

ANNUAL HONOREE PROGRAMS

Each year, The Cobb Institute presents the **W. Montague Cobb Lifetime Achievement Award**, the **Cato T. Laurencin M.D., Ph.D. Lifetime Research Award**, and **Distinguished Cobb Lecturer**. These honorees are celebrated at the Opening and Awards Ceremony of the National Medical Association (NMA) Convention and Scientific Assembly. Additionally, a W. Montague Cobb Reception is held in their honor during the evening of the W. Montague Cobb Scientific Symposium and Lectureship at the NMA Convention.



2024 W. Montague Cobb Lifetime Achievement Award

Joan Y. Reede, M.D., M.S., M.P.H., M.B.A.

Dean for Diversity and Community Partnership
Harvard Medical School

In acknowledgment of her extraordinary dedication and groundbreaking contributions, we proudly recognize Dr. Joan Y. Reede as a distinguished recipient of the W. Montague Cobb Lifetime Achievement Award. Throughout her illustrious career, Dr. Reede has exemplified an unwavering commitment to fostering diversity and community partnership within the medical field. As the inaugural dean for diversity and community partnership at Harvard Medical School (HMS), Dr. Reede has played a pivotal role in spearheading comprehensive programs aimed at advancing the recruitment, retention, and progression of underrepresented minority faculty. Her visionary leadership extends across various domains, including oversight of diversity initiatives for faculty, trainees, students, and staff. Dr. Reede's impact is profound, highlighted by her founding of the HMS Minority Faculty Development Program and her role as faculty director of Community Outreach programs.

Notably, she assumed the directorship of the Harvard Catalyst Program for Faculty Development and Diversity. Beyond her administrative roles, Dr. Reede holds esteemed professorial appointments at Harvard Medical School, the Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health, and Massachusetts General Hospital, showcasing her multifaceted expertise and dedication to academic excellence. Throughout her distinguished career, Dr. Reede has pioneered innovative programs at HMS, addressing critical pipeline and leadership issues for minorities and women in medicine, research, and healthcare. Her tireless advocacy is reflected in the myriad mentoring initiatives she has championed, spanning from middle school to graduate and medical school levels. Dr. Reede's collaborative endeavors, such as the Biomedical Careers Program (BSCP), have transcended institutional boundaries, fostering mentorship and support for underrepresented minority students and professionals across academia, industry, and healthcare sectors. Dr. Reede's remarkable achievements have earned her widespread acclaim, including prestigious awards such as the Herbert W. Nickens Award from both the Society of General Internal Medicine and the Association of American Medical Colleges. Her election to the National Academy of Medicine further underscores her enduring legacy and national stature in advancing health equity and diversity in the biomedical sciences. In conferring upon Dr. Joan Y. Reede the W. Montague Cobb Lifetime Achievement Award, we celebrate not only her remarkable achievements but also her enduring legacy as a trailblazer, visionary leader, and tireless advocate for diversity, equity, and inclusion in medicine and beyond. Her exemplary contributions serve as an inspiration to us all, embodying the highest ideals of service, leadership, and compassion.



About the W. Montague Cobb Lifetime Achievement Award

Named for William Montague Cobb, M.D., Ph.D. (1904–1990), Physical Anthropologist, Anatomist, Activist, and Prolific Writer. Dr. Cobb dedicated his life to promoting civil rights and combating segregation and discrimination in medical education and healthcare. To honor his contributions, the W. Montague Cobb Lifetime Achievement Award was established in 2006.

General Criteria for the Award: Recognizes individuals with over 20 years of consistent contributions in the field of medicine.

Previous Recipients:

