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INTRODUCTION OF ROBERT B. GRIEVE AS THE HENRY BALDWIN WARD MEDALIST FOR 1990

Daniel R. Brooks
Department of Zoology, University of Toronto, Toronto, Ontario, Canada M5S 1A1

One of the most joyous events at an ASP meeting is the awarding of the Henry Baldwin Ward Medal. It allows the society to reward a member who has, against all odds and expectations, emerged as a leader while still young. To our most precious commodity, those members of the society who are very young, we can point to an example, a role model. Two of the most influential events in my career as a parasitologist were listening to a recording of Gerry Schmidt’s acceptance speech and hearing Mike Kemp’s acceptance speech live. The Ward medal also provides the society with certain “bragging rights.” To other disciplines and societies, we can say, “Look what kind of young people we attract!” In the case of this year’s winner, we should feel very smug indeed.

The 1990 winner of the Henry Baldwin Ward Medal was born in Torrington, Wyoming on 27 October 1951. He attended the University of Wyoming from 1969 to 1975, earning both his B.S. and M.S. degrees in microbiology. From there, he went to Gainesville, Florida, where he earned his Ph.D. degree in the Department of Animal Science at the University of Florida in 1978. He next travelled to Ithaca, New York, where he was a postdoctoral fellow and research associate in the School of Veterinary Medicine at Cornell University until 1981. At that time, he moved southeast again, this time to the School of Veterinary Medicine at the University of Pennsylvania, where he rose to the rank of tenured associate professor in three years. In 1984, he began a westward trek, becoming an associate professor in the School of Veterinary Medicine at the University of Wisconsin. In 1987 he moved west again, becoming an associate professor in the School of Veterinary Medicine at Colorado State University, where he is presently a full professor. In his trek, Dr. Robert Grieve has blazed a trail of excellence in teaching, service, and research that make him eminently qualified for the Henry Baldwin Ward Medal.

Dr. Grieve’s record shows that he has never been content simply to stand in front of a class and present material. He began organizing and coordinating courses as early as 1982, and at last count had organized or coordinated six different courses at three veterinary schools. His teaching breadth includes courses in the biology of disease agents, clinical pathology, clinical laboratory medicine, immunology of parasitic infection, pathology research seminar, vectors and vector borne diseases, veterinary and clinical parasitology, and zoonoses and community medicine. Dr. Grieve has also been highly active in training new parasitologists. He has supervised 14 independent studies and research electives students, 9 graduate students (while serving on research committees for 10 others), 4 postdoctoral fellows, and 2 students in special programs for high school students.

One letter of recommendation by a colleague noted that while at the University of Wisconsin Dr. Grieve “… earned a reputation as one of the school’s finest teachers . . . Bob’s academic activities are marked by excellence. He is uncompromising in the quality of his teaching and research, and in the service he provides to the scientific and academic communities.” A former postdoctoral fellow wrote, “In the final analysis, the best way to judge the quality of a teacher’s efforts is by the success of his students. Speaking as a student I think Bob has been remarkably successful.”

Dr. Grieve has been tireless in his commitment to service to his academic institutions and his professional societies. He has served on no fewer than 38 academic committees since 1981, chairing 7 of them. Evidence of his leadership capabilities became clear early in this area, as he was chairing committees by 1981, and served as Head of the Parasitology Laboratory at the University of Pennsylvania from 1982 to 1984. In addition, he provided a Dirofilaria serodiagnosis service both at Cornell and the University of Pennsylvania from 1979 to 1983. Of his service to professional societies, one colleague wrote, “Dr. Grieve is a member of 8 different scientific societies and has served in formal roles in the American Society of Veterinary Parasitologists, American Heartworm Society, and the American Society of Parasitologists. His service to ASP has been on the really critical committees, the Nominating Committee and the Council. He routinely displays a level of professional commitment which is of the highest order, is targeted at sourcing continued growth and development of the Society, but is not self-serv ing or self-aggrandizing. He serves as an ad hoc reviewer for 8 scientific journals and is a member of the editorial board of the American Journal of Veterinary Research. . . .” He has also provided advisory and consultant service continuously since 1979 for a constellation of government acronyms, including USDA, NAIAD, NIH, WHO, and the USAF.

