



ALBERT AND MARY  
LASKER FOUNDATION

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## **LASKER FOUNDATION WELCOMES NEW BOARD CHAIR**

### ***ALFRED SOMMER TO SUCCEED JAMES FORDYCE; CAROL EINIGER AND JOHN CONSIDINE ELECTED TO BOARD***

NEW YORK, Monday, June 23, 2008 – The [Albert and Mary Lasker Foundation](#) announced today that [Alfred Sommer](#), M.D., has been elected Chair of its Board of Directors; he succeeds James Fordyce, who has served as Chairman since 1994, and will become Chairman Emeritus.

**James Fordyce** said, “I have been honored to serve as Chairman of the Lasker Foundation and to ensure the future of the annual Lasker Awards which have recognized major advances in medical research over the past 60 years. The Awards shine a bright light on how medical research benefits the public, and serve as the lens through which the truly remarkable history of medical research can be understood. We have witnessed a golden age of basic research and are on the threshold of what can be an extraordinary period of advance against the major causes of death and disability that affect us all”.

Under Fordyce’s leadership the Board was enlarged and empowered, the Foundation’s endowment tripled and the Awards honoraria substantially increased. Mr. Fordyce is enthusiastic about the Foundation’s new President, Dr. Maria Freire, saying: “Under the wise and energetic leadership of Dr. Freire and Dr. Sommer, I am optimistic that the future of the Foundation will be as bright as its past.”

**Al Sommer**, Dean Emeritus of the Bloomberg School of Public Health of Johns Hopkins University, remains a professor of Epidemiology, International Health, and Ophthalmology at Johns Hopkins. Best known for his long-term research and advocacy for blindness prevention and child survival strategies related to alleviation of Vitamin A deficiency, Sommer’s work led the World Development Report (World Bank) to declare vitamin A supplementation one of the most cost-effective of all health interventions. His many honors include the 1997 Albert Lasker Award for Clinical Medical Research; he joined its Board in 2004.”

Jim Fordyce’s exemplary commitment and leadership are responsible for the pre-eminent recognition accorded by the Lasker Awards,” said **Al Sommer**. “Jim kept the Lasker Foundation at the center of advocacy for public investment in medical research.”

**Dr. Joseph Goldstein**, Lasker winner, Nobel Laureate, and chair of the Jury for the Lasker Awards, commented that “Jim Fordyce ensured that the Lasker Awards Jury represented the best of the medical science community, and had the resources necessary to conduct its work. He remained steadfast in advancing Mary Lasker’s commitment to public leadership on behalf of the medical science enterprise.”

Mr. Fordyce is an honorary Life Director of the American Cancer Society, chairing its Research and Clinical Investigations Committee for ten years. In 2007, his support of medical research advocacy was recognized by the New York Academy of Medicine with its Annual Award. He currently serves on the National Council on Resources of the Harvard Medical School, Department of Systems Biology and has served on numerous other visiting and advisory Committees. He is Managing Member of MEDNA Partners LLC, a private advisory firm. He is a Director of Dyax Corp, a publicly traded biotechnology company, and also is engaged with a number of private companies.

The Foundation also announced the addition of **Carol Einiger** and **John Considine** to its Board, and Considine’s election as its Treasurer. **Considine** is Vice Chairman and Chief Financial Officer of Becton, Dickinson and Company (NYSE: BDX), a medical technology company that manufactures and sells supplies, devices and systems for health care professionals, medical research institutions, and the public.

**Carol B. Einiger** is President of Post Rock Advisors, LLC, a private investment advisory firm that services a small number of advisory clients, including families, foundations and endowments. Ms. Einiger served as Chief Investment Officer of The Rockefeller University from 1996 to 2005.

### ***About the Lasker Foundation:***

The **Albert and Mary Lasker Foundation**, founded in 1942, annually presents the prestigious Lasker Awards, which recognize the world’s leaders in basic and clinical medical research. For much of the 20<sup>th</sup> century the Lasker Foundation was led by Mary Lasker, who was America’s most prominent citizen-activist on behalf of public investment in medical research. Mary Lasker is widely credited with prodding the White House and the Congress to greatly expand federal funding for medical research, particularly through the National Institutes of Health.

*Further information about the Albert and Mary Lasker Foundation is available at*  
[www.laskerfoundation.org](http://www.laskerfoundation.org).