- 2023 Wayne A. I. Frederick, MD, MBA, President, Howard University; Charles R. Drew Professor of Surgery, Howard University College of Medicine
- 2022 Valerie Montgomery Rice, MD, FACOG, President and CEO, Morehouse School of Medicine
- 2021 Hannah Valentine, MD, Inaugural Chief Officer for Scientific Workforce Diversity, National Institutes of Health (NIH); Senior Investigator, National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute (NHLBI)
- 2020 Frank S. Royal, Sr., MD, Former Chairman and Honorary Trustee, Meharry Medical College; Former Chairman, Board of Trustees, Virginia Union University
- 2019 Carolyn Barley-Britton, MD, Associate Professor of Neurology, Columbia University Irving Medical Center, Vagelos College of Physicians & Surgeons
- 2018 Nelson Adams, MD, Chairman, Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology, Jackson North Medical Center; Chairman of the Board of Trustees, Meharry Medical College; Chairman of the Board, Sunshine State Health Plan; Trustee Emeritus, Barry University
- 2017 Edith P. Mitchell, MD, MACP, FCCP, FRCP (London), Past President, National Medical Association (NMA); Enterprise Vice President for Cancer Disparities, Sidney Kimmel Cancer Center at Jefferson Health; Director of the Center to Eliminate Cancer Disparities and Professor of Medicine and Medical Oncology at Sidney Kimmel Medical College at Thomas Jefferson University; National Cancer Institute's Blue Ribbon Panel; NIH Council of Councils; Appointed Member, President's Cancer Panel, 2019-2023
- 2016 Reed V. Tuckson, MD, FACP, Managing Director, Tuckson Health Connections
- 2015 Alma R. George, MD, Past President, NMA
- 2014 John Ruffin, PhD, Former Director, NIH Office of Minority Health
- 2013 Roselyn Payne Epps, MD, MPH, MA, Professor Emerita of Pediatrics and Child Health, Howard University School of Medicine
- 2012 Louis Sullivan, MD, Former Secretary, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS); Former President, Morehouse School of Medicine
- 2011 LaSalle Leffall, MD, Past President, American Cancer Society; Former Professor and Chair, Department of Surgery, Howard University Hospital
- 2010 John Nelson, MD, MPH, Past President, American Medical Association (AMA)
- 2009 Vivian W. Pinn, MD, Past President, NMA; Former Director, NIH Office of Women's Health; Chair, Department of Pathology, Howard University College of Medicine
- 2008 David Satcher, MD, PhD, Former U.S. Surgeon General; President, Meharry Medical College; Former Director, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)
- 2007 Edith Irby Jones, MD, Past President, NMA
- 2006 W. Michael Byrd, MD, MPH, Public Health Scientist, Harvard School of Public Health

2024 Cato T. Laurencin Lifetime Research Award

Selwyn M. Vickers, M.D.

President and CEO

Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center

In profound celebration of his exemplary contributions and enduring legacy, we proudly honor Dr. Selwyn M. Vickers, MD, FACS, as the recipient of the 2024 Cato T. Laurencin Lifetime Research Award. Serving as President and CEO of Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center (MSK), Dr. Vickers stands as a beacon of excellence in the fields of pancreatic cancer surgery, research, and health disparities advocacy on a global scale. A distinguished member of the National Academy of Medicine and the Johns Hopkins Society of Scholars, Dr. Vickers' illustrious career is characterized by groundbreaking discoveries and transformative leadership in medical science and patient care. Born and raised in Alabama, Dr. Vickers' journey of excellence began at the University of Alabama at Birmingham (UAB), where he joined the faculty. Rising through the ranks, he was appointed as the John H. Blue Chair of General Surgery, leaving an indelible mark on the institution's academic and research landscape. His tenure at UAB culminated in his appointment as Senior Vice President of Medicine and Dean of the UAB Marnix E. Heersink School of Medicine, where his visionary leadership propelled the institution to new heights of innovation and excellence. Throughout his distinguished career, Dr. Vickers has garnered international acclaim for his pioneering research in pancreatic cancer treatment, notably co-leading the development of Minnelide, an injectable cancer drug that entered phase 2 trials in 2019. His groundbreaking work has not only advanced medical science but has also brought hope to countless patients battling pancreatic and gastrointestinal cancers worldwide. As the recipient of the Cato T. Laurencin Lifetime Research Award, Dr. Vickers' transformative contributions to medical research and patient care stand as a testament to his unwavering commitment to excellence and innovation. His groundbreaking discoveries and visionary leadership have not only shaped the landscape of modern medicine but have also inspired future generations of researchers and healthcare leaders to push the boundaries of possibility in the pursuit of improved health outcomes for all. In honoring Dr. Selwyn M. Vickers, we celebrate not only his remarkable achievements but also his profound impact on the lives of countless individuals touched by his compassion, leadership, and unwavering dedication to excellence. His legacy serves as a beacon of hope and inspiration, illuminating the path forward towards a future where groundbreaking discoveries and transformative innovation continue to redefine the possibilities of medical science and patient care.



About the Cato T. Laurencin M.D., Ph.D. Lifetime Research Award

Named for Cato T. Laurencin, MD, PhD, Orthopedic Surgeon, Biomedical Engineer, National Academy of Medicine, and National Academy of Engineering Member. History: Dr. Laurencin has dedicated his life to excellence in research, teaching, surgery, mentoring, and scientific leadership. He has been instrumental in advancing the field of orthopedic surgery and reducing health disparities. His exceptional contributions have inspired a new generation of researchers and healthcare professionals.

