



Lasker Letter

LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT, NEEN HUNT



Dr. Maria Freire

ON-LINE AWARD SUBMISSIONS

The Foundation is currently working with a team of web developers to implement an online nomination process for the Lasker Awards. Scientists will be able to fill out their nominations and attach supporting material to a secure server linked to the Foundation's website. The development team anticipates that the on-line submission process will be ready in early January.

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STAFF CHANGES

The Foundation welcomes **Betsy Hanson** to replace **Lilith Wood** as Communications Editor. Betsy has experience as a medical journalist with Rockefeller University and *Discover* magazine.

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LASKER WEBSITE

The functional overhaul and redesign of the Foundation's site are nearing completion and will be launched in early 2008. The new site has additional features to attract users, navigation paths that are user friendly and a more efficient search engine for visitors researching the Lasker Award winners.

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LASKER FOUNDATION APPOINTS GLOBAL HEALTH LEADER AS PRESIDENT

The Albert and Mary Lasker Foundation announced that **Dr. Maria Freire** will become President of the Lasker Foundation on March 1, 2008. Dr. Freire is an internationally recognized global health and intellectual property expert; she comes to the Foundation from her position as President and Chief Executive Officer of the non-profit Global Alliance for TB Drug Development, which develops novel, faster and better drugs for tuberculosis. Under her leadership, the TB Alliance grew from a nascent enterprise to having the largest TB drug pipeline in the world. Dr. Freire previously led the Office of Technology Transfer at the U.S. National Institutes of Health. Dr. Freire will succeed **Dr. Neen Hunt**, who has guided the Foundation since 1995.

James Fordyce, Chairman of the Lasker Foundation's Board of Trustees, announced the appointment: "We are delighted to welcome Maria Freire as the Lasker Foundation's new President. Dr. Freire brings a passionate commitment and broad perspective to the field of medical research and its potential for curing disease and improving the public health. The global perspective she has gained from her outstanding work on tuberculosis will be especially valuable as we look to the future. We also applaud Dr. Hunt for her effective stewardship of the Lasker Foundation over the past twelve years, and for the initiatives launched during her tenure."

Dr. Freire said, "The Lasker Foundation's legacy is exceptional and its future is bright; advancing the field of medical research in the 21st century is increasingly a global imperative, and I welcome the invitation to bring my experience and passion for medical science to serve as the Foundation's next president."

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DR. ROBERT TIJIAN ELECTED TO THE LASKER BOARD

The Foundation is delighted to announce the election of **Dr. Robert Tijian** to the Board of Directors. Dr. Tijian is professor of Cell Biology and Director of the Li Ka-Shing Center for Biomedical and Health Science at University of California, Berkeley. Throughout the past 20 years, Dr. Tijian's seminal studies have combined biochemistry, molecular biology, genetics and structural biology to dissect the structure and function of molecular apparatus that decodes the genome and programs the production of proteins in humans that maintain life. He has received, among other honors, the General Motors Alfred P. Sloan Jr. Prize and the Horwitz Prize from Columbia University.

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