Chemistry
Proudly Announces A New Award Program**

HIST Citations for Chemical Breakthroughs

The American Chemical Society Division of History of Chemistry recently and proudly announced the initiation of a new award program, the HIST Citations for Chemical Breakthroughs. Beginning in 2005, these Citations will recognize breakthrough publications and patents worldwide in the field of chemistry. Plaques, to be placed in the hallways outside the office or laboratory where the breakthroughs were achieved, will be presented annually to the departments and institutions at which these breakthroughs occurred.

Jeffrey Seeman, Chair-Elect of HIST, summarized that "we believe that identifying and celebrating chemical successes are important to the continued prosperity of chemistry worldwide. We envision that our colleagues and friends, seeing these plaques, will feel pride and inspiration in being a contributor to the sciences." The selection process will involve open solicitation of nominations from the chemical community. An awards committee comprised of eminent scientists and historians of science will provide careful screening of the nominees and selection of each year's awardees. More details will be available within the next few months.

The HIST Executive Board formed a subcommittee, consisting of Seeman, Roger Egolf, and Mary Virginia Orna. Carmen Giunta subsequently volunteered to join this subcommittee.

HIST recognizes and appreciates that the initial pool of deserving awardees is enormous. In the first few years of this program, only a small percentage of the most deserving recipients can be honored. However, multiple awards will be given each year.

Seeman also commented that "It is critical that HIST partners with other organizations that are themselves committed to preserving, studying and celebrating the history of chemistry." To that end, HIST is pleased to report that all individuals invited to be a member of the awards committee have accepted: Arnold Thackray, President of the Chemical Heritage Foundation, Judah Ginsberg of the ACS National Historic Landmarks Program, Eugene Garfield, eminent information scientist, Margaret Cavanaugh, Chair of the ACS Committee on Science and National Science Foundation, and the eminent scientists Harry Grey (Caltech) and Amos Smith (University of Pennsylvania). HIST also hopes that many of its members along with ACS Local Sections will be closely involved in the actual award ceremonies. HIST is pleased to have already begun a relationship with Dale Gaddy, Manager of the ACS Office of Local Section Activities.

Citations for Chemical Breakthroughs now joins HIST's Edelstein Award and its predecessor, the Dexter Award, presented annually since 1956. These latter two awards honor individuals having outstanding achievements in the history of chemistry. Annually, HIST also awards the Outstanding Paper Award, to recognize and encourage outstanding scholarship in the history of chemistry.

HIST intends to enlist ACS Local Sections, HIST Division members, and for international recipients, sister chemical and history organizations to participate in the awards ceremonies. For additional information, contact Dr. Seeman at HIST_CCB@yahoo.com.