General Criteria for the Award: Recognizes individuals with over 20 years of consistent contributions benefiting reducing health disparities through research and inquiry.

Previous Recipients:

- 2023 Neil Powe, MD, MPH, MBA, Chief of Medicine, University of California San Francisco (UCSF) Medicine Service, Priscilla Chan and Mark Zuckerberg San Francisco General Hospital
- 2022 Ezra Griffith, MD, Professor Emeritus of Psychiatry and African American Studies, Yale University
- 2021 Richard Allen Williams, MD, Past President, National Medical Association (NMA); Founder and President, Minority Health Institute; Founder, Association of Black Cardiologists (ABC)
- 2020 Mae C. Jemison, MD, Former National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) Astronaut; Principal, 100 Year Starship Project
- 2019 Griffin P. Rodgers, MD, MACP, Director, National Institute of Diabetes and Digestive and Kidney Diseases (NIDDK)
- 2018 Camara P. Jones, MD, PhD, Past President, American Public Health Association (APHA); Senior Fellow, Satcher Health Leadership Institute, Morehouse School of Medicine; Senior Fellow, Cardiovascular Research Institute, Morehouse School of Medicine
- 2017 Virginia Caine, MD, MPH, Past President, APHA; Director and Chief Medical Officer, Marion County Public Health Department; Indiana University–Purdue University Indianapolis (IUPUI) Board of Advisors; Associate Professor of Medicine, Indiana University School of Medicine
- 2016 James R. Gavin III, MD, PhD, Clinical Professor of Medicine, Emory University and Indiana University; CEO & Chief Medical Officer of Healing Our Village, Inc.; National Program Director Emeritus, Robert Wood Johnson Foundation (RWJF) Harold Amos Medical Faculty Development Program (AMFDP)
- 2015 Roy Wilson, MD, MS, Chancellor Emeritus, University of Colorado Denver and Health Sciences Center; President Emeritus and Distinguished Professor of Ophthalmology, Wayne State University
- 2014 Alvin Poussaint, MD, Emeritus Professor of Psychiatry, Harvard Medical School
- 2013 Beny J. Primm, MD, Addiction Research Treatment Corporation (ARTC) Founder; Founding President, Urban Resource Institute
- 2012 Kenneth Olden, PhD, ScD, LHD, Former Director, National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences (NIEHS)
- 2011 Jane Cooke Wright, MD, Former Professor of Surgery, Head of the Cancer Chemotherapy Department, and Associate Dean at New York Medical College

2024 Distinguished Cobb Lecturer

Cato T. Laurencin, M.D., Ph.D.

University Professor

CEO, The Cato T. Laurencin Institute for Regenerative Engineering

University of Connecticut

Editor-In-Chief, *Journal of Racial and Ethnic Health Disparities*

In celebration of his exceptional achievements and pioneering contributions, we proudly honor Professor Cato T. Laurencin as the esteemed 2024 Distinguished Cobb Lecturer. Renowned for his groundbreaking work at the intersection of biomaterials, nanotechnology, and regenerative engineering, Dr. Laurencin stands as a trailblazer in the field of musculoskeletal regeneration. Dr. Laurencin's illustrious career has been marked by numerous historic milestones, including his recent distinction as the first surgeon ever elected to the National Academy of Sciences. This prestigious accolade adds to his distinguished memberships in the National Academy of Engineering, the National Academy of Medicine, and the National Academy of Inventors, underscoring his profound impact on multiple scientific disciplines.



