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**LASKER FOUNDATION CONGRATULATES THREE OF ITS LAUREATES FOR
WINNING THE 2009 NOBEL PRIZE IN MEDICINE**

**Elizabeth H. Blackburn, Carol W. Greider and Jack W. Szostak won the 2006 Albert
Lasker Award for Basic Medical Research**

New York, October 5, 2009 - The Albert and Mary Lasker Foundation, which for 64 years has championed the greatest breakthroughs in medical research, today congratulates three of its Lasker laureates for winning the 2009 Nobel Prize for Medicine.

Elizabeth H. Blackburn, Carol W. Greider and Jack W. Szostak, winners of the 2006 Albert Lasker Award for Basic Medical Research, were today honored by the Nobel Prize committee for discoveries tied to the genetic operations of cells and the enzyme telomerase.

The Lasker Foundation honored the three scientists for predicting and discovering telomerase, an enzyme that replenishes the ends of chromosomes. In so doing, the three unearthed a biochemical reaction that guards cells against chromosome loss and identified the molecular machinery that performs this feat. The work resolved perplexing observations about chromosome termini and explained how cells copy their DNA extremities.

The Lasker Awards are among the most respected science prizes in the world. Since 1945, the Awards Program has recognized the contributions of scientists, physicians and public servants who have made major advances in the understanding, diagnosis, treatment, cure, and prevention of human disease. Today's announcement brings the number to 79 Lasker laureates who have received the Nobel Prize, including 30 in the past two decades.*

"All of us at the Lasker Foundation were thrilled to learn that three of our Laureates were honored with the Nobel Prize for medicine," said Maria C. Freire, Ph.D. president, of the Lasker Foundation. "Their work highlights the critical importance of funding basic research that could lead to successful therapies for cancer and other diseases."

The Albert and Mary Lasker Foundation fosters the prevention and treatment of disease and disabilities by honoring excellence in basic and clinical science by educating the public and by advocating for support of medical research. Founded in 1942, the Lasker Foundation presents the prestigious Lasker Awards, which recognize the world's leaders in basic and clinical medical research, and individuals with outstanding public service. For much of the 20th Century, the Foundation was led by Mary Lasker, who was America's most prominent citizen-activist for

public investment in medical research. She is widely credited with motivating the White House and the Congress to greatly expand federal funding for medical research, particularly through the National Institutes of Health.

About the Lasker Awards: The Lasker Awards are among the most respected science prizes in the world. Recipients of the Lasker Medical Research Awards are selected by an international jury chaired by Joseph L. Goldstein, recipient of the 1985 Lasker Award for Basic Medical Research and the Nobel Prize in Medicine. The Public Service Award Selection Committee is chaired by Harvey V. Fineberg, President of the Institute of Medicine of the National Academies of Science. Lasker Laureates receive a citation highlighting their achievements and an inscribed statuette of the Winged Victory of Samothrace, the Lasker Foundation's traditional symbol representing humanity's victory over disease, disability, and death. Seventy-six Lasker Laureates have received the Nobel Prize, including 28 in the last two decades. More details on the 2009 Lasker Award recipients, the full citations for each award category, video interviews and photos of the awardees and additional information on the foundation are available at www.laskerfoundation.org.

*Lasker Laureates who have also won the Nobel Prize.

Name		Lasker Award		Nobel Prize	
Elizabeth	Blackburn	2006	Basic	2009	Medicine
Carol	Greider	2006	Basic	2009	Medicine
Jack	Szostak	2006	Basic	2009	Medicine
Luc	Montagnier	1986	Clinical	2008	Medicine
Mario	Capecchi	2001	Basic	2007	Medicine
Martin	Evans	2001	Basic	2007	Medicine
Oliver	Smithies	2001	Basic	2007	Medicine
Barry	Marshall	1995	Clinical	2005	Medicine
Aaron	Ciechanover	2000	Basic	2004	Chemistry
Avram	Hershko	2000	Basic	2004	Chemistry
Paul	Lauterbur	1984	Clinical	2003	Medicine
Roderick	MacKinnon	1999	Basic	2003	Chemistry
Sydney	Brenner	1971	Basic	2002	Medicine
Lee	Hartwell	1998	Basic	2001	Medicine
Paul	Nurse	1998	Basic	2001	Medicine
Eric	Kandel	1983	Basic	2000	Medicine
Gunter	Blobel	1993	Basic	1999	Medicine
Robert	Furchgott	1996	Basic	1998	Medicine
Ferid	Murad	1996	Basic	1998	Medicine
Stanley	Prusiner	1994	Basic	1997	Medicine
Peter	Doherty	1995	Basic	1996	Medicine
Rolf	Zinkernagel	1995	Basic	1996	Medicine
Edward	Lewis	1991	Basic	1995	Medicine
Christiane	Nusslein-Volhard	1991	Basic	1995	Medicine

