

BRADFORD BERK NAMED THE 2012 EARL P. BENDITT AWARDEE*William R. Huckle*

Bradford C. Berk, M.D., Ph.D. to receive the 2012 Earl P. Benditt Award.

The NAVBO Meritorious Awards Committee and Council is pleased to announce the selection of Bradford C. Berk, M.D., Ph.D, as the 2012 recipient of the Earl P. Benditt Award, in recognition of his many contributions to the study of vasoactive peptide signaling in vascular smooth muscle.

Dr. Berk is currently Professor in the Departments of Pathology & Laboratory Medicine and Pharmacology & Physiology, University of Rochester School of Medicine and Dentistry, Rochester, New York. He also holds the post of Senior Vice President for Health Sciences and CEO of the Medical Center and Strong Health Center at the same institution.

Dr. Berk will present the Benditt Lecture and receive the award, one of NAVBO's highest honors, at the NAVBO Workshops in Vascular Biology 2012 (which will feature the Developmental Vascular Biology and the Genetics and Genomics of Vascular

Disease Workshops) in Pacific Grove, California at the Asilomar Conference Grounds on October 14, 2012.

Dr. Berk is credited by his colleagues as demonstrating that growth factors such as EGF and PDGF could also function as vascular smooth muscle contractile agonists, a paradigm-shifting finding. The major body of work he developed in collaboration with Wayne Alexander and colleagues on the molecular mechanisms of angiotensin-II signaling and downstream effects in VSMC laid the groundwork for the clinical application of angiotensin II receptor antagonists in disease conditions related to hypertrophic and hyperplastic vascular disorders in addition to hypertension.

His early work, at Emory University in collaboration with Bob Nerem at Georgia Tech, provided some of the first insights into vascular remodeling responses to the laminar shear stress associated with blood flow. More recently, Dr. Berk's studies have encompassed mechanistic studies of redox homeostasis, a subject of considerable importance in translational vascular biology and therapeutics.

Dr. Berk has an impressive record of uninterrupted peer-reviewed grant support, publications, and numerous scientific awards and honors to his credit. Equally impressive is Dr. Berk's career-long commitment to teaching, mentoring and executive-level leadership in the arena of academic medicine. He has served NAVBO and the American Heart Association in leadership capacities.

Dr. Berk is one of the founding members of NAVBO and served NAVBO as President from 1999 through 2000. He was a member of Council when the Earl P. Benditt Award was established. Dr. Berk continues to serve NAVBO as a member of our Scientific Advisory Board and was instrumental in getting funding to support the Judah Folkman Award. His commitment and ongoing support of the society is unparalleled. Congratulations Dr. Berk, this is a well deserved honor.