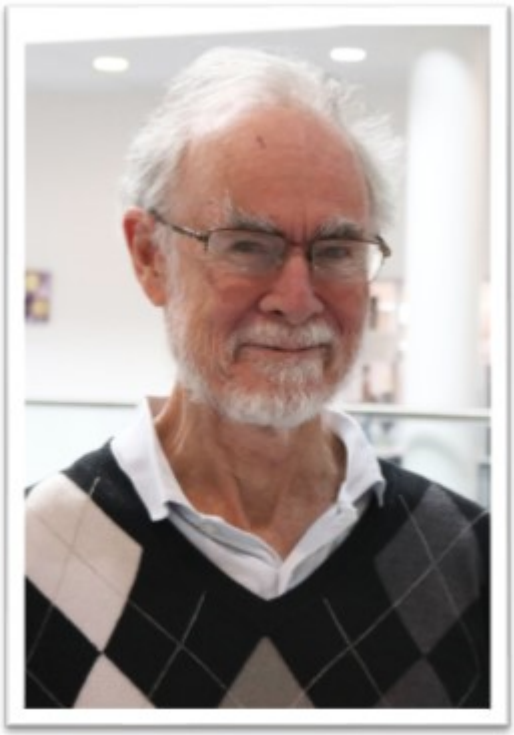
2019 Thomas E. Starzl Prize in Surgery and Immunology

The University of Pittsburgh School of Medicine, the Department of Surgery, and the Thomas E. Starzl Transplantation Institute are honored to present the 2019 Thomas E. Starzl Prize in Surgery and Immunology to **Jonathan Sprent, PhD**, in recognition of his outstanding scientific achievements. Sprent will deliver his talk, **"Central Tolerance: New Thoughts on an Old Issue,"** at **4 p.m.** on **Tuesday, May 21,** in **Scaife Hall, Lecture Room 6,** with a reception following in room 1102, Scaife Hall. Sprent is professor of immunology and head of the Cellular Immunity Laboratory at the Garvan Institute of Medical Research in Sydney.



Born in England and raised in Brisbane, Australia, Sprent received his medical education at the University of Queensland and his PhD at the Walter and Eliza Hall Institute in Melbourne, under the tutelage of immunologist Jacques Miller, PhD. Following postdoctoral training at the Basel Institute in Switzerland and University College London, Sprent joined the faculty of the University of Pennsylvania and, later, the Scripps Research Institute, where he established himself as one of the leading immunologists of his generation. In 2006, he returned to Australia to form a research group at the Garvan Institute of Medical Research, Sydney, where he is currently professor of immunology and head of the Cellular Immunity Laboratory.

Sprent has made significant contributions to the fields of immunity and tolerance that have had broad influence on all aspects of immunology, including transplantation. As a PhD student, he defined the properties of the then-newly discovered thymus-derived lymphocytes, or T cells, and demonstrated how they are activated and how they achieve tolerance to self. Subsequently, and over the span of a highly productive career, he elucidated the underpinnings of T-B cell collaboration during antibody production, the role of T cells in graft-versus-host disease, the mechanisms of positive and negative selection in the thymus, the requirements for naive and memory T-cell survival and homeostasis in the adult animal, and, more recently, the use of monoclonal antibodies to enhance cytokine activity for the treatment of autoimmunity and cancer. His current research efforts are focused on furthering our understanding of T-cell differentiation, function, and tolerance.

Sprent is past president of the American Association of Immunologists, a fellow of the Royal Society (U.K.) and the Australian Academy of Science, and a member of the National Academy of Sciences (U.S.A.). Among his many honors are the J. Allyn Taylor International Prize in Medicine, two National Institutes of Health Merit Awards, and the National Health Medical Research Council Burnet Award (one of only three ever awarded). In 2015, Sprent received the American Association of Immunologists Lifetime Achievement Award.

The Thomas E. Starzl Prize honors the clinical and scientific contributions of Pitt's late transplantation icon, Thomas Starzl, MD, PhD. Recipients are national and international leaders and researchers who have significantly influenced the fields of organ transplantation and immunology. The prize was established in 1996 by Pitt's Department of Surgery and was formerly known as the Annual Thomas E. Starzl Lectureship.

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The University of Pittsburgh School of Medicine designates this live activity for a maximum of 0.5 *AMA PRA Category 1 Credit(s)™*. Physicians should claim only the credit commensurate with the extent of their participation in the activity.

Other health care professionals are awarded 0.05 continuing education units (CEU's) which are equal to 0.5 contact hours.

Target Audience: Faculty and students from the University of Pittsburgh Schools of the Health Sciences and the Department of Biological Sciences, and Carnegie Mellon University faculty and students from the Department of Biological Sciences.

Disclosure Statement: In accordance with Accreditation Council for Continuing Medical Education requirements on disclosure, information about relationships of presenters with commercial interests (if any) will be included in materials that will be distributed at the time of the conference.

We encourage participation by all individuals. If you have a disability, advance notification of any special needs will help us serve you better. Please notify us of your needs at least two weeks in advance of the program.

Disclaimer Statement

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