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## Presentation of the ASP Distinguished Service Award to Robert L. Rausch

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## PRESENTATION OF THE ASP DISTINGUISHED SERVICE AWARD TO ROBERT L. RAUSCH

### Eric P. Hoberg

Curator, U.S. National Parasite Collection, USDA, Agricultural Research Service, Biosystematics Unit of the Parasite Biology, Epidemiology, and Systematics Laboratory, BARC East 1180, Beltsville, Maryland 20715

It is my privilege, along with nominators Dr. Ann Adams and Dr. Scott Gardner, to introduce Dr. Robert L. Rausch as the recipient of the Distinguished Service Award from the American Society of Parasitologists for 2001.

Over the past 50 years Robert Rausch has been at the forefront of research on the systematics, taxonomy, biogeography, epidemiology, and pathology of helminth parasites in vertebrate hosts. Research programs and projects have continually emphasized the complex interface of parasitology, sylvatic distributions of pathogens in wild mammals, and public health, whether dealing with tapeworms such as *Echinococcus* or *Diphyllobothrium* or with nematodes such as *Trichinella*. Most meticulous in research, contributions by Dr. Rausch have been characterized by their innovative nature, depth and scope of detail, complete articulation and examination of hypotheses, and novel insights integrating parasites and parasitism within a broader context for the biosphere. His studies have had a significant impact on our understanding of the taeniid tapeworms, and particularly the systematics and biology of *Echinococcus* spp. and hydatid disease throughout the world. Dr. Rausch was instrumental in defining the ecological context for transmission of *Echinococcus* and the perpetuation of alveolar and cystic hydatid disease in northern communities. On a regional basis, parasites of rodents and carnivores in Alaska and the Arctic have represented a focus that has extended across his career. Most notable in this regard are investigations of the historical biogeography of Beringia that set the conceptual arena and defined the critical hypotheses for understanding this region at the crossroads of the Nearctic and Palearctic. These ideas continue to be examined today by research groups in North America and Europe. Over a distinguished career that continues with vitality today, Robert along with Virginia Rausch, his lifelong partner and colleague of 50 years, has contributed substantially to our knowledge in parasitology and mammalogy with over 280 papers in the literature.

Robert Rausch has been a member of the Society continuously from the 1940s, and he has served the American Society of Parasitologists well. As recipient of the H.B. Ward Medal in 1961, his research and dedication to parasitology was first recognized by the Society. He was a member of the Council from 1973 to 1976 and was our Vice President (1982) and President (1984). He has had an advisory role in various capacities on other committees. Dr. Rausch was also a member of the

Editorial Board for the *Journal of Parasitology* and for the *Proceedings of the Helminthological Society of Washington*, an important affiliate of the American Society of Parasitologists. Active participation in the British Columbia Parasitologists by Robert and Virginia Rausch was instrumental in revitalizing and building a link between the University of Washington and the University of British Columbia that promoted parasitology in the Pacific Northwest.

Robert Rausch has had a major and positive impact on modern parasitology throughout the world. He was among the first Americans to build connections with his counterparts in the Soviet Union in the 1960s. These activities opened an important gateway for dialogue during the Cold War and, later, for collaborative parasitological studies in Russia and the Former Soviet Union by himself and colleagues that endure today. Dr. Rausch has represented parasitology on a diversity of national committees, including those for the National Academy of Sciences and the National Science Foundation. Consultant and international advisory roles, primarily related to medical parasitology and hydatid disease, have included most notably those with the World Health Organization, the Pan American Health Organization and Government of the Peoples Republic of China. These have reflected positively on American parasitology and the American Society of Parasitologists.

As one nominator noted: "His scientific reputation was instrumental in providing him access to areas within Mongolia, for investigations of endemic echinococcosis. He was the first Caucasian and American some of the inhabitants had met. Few of us will ever have such opportunities during our careers. Dr. Rausch appreciated and valued diversity long before it was recognized by the rest of us. He was truly the first global citizen I have been honored to know."

Robert Rausch is a man of great integrity and principles. He is exceptionally generous of his time and resources, always providing help and advice to colleagues, graduate students, and the community in general. For those of us who have been so fortunate, Dr. Rausch shall always be our mentor and our professor, and we shall always be his students. Robert Rausch has been a true ambassador for parasitology at home and abroad during a global career spanning the past 50 years, and he embodies the best of what our discipline should represent.

It is my honor and privilege to present the recipient of the Distinguished Service Award for 2001, Dr. Robert L. Rausch.