His pioneering research has revolutionized orthopedic treatments, with innovations such as the Laurencin-Cooper ligament (LC ligament) for ACL regeneration and engineered grafts for shoulder rotator cuff tendon repair and regeneration. These groundbreaking inventions have been lauded in National Geographic Magazine's "100 Scientific Discoveries that Changed the World" edition, cementing Dr. Laurencin's legacy as a transformative figure in medical science. In addition to his scientific achievements, Dr. Laurencin is a passionate advocate for social justice, earning recognition for his dedication to promoting equity and fairness in healthcare. His commitment to advancing diversity and inclusion has been honored with prestigious awards from esteemed organizations like the Society for Biomaterials and the W. Montague Cobb/NMA Health Institute. Currently serving as the Albert and Wilda Van Dusen Endowed Professor of Orthopaedic Surgery and CEO of the Connecticut Convergence Institute for Translation in Regenerative Engineering, Dr. Laurencin continues to inspire future generations of researchers and clinicians through his exemplary leadership and unwavering commitment to excellence. Dr. Laurencin's academic journey is a testament to his unwavering pursuit of excellence, having earned his B.S.E. in Chemical Engineering from Princeton University, his M.D. with Magna Cum Laude honors from Harvard Medical School, and his Ph.D. in Biochemical Engineering/Biotechnology from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, where he was recognized as a Hugh Hampton Young Fellow. In addition to his myriad accomplishments, Dr. Laurencin is the founding Editor-in-Chief of the *Journal of Racial and Ethnic Health Disparities*. This significant role underscores his dedication to addressing disparities in healthcare and promoting equity within the medical community. In honoring Professor Cato T. Laurencin as the 2024 Distinguished Cobb Lecturer, we celebrate not only his remarkable achievements but also his enduring legacy as a visionary leader and trailblazer in the field of regenerative medicine. His groundbreaking contributions continue to shape the future of healthcare, inspiring innovation and advancing the frontiers of medical science for the betterment of humanity.

About the Distinguished Cobb Lecturer

Previous Recipients:

- 2023 Ruth J. Simmons, PhD, President Emerita of Prairie View A&M University, Brown University, and Smith College; Distinguished Presidential Fellow, Rice University; Adviser to the President of Harvard University on HBCU Initiatives
- 2022 Valerie Montgomery Rice, MD, FACOG, President and CEO, Morehouse School of Medicine
- 2021 Wayne A. I. Frederick, MD, MBA, FACS, President, Howard University; Distinguished Charles R. Drew Professor of Surgery, Howard University College of Medicine
- 2020 Deborah Prothrow-Stith, MD, Dean and Professor of Medicine, College of Medicine at Charles R. Drew University of Medicine and Science
- 2019 Kimberly Gregory, MD, MPH, FACOG, Director, Division of Maternal Fetal Medicine, Cedars-Sinai Medical Center
- 2018 Dara Richardson-Heron, MD, Former Chief Engagement Officer - All of Us Research Program at the National Institutes of Health (NIH)
- 2017 Edith P. Mitchell, MD, MACP, FCCP, FRCP (London), Past President, National Medical Association (NMA); Enterprise Vice President for Cancer Disparities, Sidney Kimmel Cancer Center at Jefferson Health; Director of the Center to Eliminate Cancer Disparities, and Professor of Medicine and Medical Oncology at Sidney Kimmel Medical College, Thomas Jefferson University; National Cancer Institute's Blue Ribbon Panel; National Institutes of Health Council of Councils; Appointed Member, President's Cancer Panel, 2019-2023
- 2016 James E. K. Hildreth, PhD, MD, President & CEO, Meharry Medical College
- 2015 Joan Y. Reede, MD, MPH, MS, MBA, Dean for Diversity and Community Partnership, Harvard Medical School
- 2014 Thomas A. LaVeist, PhD, Director of Hopkins Center for Health Disparities Solutions and William C. and Nancy F. Richardson Professor in Health Policy, Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health
- 2013 Harold P. Freeman, MD, Founder, Harold P. Freeman Patient Navigation Institute
- 2012 Virginia Caine, MD, MPH, Past President, APHA; Director and Chief Medical Officer, Marion County Public Health Department; Associate Professor of Medicine, Indiana University School of Medicine
- 2011 LaSalle Leffall, Jr., MD, First Distinguished Charles R. Drew Professor of Surgery, Howard University College of Medicine; Former President, American Cancer Society (ACS); Former President, Society of Surgical Oncology; Former President, Society of Surgical Chairs; Former Chief of General Surgery at the U.S. Army Hospital, Munich, Germany (1960-1961)
- 2010 Robert S. Satcher, MD, PhD, Former National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) Astronaut; Assistant Professor, The Feinberg School of Medicine at Northwestern University; Clinical Assistant Professor, University of Texas M.D. Anderson Cancer Center
- 2009 Roderic I. Pettigrew, PhD, MD, Director of National Institute of Biomedical Imaging and Bioengineering at NIH
- 2008 Augustus A. White III, MD, PhD, Founding President, J. Robert Gladden Orthopaedic Society; Professor of Orthopaedic Surgery and Ellen and Melvin Gordon Distinguished Professor of Medical Education, Director of the Culturally Competent Care Education Program, Former Advisory Dean of the Oliver Wendell Holmes Society, Harvard Medical School; Former Professor, Harvard/MIT Division of Health Sciences and Technology; Former Orthopaedic Surgeon-in-Chief, Beth Israel Hospital