

Who's the gold headed cane winner?

The Gold Headed Cane Award is annually given to a College Fellow who has demonstrated the highest standards of scientific excellence and integrity. College Fellows selected Gailen Marshall Jr., MD, PhD, FACAAl, who will be presented with the award at the Annual Meeting on Oct. 28.



In Dr. Marshall's words... It is an extreme honor to receive the Gold Headed Cane Award from the College. I joined the ACAAl in 1988 and became a Fellow in 1993. I have served on multiple committees, have been an *ex officio* member of the Board of Regents since 2005 and have been nominated to serve as a Regent.

ACAAl engagement

I have been involved in teaching for the College in a variety of settings at our Annual Scientific Meetings. I have been privileged to present lectureships honoring Jean Chapman, Daniel Goodman and memorializing Stanislou Jaros and Bernard Berman. I have also been honored with the Distinguished Service award and recognized as a Distinguished Fellow of the College in 2009. I have also been privileged to serve in the publication mission for the College for the past 16 years. I was appointed associated editor of the *Annals* in 2005 and became editor-in-chief (EIC) in 2006. I was looking forward to retiring and placing the journal in the hands of young giants at the end of this year but, due to some unique circumstances, I have been provided the opportunity to continue as EIC for another term through 2021. The experience of developing *Annals* to meet the needs of our membership as well as others around the world has been and remains one of the great highlights of my professional career.

Career path

My pathway to allergy/immunology as a career choice was anything but certain when I first began as a graduate student in 1973. I started out to be a basic scientist who aspired to have a career in bench research. As I was finishing pre-doctoral studies at George Washington University and the NIH, several individuals encouraged me to go to medical school to make my research (which had a decidedly clinical flavor in its potential applications) more useful to people. I discovered that I could do medical school in three years then go back to the lab. That was my initial intent when I started at University of Texas Medical Branch in Galveston but in my first year, someone put a stethoscope in my hand and changed my life forever. It was fairly clear that I would do internal medicine and go through the clinical investigator pathway. Halfway through postgraduate training, I had the opportunity to move to the University of Tennessee at Memphis to do tumor immunology intervention with what was then a new recombinant IL2 solution. Shortly after that, I was introduced to the chief of adult allergy at UT Memphis – Phil Lieberman, MD, FACAAl – who convinced me in a very short time that if I wanted to do meaningful research in human immunology that would have lasting benefit, the field for me was allergy/immunology. I agreed, and over the last 30 years have never looked back – clearly, I was born to do this.





Research interests

My major research interests remain focused on the effects of psychological stress and environmental factors on immunoregulatory pathways involved in various diseases including allergic rhinitis, asthma, cancer and diabetes, the immunomodulatory effects of stress management and the effectiveness of the integrative approach to clinical care, particularly in patients with allergy, asthma or immune-based diseases.

Family

I have been married for 39 years to the former Elizabeth Marek, RN. We are blessed with three children – Sarah E. Rylie, MD (Scott), Jonathan D. Marshall, JD (Brienne), Rebecca M. Marshall, MA – and one grandson, Caleb John Rylie. I am active locally in our community including church, efforts with the homeless, and neighborhood beautification projects. My hobbies include fly fishing, amateur radio, and woodworking.

In conclusion, to even be nominated for the Gold Headed Cane award is an honor for which I am so very humbled and grateful. It has been an ongoing joy for me to be able to contribute to our specialty in teaching, research and service – and I cannot imagine a better venue than the College to invest whatever talent and time I have for the practicing allergist/immunologist community, and the patients we all serve.



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Submit 2018 Annual Scientific Meeting proposals

The 2018 Annual Scientific Meeting theme is "Practice Empowerment. Patients. Community. Partners." The College is accepting session and presentation proposals that echo that theme, stimulate discussion and challenge mindsets.

Find out more and submit your ideas at college.acaai.org/18/proposals.

The submission deadline is Jan. 8, 2018.

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