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INVESTIGATIVE OPHTHALMOLOGY

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**Claes H. Dohlman**

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## On the presentation of the Friedenwald Award in Ophthalmology to Dr. Claes H. Dohlman

The award that I have the privilege of presenting today was established in the memory of Dr. Jonas S. Friedenwald of Johns Hopkins who died in 1955. Unquestionably, Dr. Friedenwald was one of the "greats" in the field of Ophthalmology—an unusually gifted scientist who was held in high esteem as an authority in several disciplines. Not only was he an ophthalmologist, but also he excelled in mathematics, physiology, pathology, histochemistry, and biochemistry. On a given day, Dr. Friedenwald could be found treating a patient with glaucoma, putting finishing touches on his treatise on enzyme kinetics, or editing for the *Journal of Histochemistry and Cytochemistry*; that was the kind of versatile scientist he was. Naturally, Dr. Friedenwald served as a source of inspiration to his many students. A number of his students, modeling their careers after their mentor, are now in positions of leadership in the field of Ophthalmology. This year's recipient of the Friedenwald Award would fall into this category. I am certain that Dr. Friedenwald would be pleased and proud to learn that Dr. Claes H. Dohlman has been named as this year's awardee.

I enjoyed researching Claes Dohlman in preparation for today, but when I finished I had an uneasy feeling because I came up with the disturbing thought that perhaps we are giving the award to the wrong Dr. Dohlman. You see, Claes' father is an eminent scientist in the ear, nose, and throat (ENT) field. The senior Dr. Dohlman was a Professor of Otolaryngology at Univer-

sity of Lund who had a burning desire to do investigative work on the problems of the middle ear. Pressed for time while he was Chairman of the department, he was not able to cultivate his interest fully, but upon retirement he went back to the laboratory bench. Today, at the Banting Institute of the University of Toronto, he is still active in research at the age of 80. Thus, you see, Claes has a long way to go to match his father's performance.

Claes was brought up and educated in Sweden. I suspect young Claes must have had some trying days being the only son in the household of an illustrious professor. Life may have presented some difficult times for this naturally happy-go-lucky youngster. It was true in his young days as it is today that Claes does better under pressure. He excelled in his school work and acquired his M.D. degree. Quite naturally, his father would have been pleased to have Claes follow in his footsteps in the ENT field. But even in those ancient days the younger generation wanted to "do their own thing." Instead of Otolaryngology, Claes decided to go into a field that was the next most difficult to spell and pronounce—Ophthalmology.

After receiving his M.D., he did post-graduate work in biochemistry at the Karolinska Institute in Stockholm and completed his eye training at the University of Lund. He then trained in several laboratories and hospitals in France and here in the United States. It was during this post-graduate training period that he spent a

year and a half with Dr. Friedenwald doing histochemical studies. Finally he arrived in Boston where he is now Director of the Department of Cornea Research at the Retina Foundation, Director of the Cornea Service at the Massachusetts Eye and Ear Infirmary, and Associate Professor of Ophthalmology at the Harvard Medical School.

During his 20 years of studies on corneal problems, Claes and his associates have made outstanding and remarkable contributions. His studies cover a wide range of topics including the chemistry and synthesis of corneal mucopolysaccharides, the physiological basis for corneal edema, and the biochemistry of wound healing and ulceration. These basic investigations have greatly aided in the understanding and treatment of corneal diseases. In addition, Dr. Dohlman has received acclaim for his pioneering work on corneal transplantation, especially with respect to the use of various prostheses and surgical adhesives.

Another attribute of Claes is his ability to attract outstanding investigators from

all over the world. Scientists have come to Claes's laboratory from the Scandinavian countries, England, Germany, France, Switzerland, Spain, Czechoslovakia, Pakistan, India, and Japan. His lists of scientists truly represent the "Cornea Club Internationale." Claes has created an intellectually stimulating environment in which the underlying theme seems to be that understanding the nature and treatment of corneal diseases will come from the interactions of basic and clinical scientists.

Claes is a dedicated scientist and physician who puts in a tremendous number of hours. But to say he is all business and no play is not presenting the correct picture of him. One of the characteristics that has endeared him to many of his colleagues is his tremendous sense of humor. He is, indeed, a man with outstanding personal qualities. It is my pleasure to present the 1971 Friedenwald award in Ophthalmology to Dr. Claes Henrik Dohlman.

*Jin H. Kinoshita*

## Remarks on acceptance of the Friedenwald Award

*Claes H. Dohlman*

Thank you very much, Dr. Kinoshita, for your generous introduction. I feel deeply honored to receive the Friedenwald Award this year.

Compared with many previous award recipients, I had the privilege of knowing Dr. Friedenwald quite well. In my late twenties, as a graduate of the University of Lund Medical School, I was fortunate

in receiving a scholarship enabling me to go to the United States. I did not know where to go and to whom to apply, since I had had little training in the basic sciences or ophthalmology. I turned to Dr. Bárány at Uppsala, gave him a roster of illustrious names, and asked him who to try first. Dr. Bárány threw away the list. He told me that these people were all