EDITORIAL

John H. Lawrence, M.D.
Recipient of
Enrico Fermi Award

In recognition of his "pioneering work and continuing leadership" in Nuclear Medicine, Dr. John H. Lawrence has been named co-recipient of the Enrico Fermi Award, the highest scientific honor bestowed by the United States Department of Energy. The prestige of this award is exemplified by the stature of the previous awardees, among whom are Edward Teller, Robert Oppenheim, and Hyman Rickover, a "Who's Who" in the research and application of nuclear energy.

Dr. Lawrence's career at Berkeley began in 1937. Shortly after he began his remarkable research studies, he recognized the potential of the cyclotron as applied to biology. Under his leadership, the use of phosphorous-32 for the medical treatment of polycythemia vera was developed, initiating the concept of using man-made nuclear particles for the therapy of disease. In the early years while involved with complex projects related to radioactive tracers, he came to realize that disease could be treated with an accelerated particle beam. Subsequently, he and his associates treated cancer with a neutron beam, and thereby pioneered the use of cyclotron-produced beams of alpha and proton particles for the treatment of acromegaly and Cushing's disease and for therapy of brain and soft-tissue tumors. It is only in the light of today's investigations of neutron therapy for cancer that the magnitude of Dr. Lawrence's foresight can be fully appreciated. Between 1935 and 1962, he and his colleagues performed the first biological studies with many radionuclides, including sodium, carbon, tritium, phosphorous, iodine, iron, and strontium.

Early on, Dr. Lawrence was cognizant that further medical progress in the area of nuclear medicine and biology required sophisticated instrumentation for the application of radiotracers. Under his encouragement and support, a number of vital technological advances were developed. Among these are the well counter, the whole-body scanner, and the Anger scintillation camera, all of which remain as the mainstay of nuclear medicine practice today.

Dr. Lawrence established the Donner Laboratory and assembled a team of medical and physical scientists who were responsible for the medical and instrumental developments used in Nuclear Medicine the world over. Today he remains very active in the review of medical science work at Berkeley, and his abiding, strong interest in education is evidenced by his service as a Reagent of the University of California.

Among the many awards and distinctions that have been awarded to Dr. Lawrence are: the Caldwell Medal of the American Roentgen Ray Society; the MacKenzie Davison Medal of the British Institute of Radiology; a medal from His Holiness, Pope Pius XII; the Silver Medal of the University of Bordeaux; the Silver Cross of the Greek Order of the Phoenix; and the Pasteur Medal of the Pasteur Institute of Paris. In 1970, our Society named Dr. Lawrence a Distinguished Nuclear Pioneer—we chose a most worthy and outstanding scientist for this distinction. In addition, we were fortunate to have had him serve as President of our organization in 1966-1967.

We congratulate Dr. Lawrence for this richly deserved recognition of his outstanding contributions to science and humanity.—*suaviter in modo, fortiter in re.*

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EDITOR