

CRAIN'S HEALTH

Pulse

A daily newsletter on the business of health care

A New Yorker wins Lasker Award

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For the first time since 2004, a New Yorker is among the recipients of a Lasker Award for medical research. Dr. Ralph Steinman, a Rockefeller University professor and senior physician at Rockefeller's cellular physiology and immunology lab, won the Albert Lasker prize for basic medical research for his discovery of dendritic cells. These cells play a key role in immune response. Dr. Steinman and his colleagues are working on ways to turn them into agents to fight AIDS and cancer.

The 2007 Lasker Awards, often called America's Nobel Prizes, were announced yesterday.

Other winners also had New York roots. Dr. Albert Starr of Portland, Ore. will share the Lasker prize for clinical medical research with Dr. Alain Carpentier of Paris

for developing surgically implantable replacement heart valves.

Dr. Starr got his medical training at Columbia College of Physicians and Surgeons, Bellevue Hospital and New York-Presbyterian Hospital. Dr. Anthony Fauci, the recipient of the Mary Lasker Award for Public Service for work in AIDS and biodefense, also has a New York connection. Dr. Fauci, now director of the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases in Bethesda, Md., grew up in Brooklyn and practiced at New York Presbyterian/Weill Cornell. Each of the three prize categories includes a \$150,000 award, which the winners divide. The luncheon awards ceremony will be held Sept. 28 at the Pierre Hotel. Columbia University economist Jeffrey Sachs will be the keynote speaker.