

## ◆ CBE Award for Meritorious Achievement

### Presentation to Floyd E Bloom and Science

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During the last decade of the 20th century, designated the Decade of the Brain in the United States (1), any doubt about the interdisciplinary nature of science has been eradicated. In recognition of that, CBE will enter the 21st century as an interdisciplinary Council of Science Editors (CSE). In reflecting on the charge to the Awards and Honors Committee during the last year, its members proposed the names of several editors whose exemplary work and contributions warrant distinguished recognition. When the final ballot was cast, both an editor and a journal were selected to receive the CBE Award for Meritorious Achievement, their distinction marking the closure of this decade and the beginning of a new century for CSE.

In the biography written to introduce Floyd Bloom as the editor of *Science*, Richard Lerner and Roger Guillemin acquainted readers with a man who brings to the editorship of his journal a passion for science, an interdisciplinary scope of interest, a penchant for fairness and for keeping his word, and a commitment to young people working in science. According to the biography, Dr Bloom's aptitude test in high school showed that he should make a career in journalism, publishing, or advertising—and should stay away from the hard sciences. When he went home and told this to his father, his father pretty much said that that was all well and good—but first Floyd had to graduate from medical school. His father's wishes being important to him, Floyd went off to premedical studies, and it turned out that he was talented in inorganic and organic chemistry. He was accepted to Washington University Medical School in St Louis, where he became intrigued by physiology



Outgoing CBE president Pat Huston congratulates Floyd E Bloom.

and work involving ions and the transmission of nerve impulses. He spent a summer working in a laboratory under a National Institutes of Health student fellowship and, after graduation, he did an internship and a year of residency in medicine at Barnes Hospital in St Louis. Then, on the basis of his student research, he became a research associate at the National Institute of Mental Health's St Elizabeth's Hospital Clinical Neuropharmacology Research Center. This research project was his first encounter with brain research, which soon became, and remains, his passion.

In 1975, Dr Bloom moved to the Salk Institute in La Jolla, where he met Dr Guillemin. Those were times of exciting discovery—the isolation and characterization of small polypeptides throughout the central nervous system and the finding that the distributions of the enkephalins and endorphins were so different throughout the brain that the peptides, even though they shared common amino acid sequences, must have come from different precursors. Dr Bloom's work also showed that stress stimulates concomitant secretion of adrenocorticotrophic hormone and beta-endorphin. While at Salk, Dr Bloom initiated his research programs investigating behavioral effects of neuropeptides and the mechanisms of addictive

behavior to alcohol.

At the Scripps Research Institute, where he has been since 1983 and where he now chairs the Department of Neuropharmacology, Dr Bloom has used molecular biologic techniques to study brain proteins and processes. By using the tools of molecular biology, he increasingly has focused on the complex problems of today in human neurophysiology and neuropathology, including drug addiction, the chemical basis of alcoholism, and the dementia associated with HIV infection.

Added to his qualities as a scientist, Dr Bloom's personal qualities account for his success as a scientific journal editor. He commits himself energetically to the service of science, whether on a committee of the National Academy of Sciences or in a speech to a group of young students who are thinking about careers in science. He has an encyclopedic knowledge of his own field, and, being an interdisciplinary scholar, he is knowledgeable about a wide range of fields quite distant from neuroscience. Investigators need have no fear that one field will fare better than another in his journal. Moreover, he is interested in ideas and not the stature of the individual or the discipline they come from.

Dr Bloom has often remarked that he

feels obliged to ensure the well-being of young scientists. Their hope and energy profoundly reflect his own. He has received many honors and awards, among them election to the National Academy of Sciences in 1977. He received the degree of doctor of science, *honoris causae*, from Hahnemann University in Philadelphia and from the University of Rochester in New York. He has served on the Board of Directors of the American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS) and the Science Advisory Board of the MacArthur Foundation. He is a foreign member of the Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences. He has received the Janssen Award in the Basic Sciences and the Pasarow Award in Neuropsychiatry. He is a member of the National Academy of Medicine. He has been associate editor of Biological Psychiatry and held editorships of other publications before becoming editor-in-chief of *Science* in 1995.

The CBE Awards and Honors Committee this year felt that it would be difficult to find a more worthy candidate for CBE's Award for Meritorious Achievement than Floyd Bloom. "Wow", said one member of our committee, "a scientist, an editor, a leader. Can't beat that." The committee's recommendation also reflected a coinciding respect and affection for the journal that Dr Bloom now edits and admiration for the course he is taking in developing it. Our reasoning is represented in these thoughts from committee members, which I know many of you share:

"I have been a member of the AAAS since I was a graduate student, and the current issues of *Science* are superb. The summaries of scientific research given in the Reports enable the nonspecialist to appreciate the contributions. The articles covering general topics contribute indelibly to a good scientific education. During Dr Bloom's watch, these pages have been improved in content and readability. This feature has attracted science reporters from the press, who apparently rely heavily on the summaries in *This Week in Science*. This is a great contribution to scientific literacy for

the general public."

"There is no publication I've been more loyal to, or has been more loyal to me, than *Science*. It's been a companion to my career, first in the laboratory and classroom, and now as a journal editor. Despite its high sub-

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*Wow — a scientist, an editor, a leader. Can't beat that.*

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scription price, readers resubscribe year after year. What is a better measure of the value of a publication? Floyd Bloom deserves this award for his leadership and vision during his career as an editor, and for the direction he has taken *Science*, in print and on the World Wide Web."

"I have subscribed to *Science* for many years out of my own pocket because of the scope of science it opens up to me, and when I'm done with it I donate it to our hospital's waiting-room library. Since Floyd Bloom became the editor of the journal, it has matured and taken on a quality that I think will help to rectify not only the damage done to science by the cases of misconduct that have received wide press over the past 10 years and more, but also the cynicism that has in part led to misconduct

and sloppiness or negligence in science. The *Essays on Science and Society* are nothing short of an inspiration, and they put science in a context we might tend to forget about from day to day. When I read *Science* now, I feel an excitement about science that I haven't felt in a while. Clearly Dr Bloom has had an enlivening influence on this very influential journal, and his achievement in this, as in every other facet of his work, is unquestionably meritorious." ■

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## Reference

1. The years 1990-2000 were designated the Decade of the Brain by President George Bush with cosponsorship of the US Library of Congress and the National Institute of Mental Health of the National Institutes of Health.

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