

Alexander Fleming Award for Lifetime Achievement



Arnold S. Monto, MD, FIDSA, one of the world's foremost experts in respiratory illnesses, is the recipient of IDSA's 2009 Alexander Fleming Award for Lifetime Achievement. This award recognizes a career that reflects major contributions to the acquisition and dissemination of knowledge of infectious diseases. Through his seminal work on the pathogenesis, treatment, and prevention of influenza virus infections, Dr. Monto has vastly enriched our understanding of influenza and of the herd immunity caused by targeted influenza vaccination. His work is now the gold standard for dealing with influenza outbreaks.

Dr. Monto is a professor of epidemiology at the University of Michigan School of Public Health and the principal investigator in many studies funded by the National Institutes of Health and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. His recent research includes a comparative study of influenza vaccines in adults—specifically a series of large, randomized studies comparing the effectiveness of the traditional inactivated injectable influenza vaccines and the live-attenuated nasal vaccine.

After receiving his medical degree from Cornell University in 1958, Dr. Monto completed his residency in internal medicine at Vanderbilt University Hospital. He then became a U.S. Public Health Service doctoral fellow in infectious disease at Stanford Medical Center (1960-1962) and later worked in the field in Panama as a part of the Virus Diseases Section of the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases. In 1965 he joined the University of Michigan, where he commenced his research on infectious diseases. His work has appeared in more than 240 papers in scientific journals.

Dr. Monto now serves on various Health and Human Services and other advisory groups, particularly related to seasonal and pandemic influenza issues. He was a member of the novel H1N1 working group of the President's Council of Advisors on Science and Technology. His influence extends outside the United States. He is a member of the World Health Organization's Emergency Committee, which advises the Director-General on declaration of influenza pandemic, and he serves on the Scientific and Technical Advisory Group of the Global Influenza Program. For the past 20 years, he has worked with Chinese government officials to mitigate diseases like SARS and avian influenza, and to assist Chinese health authorities in determining the impact of seasonal influenza and the efficacy of influenza vaccines in that country.

In addition to his work on vaccine development, Dr. Monto has been active in evaluating the efficacy of and resistance to the neuraminidase inhibitors and other antivirals. As a clinical investigator, he participated in the pivotal studies of oseltamivir and zanamivir. His publications on these drugs appeared in the *New England Journal of Medicine* and the *Journal of the American Medical Association*. He is co-chair of the Neuraminidase Inhibitor Susceptibility Network.

In recognition of his outstanding contributions to the field of infectious diseases—from his early research in the now-classic Tecumseh Community Study of influenza and other viral respiratory infections during the Hong Kong influenza pandemic of 1968, to his more recent insights into the effect of masks and hand hygiene in the prevention of seasonal influenza outbreaks—IDSA is proud to present Dr. Monto with the 2009 Alexander Fleming Award.