



Did you know that ...

- The Lasker Awards were established in 1945 by advertising industry pioneer Albert Lasker and his wife, citizen-activist Mary Lasker, as a means of rallying public support for medical research. By showcasing how fundamental discoveries in basic science lead to clinical treatments and therapies, the Lasker Awards illustrate the benefits of investing in science.
- Lasker Awards often presage future recognition by the Nobel committee, so they have become popularly known as "America's Nobels." Eighty Lasker laureates have received the Nobel Prize, including 28 in the last two decades.
- The Lasker Award statue is made of brass and stands 14-inches high and weighs three pounds one ounce. It represents the Greek *Winged Victory of Samothrace*, symbolizing creative biomedical research that produces, in the words of Mary Lasker, "victory over disability, disease, and death." Each award carries a \$250,000 honorarium that is shared among the winners.
- The Lasker Foundation championed the discovery of DNA, the polio vaccine, the link between HIV and AIDS, penicillin as a treatment for syphilis and the transformation of some fatal cancers into manageable conditions.
- The Lasker Foundation lent crucial support to the medical use of cognitive therapy, DNA finger printing, cholesterol screening, in vitro fertilization, pap smears and the Heimlich Maneuver.
- The Lasker Foundation focused attention on many now commonly used medical devices including heart valves, MRIs, pacemakers, defibrillators, heart-lung equipment, kidney dialysis machines and ultrasound units that have extended the lives of millions of people.
- The Foundation has awarded the Basic Medical Research Award to 145 laureates, whose work in fields such as cell biology, neuroscience, genetics and immunology has opened new areas of investigation in biomedical science.
- The Foundation has awarded the Clinical Medical Research Award to 134 laureates, whose work has led to major improvements in patient treatment through discoveries in therapeutics, diagnostics, disease mechanisms and drug development.

- The Lasker Special Achievement Award was created in 1996 to recognize scientists whose unique contributions to research and scientific statesmanship are of unique magnitude. There are 11 laureates of the Special Achievement prize.
- The Foundation has awarded 60 Public Service Awards honoring advocates, nurses, health care administrators, policymakers, philanthropists, journalists and public and private institutions that have contributed in important ways to research, public health, and to the public's understanding of science. The list of luminaries includes President Lyndon Johnson, First Lady Betty Ford, advice columnist Ann Landers (Eppie Lederer), the actor-advocate Christopher Reeve, the World Health Organization and New York City Mayor Michael Bloomberg.
- The United States Postal Service released a stamp immortalizing Mary Lasker on May 14, 2009 as part of its "Distinguished Americans" series.



Mary Lasker Honored on U.S. Postage Stamp