Alfred	Gilman	1989	Basic		1994	Medicine
Phillip	Sharp	1988	Basic		1993	Medicine
Edwin	Krebs	1989	Basic		1992	Medicine
J. Michael	Bishop	1982	Basic		1989	Medicine
Thomas	Cech	1988	Basic		1989	Chemistry
Harold	Varmus	1982	Basic		1989	Medicine
James	Black	1976	Clinical		1988	Medicine
Susumu	Tonegawa	1987	Basic		1987	Medicine
Stanley	Cohen	1986	Basic		1986	Medicine
Rita	Levi-Montalcini	1986	Basic		1986	Medicine
Ernest	Ruska	1960	Basic		1986	Physics
Michael	Brown	1985	Basic		1985	Medicine
Joseph	Goldstein	1985	Basic		1985	Medicine
Georges	Kohler	1984	Basic		1984	Medicine
R. Bruce	Merrifield	1969	Basic		1984	Chemistry
Cesar	Milstein	1984	Basic		1984	Medicine
Barbara	McClintock	1981	Basic		1983	Medicine
K. Sune	Bergström	1977	Basic		1982	Medicine
Bengt	Samuelsson	1977	Basic		1982	Medicine
John	Vane	1977	Basic		1982	Medicine
Roger	Sperry	1979	Basic		1981	Medicine
Paul	Berg	1980	Basic		1980	Chemistry
Walter	Gilbert	1979	Basic		1980	Chemistry
Frederick	Sanger	1979	Basic		1980	Chemistry
Godfrey	Hounsfeld	1975	Clinical		1979	Medicine
Roger	Guillemin	1975	Basic		1977	Medicine
Andrew	Schally	1975	Basic		1977	Medicine
Rosalyn	Yalow	1976	Basic		1977	Medicine
Renato	Dulbecco	1964	Basic		1975	Medicine
Howard	Temin	1974	Basic		1975	Medicine
George	Palade	1966	Basic		1974	Medicine
Earl	Sutherland	1970	Basic		1971	Medicine
Alfred	Hershey	1958	Basic		1969	Medicine
Robert	Holley	1965	Basic		1968	Medicine
H. Gobind	Khorana	1968	Basic		1968	Medicine
Marshall	Nirenberg	1968	Basic		1968	Medicine
George	Wald	1953	Basic		1967	Medicine
Charles	Huggins	1963	Clinical		1966	Medicine
Peyton	Rous	1958	Basic		1966	Medicine
Francis	Crick	1960	Basic		1962	Medicine
James	Watson	1960	Basic		1962	Medicine
Maruice	Wilkins	1960	Basic		1962	Medicine
MacFarlane	Burnet	1952	Basic		1960	Medicine
George Wells	Beadle	1950	Basic		1958	Medicine
Andre	Cournand	1949	Basic		1956	Medicine

Vincent	du Vigneaud	1948	Basic		1955	Chemistry
John	Enders	1954	Basic		1954	Medicine
Hans	Krebs	1953	Basic		1953	Medicine
Selman	Waksman	1948	Basic		1952	Medicine
Max	Theiler	1949	Clinical		1951	Medicine
Philip	Hench	1949	Clinical		1950	Medicine
Edward	Kendall	1949	Clinical		1950	Medicine
Ferdinand	Cori	1946	Basic		1947	Medicine
Albert	Szent-Györgyi	1954	Basic		1937	Medicine
Carl	Landsteiner	1946	Clinical		1930	Medicine