

AT THE OPENING SESSION: THE AAO HONORS A VISIONARY IN MEDICINE

**Bernard Becker, MD, Named 2009 Laureate**LAUREATE OF THE  
AMERICAN ACADEMY  
OF OPHTHALMOLOGY

The American Academy of Ophthalmology takes special pride in honoring **Bernard Becker, MD**, as recipient of the Laureate Recognition Award at its 113th Annual Meeting.

Born in New York City, Dr. Becker graduated from Princeton University

and Harvard Medical School before completing his ophthalmologic training at the Wilmer Ophthalmological Institute of the Johns Hopkins University. He served briefly on the faculty at the Johns Hopkins University before becoming professor and head of ophthalmology and

visual sciences at the Washington University School of Medicine in St. Louis. During his 35-year tenure (1953 to 1988) as department chairman, Dr. Becker established one of the country's most outstanding departments of ophthalmology and trained and mentored scores of individuals, many of whom became national and international leaders in the ophthalmologic and glaucoma communities.

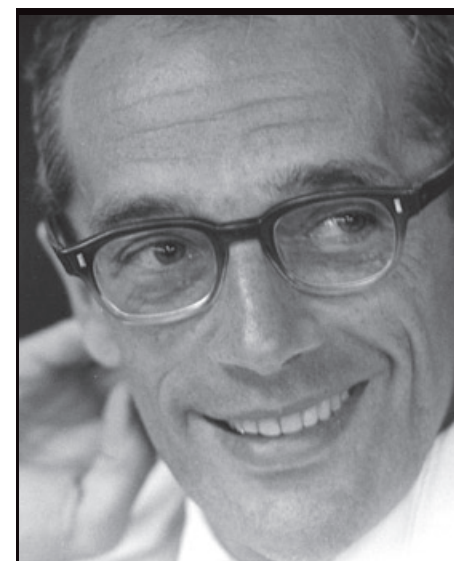
As one of our profession's first and leading clinician-scientists, Dr. Becker extensively studied aqueous humor dynamics and confirmed the importance of carbonic anhydrase and the therapeutic value of inhibiting it to lower IOP and treat glaucoma.

Among his nearly 400 publications, Dr. Becker authored or coauthored numerous manuscripts on corticosteroids and IOP, the genetics of corticosteroid responsiveness, and cataracts and topical corticosteroids. He has been published on countless other topics as well, including ocular tuberculosis; diabetic retinopathy; retinal vein occlusion; enzymatic activities of the lens; the use of acetylcholinesterase inhibitors, epinephrine and beta-blockers in the management of glaucoma; and the use of silicone in retinal detachment surgery, to cite but a handful.

Dr. Becker was highly influential in establishing the Association for Research in Vision and Ophthalmology (ARVO) as the world's leading organization for ophthalmic research. He served as president of ARVO in 1966, was the first editor-in-chief of *Investigative Ophthalmology* (now *Investigative Ophthalmology & Visual Science*), and has been the recipient of many of ARVO's most prestigious awards, including the Proctor Medal, the Friedenwald Award and the Mildred Weisenfeld Award. He also has received the Helen Keller Prize, one of the most distinguished honors in ophthalmology, and was an American Academy of Ophthalmology Guest of Honor in 1997.

Along with his San Francisco contemporary Dr. Robert N. Shaffer, Dr. Becker coauthored the first two editions of *Diagnosis and Therapy of the Glaucomas*, which has remained a classic textbook in ophthalmology. At the Academy's Annual Meetings, Dr. Becker has delivered the Robert N. Shaffer Lecture and the Jackson Memorial Lecture, the latter of which is considered to be the single most prestigious lecture in our profession.

Dr. Becker also served as director of the American Board of Ophthalmology from 1967 to 1974. In addition, he was a founding member of the Association of University Professors of Ophthalmology and assumed editorial responsibilities at the *American Journal of Ophthalmology*, *Archives of Ophthalmology*, and *Transactions of the American Academy of Ophthalmology and Otolaryngology*.



**DR. BECKER** played important roles in establishing the Association for Research in Vision and Ophthalmology, the Association of University Professors of Ophthalmology and the NEI.

*mology and Otolaryngology.*

He also played a vital role in establishing the National Eye Institute, which he served in a variety of key positions. As a result of his skill and wisdom in chairing the steering committee responsible for planning and constructing the new library and communications center at Washington University School of Medicine, it was named for him—the Bernard Becker Medical Library.

Throughout his illustrious career, Dr. Becker has epitomized the ideals of our profession as a truly extraordinary clinician, scientist, scholar, innovator, educator, mentor and visionary leader. Indeed, few individuals have impacted the field of ophthalmology with the record of achievement, commitment and integrity demonstrated by Dr. Becker.

It is with great pleasure that the Academy welcomes Dr. Becker as the 2009 Academy Laureate.

*Dr. Becker will receive the Laureate Award at 9 a.m. today, Sunday, as part of the Opening Session, which takes place from 8:30 to 10 a.m. in Moscone South, Esplanade Ballroom.*

## PAST AWARDEES

**2008:** Alan C. Bird, MD

**2007:** Claes H. Dohlman, MD

**2006:** Lorenz E. Zimmerman, MD

**2005:** Arnall Patz, MD

**2004:** Danièle S. Aron Rosa, MD, PhD; J. Donald M. Gass, MD; and Marshall M. Parks, MD

**2003:** Charles D. Kelman, MD; Robert Machemer, MD; and Charles L. Schepens, MD

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