Texas Heart Institute Medal and the Ray C. Fish Award for Scientific Achievement in Cardiovascular Diseases

Ray C. Fish (1902–1962) was a leading figure in Houston’s natural gas industry and a philanthropist. He believed in the American dream of “opportunity for success.” The Ray C. Fish Foundation was established so that others might be encouraged to broaden man’s self-knowledge and to keep the American dream alive. After its founder’s death from heart disease, the Fish Foundation granted $5 million to make the Texas Heart Institute a reality. For this reason, the Institute’s highest professional award is given in honor of this extraordinary man. The award recognizes those whose innovations have made significant contributions to cardiovascular medicine and surgery.

The first Texas Heart Institute Medal and Ray C. Fish Award for Scientific Achievement in Cardiovascular Diseases were presented in 1972 to Dr. Norman Shumway. Since 1972, 33 other highly deserving recipients have been so honored by the Institute. The complete Roll of Recipients appears on the next page.

Prof. Alain G. Cribier, MD, FACC

The 2013 Fish Award recipient is Alain G. Cribier, for his outstanding contributions to interventional cardiology. Prof. Cribier was for 20 years chief of cardiology at Charles Nicolle Hospital, University of Rouen, France. Since 2011, he has served as professor emeritus and as a medical consultant. He is a graduate of the University of Paris, where he decided to specialize in cardiology. After a fellowship at Cedars-Sinai Medical Center in Los Angeles, he joined the department of cardiology at Charles Nicolle Hospital, where he took charge of the interventional cardiology unit.

Prof. Cribier is most widely recognized for having performed the first balloon dilation of the aortic valve for the treatment of calcific aortic stenosis (1985) and, after 10 years of research, the first implantation of an aortic valve prosthesis using cardiac catheterization (2002). This last innovation has opened a revolutionary, and less invasive, way of treating aortic stenosis in patients at high risk for conventional surgery. Greatly criticized during its early phase, the procedure is today recognized as a breakthrough, with a durable effect on medical practice.

Another Cribier achievement has been the development of a new technique for percutaneous dilation of the mitral valve with a metallic commissurotomy device, which improves the cost-efficacy of treating mitral stenosis in developing countries, where the disease is endemic.

In 2012, Prof. Cribier received the most recognized French national distinction: the Legion of Honor.
ROLL OF RECIPIENTS
of the Texas Heart Institute Medal and the Ray C. Fish Award
for Scientific Achievement in Cardiovascular Diseases

1972  Norman E. Shumway
       Cardiovascular Surgery (Heart Transplantation)
1973  F. Mason Sones, Jr.
       Cardiology (Coronary Angiography)
1974  Eugene E. Braunwald
       Cardiology (Myocardial Preservation)
1975  Willem J. Kolff
       Cardiovascular Surgery (Artificial Organs)
1976  Harvey Feigenbaum
       Cardiology (Echocardiography)
1977  John W. Kirklin
       Cardiovascular Surgery (Heart-Lung Machines)
1978  Bernard Lown
       Cardiology (Cardiac Arrhythmias)
1979  John J. Gallagher and William C. Sealy
       (co-recipients)
       Cardiology and Cardiovascular Surgery (Surgery for Pre-Excitation)
1980  W. Proctor Harvey
       Cardiology (Clinical Practice and Teaching)
1981  Paul M. Zoll
       Cardiology (Pacemaking)
1983  Andreas R. Grüntzig
       Cardiology (Percutaneous Transluminal Coronary Angioplasty)
1984  Hein J.J. Wellens and Douglas P. Zipes
       (co-recipients)
       Cardiology (Diagnosis and Management of Pediatric Cardiac Arrhythmias)
1985  Denton A. Cooley
       Cardiovascular Surgery (Surgery for Congenital Heart Disease, Aneurysms of the Aorta, and Implantation of the Artificial Heart)
1986  William J. Rashkind
       Pediatric Cardiology (Nonsurgical Treatment of Congenital Heart Disease)
1987  Dwight E. Harken
       Cardiovascular Surgery (Intracardiac Surgery)
1988  J. Willis Hurst
       Cardiology (Writing and Teaching)
1989  Robert J. Hall
       Cardiology (Clinical Practice and Teaching)
1990  Sol Sherry
       Cardiology (Thrombolytic Therapy)
1992  Arthur S. Keats
       Cardiovascular Anesthesiology
1997  Aldo R. Castañeda
       Pediatric Cardiovascular Surgery
1997  Julio C. Palmaz
       Radiology (Endovascular Stents)
1998  Magdi Yacoub
       Cardiovascular Surgery (Heart-Lung Transplantation)
1999  Thomas J. Fogarty
       Cardiovascular Surgery (Medical and Surgical Devices)
2004  James L. Cox
       Cardiovascular Surgery (Surgery for Atrial Fibrillation)
2004  Stephen Westaby
       Cardiovascular Surgery (First Clinical Trial of Axial-Flow Devices for Destination Therapy and Significant Contributions to the Surgical Literature)
2007  Charles E. Mullins
       Pediatric Cardiology (Teaching and Pioneering Work in Interventional Techniques for Congenital Heart Disease)
2008  O.H. Frazier
       Cardiovascular Surgery (Heart Transplantation and Research and Development of the Left Ventricular Assist Device)
2009  James T. Willerson
       Cardiology (Pioneering Work in Unstable Atherosclerotic Plaques, Acute Coronary Syndromes, and Cardiac Stem Cells)
2010  Charles D. Fraser, Jr.
       Cardiovascular Surgery (Development of a Program Known for Its Effectiveness in Correcting Congenital Cardiovascular Disease in Children)
2011  Patrick W. Serruys
       Interventional Cardiology (Major Contributions to Interventional Cardiology, Including Those to the Development of Both Bare-Metal and Drug-Eluting Stents)
2012  George J. Reul
       Cardiac and Vascular Surgery (Development of an Accredited Vascular Lab at SLEH; Leader in Quality Measures)
2013  Alain G. Cribier
       Interventional Cardiology (First Balloon Dilation of Aortic Valve for Calcific Aortic Stenosis, 1985; and First Implantation of a Prosthetic Aortic Valve via Cardiac Catheterization, 2002)