Parasitology is inherently a study of interactions, and Dr. Grieve’s work has shown a predilection in this vein from the beginning. His master’s thesis was titled “Dual infection of lambs with Trichostrongylus colubriformis and chlamydiae” and his dissertation was titled “Cell-mediated and humoral immune responses of Dirofilaria immitis in experimentally-infected dogs.” The focus of Dr. Grieve’s research has been the immunobiology of nematode infections, in particular Dirofilaria immitis and Toxocara canis.

A previous winner of the Ward medal evaluated Dr. Grieve’s contributions to parasitology and immunobiology thusly, “He is one of the central figures in the immunobiology of filariasis today . . . is more knowledgeable about and has contributed more to the immunology of canine filariasis than anyone else around right now. His early work on the perplexing lack of clearance of parasites in what should be immunocom-
petent animals was an exemplary and methodical examination of canine lymphocyte responsiveness. . . . He was one of the first to exploit the specificity of monoclonal antibodies in dissecting apart serological reactivity in the dog, and his prowess in this field has resulted in the generation and characterization of a number of unique antibodies to filarial antigens in general . . . he has succeeded where many others have failed in this kind of venture. . . . He has developed the most convincing evidence I know of for the acquisition of protective immunity against canine dirofilariasis, and this has pointed the way towards current efforts to develop immunoprophylactic agents for the infection—a field in which he is way ahead of his competitors. . . . Bob is honest and dedicated, energetic and productive, articulate, alert, and bold in his thinking, and in his pursuit of the application of the best of contemporary immunobiology.” Others wrote of the consistently high quality of his publications and the significance of the questions addressed in them, and of the technical difficulties in working with the systems he has chosen, and his skill in being able to master them as few others have. Time and again, Dr. Grieve is characterized not as being on the cutting edge but as creating it.

Dr. Grieve has been extraordinarily successful in generating the funds necessary to maintain a world-class operation. He has received, as principal investigator alone, 30 separate research grants and contracts since 1979, or approximately 5 grants every 2 years, totaling almost $2,250,000 in direct costs. In addition, he is a core member of the group receiving a John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation Award of more than $1,500,000 to found the Colorado State University MacArthur Center for Vector Molecular Biology. Furthermore, he has been extremely productive in converting money into significant published information. He has authored and coauthored 54 research articles and 13 book chapters, reviews, and conference proceedings, as well as a public information article on dog heartworm. He has developed a patented method for serodiagnosis of canine heartworm. Research findings in his laboratory have been presented at national and international meetings no fewer than 50 times. In addition, he has given nearly 60 invited presentations in academic, clinical, and corporate settings.

Modern science tends to be a heartless, cutthroat business. In a recent text, the philosopher David Hull suggested that this is so because the need to be self-policing in science far outweighs the need to be polite with one’s colleagues. Dr. Grieve’s style of science stands in sharp contrast to this cynical but all too often accurate view. Letters of support for his nomination emphasize that he is “one of the most intellectually honest and generous scientists I know. His reputation as an outstanding scientist is based upon his willingness to share techniques, resources, [and] knowledge which can be accepted with the full faith that the quality of his scholarship and his word need not be questioned.” Another former Ward medalist stated that “. . . he is a highly competent, modest, self-effacing person with an uncompromising dedication to excellence in all aspects of his professional life. . . . He possesses the innate common sense and good judgement which characterize Men of the West. He does not attempt to draw attention to himself. He seldom speaks, but when he does only fools do not listen. He has an understated sense of humor which he often uses to make his point, especially when the situation could use some lightening up. . . . Dr. Grieve is one of the broadest based young parasitologists I know. . . . His perspective of our discipline is invaluable and will become more so as he continues to grow and mature academically.”

The best summation I can make is to repeat a statement from one of Dr. Grieve’s colleagues, who wrote “. . . Bob is one of those rare individuals who makes you glad to be a friend, colleague and fellow parasitologist . . . if I have to depend on others I just hope it can be [on] Bob Grieve. . . . Bob is a pure player, who holds to the highest ideals of what our profession stands for and demands. He leads with integrity and would bring nothing but honor to the list of previous Ward medalists.” The awards committee agreed with this sentiment unanimously and proudly presents to you the 1990 winner of the Henry Baldwin Ward Medal, Dr. Robert Grieve.