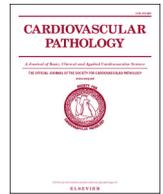




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Cardiovascular Pathology



Editorial

2019 Society for Cardiovascular Pathology Distinguished Achievement Award Recipient – Gayle L. Winters, M.D.



The Society for Cardiovascular Pathology recognized Gayle L. Winters, M.D., as the recipient of the Society's 2019 Distinguished Achievement Award. She is a well-known member of the extended cardiovascular pathology community, with an international reputation for her contributions to cardiac transplant pathology.

In publications elucidating diverse aspects of cardiac transplant pathology, including acute cellular rejection, the Quilty effect, early perioperative ischemic injury, and graft vasculopathy, Dr. Winters has shaped the way that pathologists describe and diagnose the pathologic consequences of cardiac transplantation. As a result of her many contributions, Dr. Winters has been invited to serve on national committees standardizing the nomenclature of heart and lung rejection diagnosis. She was a member of the working group chaired by the late Margaret Billingham and coauthor on the original 1990 International Society for Heart Transplantation [ISHT and later International Society for Heart and Lung Transplantation (ISHLT)] grading system for cardiac transplant biopsies (published in *J Heart Transplant*, 1990) and its subsequent revision in 2005 (published in *J Heart Lung Transplant*, 2005), as well as the grading system for antibody-mediated rejection (*J Heart Lung Transplant*, 2013). Each of these continues to provide the core foundational guidance for all current heart transplant pathology practice.

Among her contributions, both primary and collaborative, she defined the histological characteristics, predictors, and outcomes following treatment of acute myocardial rejection; the Quilty effect; and allograft vasculopathy following transplantation (in multiple papers in *Circulation*, *J Heart Lung Transplant*, *Mod Pathol*, *Am J Pathol*, *Transplant Proc* and *Cardiovasc Pathol* from 1987–1996). She has also adjudicated on numerous pathology panels to ensure accuracy and consistency in rejection diagnoses for multicenter heart transplantation pharmacological trials. Dr. Winters made other important clinicopathologic correlations in cardiac allograft pathology with the characterization of perioperative ischemic injury on posttransplant endomyocardial biopsies (*Circulation*, 1996) and the demonstration of the lack of progression of untreated Grade 2 rejection (*Circulation*, 1995). The latter work was instrumental in prompting the revision of the ISHLT grading system in 2005. She also demonstrated the use of myocyte vacuolization on posttransplant endomyocardial biopsies as a predictor of allograft coronary disease (*J Heart Lung Transplant*, 1997).

Dr. Winters served as a member of the Council on Pathology Program Committee and as an abstract reviewer for ISHLT, and has served on the abstract review board for the United States and Canadian Academy of Pathology (USCAP). Within the Society for Cardiovascular Pathology, she provided leadership as *Cor Notes* Editor, Secretary, Acting Treasurer, Vice-President/President-Elect, and President. She has served on the Editorial Boards of *Circulation*, *Cardiovascular Pathology*, *Journal of Heart and Lung Transplantation*, and *Advances in Anatomic Pathology*

and has given many invited presentations on cardiac transplantation pathology in the United States, Canada, and abroad.

Dr. Winters not only exemplifies the qualities of an outstanding cardiovascular pathologist but has also played a prominent role as a Pathology educator, both locally and nationally. She was Director of the Autopsy Service at Brigham and Women's Hospital (BWH) for over 20 years (1994–2015), with active and enthusiastic involvement in Resident education throughout her career. Dr. Winters also taught enthusiastically at Harvard Medical School in the Human Pathology and Cardiovascular Pathophysiology courses and served as Director of the BWH Harvard Medical School elective clerkship in Pathology. Significantly, in addition to helping to define the standards for training in cardiovascular pathology through a working group of international peers (*Cardiovasc Pathol*, 2010), Dr. Winters was a key collaborator in the training of 12 Cardiovascular Pathology Fellows at the Brigham—7 of whom have pursued careers in cardiovascular pathology (and are current members of the Society for Cardiovascular Pathology).

Importantly, Dr. Winters was the long-standing Director of the Brigham and Women's Hospital highly academic Residency Program in Pathology, serving from 2001 through 2015, with key responsibility for residency recruitment, curricula, and mentoring across the Anatomic Pathology and Clinical Pathology/Laboratory Medicine programs. Under Dr. Winters' leadership, the BWH training program was enriched and enhanced, building on the input of Trainees, Faculty, and external experts. Moreover, during her tenure as Director, significant changes were implemented to meet the specific requirements of the American Board of Pathology and the ACGME (duty hours, competencies, milestones, etc.), the career needs of Residents, the burgeoning clinical volume and subspecialty mix, and the evolving technologies. Over time, she expanded her influence as an active member of both the BWH and the Partners Education Committees, the institutional bodies that oversee curricula and policies for graduate medical education.

At the national level, Dr. Winters has been an active member of the Program Directors for Pathology (PRODS) and served as Member-at-Large of PRODS Council, Co-Chair of the PRODS Outcomes Committee, Secretary-Elect, Secretary, and Chair-Elect, and in 2014 was elected Chair. In recognition of these contributions, she received the Graduate Medical Education Distinguished Teaching Award from the Association of Pathology Chairs in 2016. Dr. Winters leveraged her role as an influential member of PRODS, serving as a highly valued member of PRODS Council for many years and member of the *ad hoc* Autopsy Working Group. She ascended through the ranks of Council and was elected Chair—a well-deserved achievement—just months prior to stepping down from her roles at BWH and beyond. She has been an active and involved participant in the PRODS list-serve, providing insight and guidance to other program directors of pathology.

Gayle Winters received her BS in Biology (with Distinction) from Purdue University and her MD in 1979 from the Loyola Stritch School of Medicine, followed by a year of general surgery residency, residency in anatomic and clinical pathology, and fellowship in surgical pathology at Loyola University Medical Center. After joining the Loyola faculty and rising to Associate Professor of Pathology, she was recruited to the BWH Department of Pathology in 1992, where she is Senior Pathologist and Associate Professor of Pathology at Harvard Medical School.

In summary, Dr. Gayle Winters exemplifies the professional skills and leadership qualities that the SCVP Distinguished Achievement Award was established to honor. She is a recognized scholar and expert in the field of cardiovascular pathology, is widely acknowledged as a talented educator in cardiovascular and transplant pathology, and has

served in many leadership roles for the SCVP and other related organizations. She is most deserving of the Society for Cardiovascular Pathology Distinguished Achievement Award.

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