Ernest Cotlove

Dr. Cotlove was one of the most enthusiastic and active organizers of ACLPS from our beginning. His absorbing interests and work helped mold our purpose and philosophy: progressive education in laboratory medicine and applied clinical research. Ernie, as he was affectionately known to his colleagues, was unshakably committed to the best possible patient care as a first priority. To him this meant thorough grounding in laboratory medicine and the highest attainable precision and accuracy in testing procedures and interpretation. Another characteristic was Ernie’s genuine pleasure in mastering areas of new knowledge whether they be biochemistry, physiology, electronics, or golf. Thus, he was a stimulating and thorough teacher of residents, fellows, and attending physicians.

Ernest Cotlove’s scientific and medical career started at NYU where, after finishing medicine in 1943, he pursued studies in renal physiology and chemistry. His outstanding ability to acquire knowledge and conduct innovative investigations earned him an invitation from James Shannon, then Director of the National Heart Institute at NIH. He continued studies of renal physiology and chemistry until 1953 when he became Head of Clinical Chemistry Laboratories in the new Department of Clinical Pathology being developed by George Z. Williams during the Clinical Center’s construction. Dr. Cotlove seized the opportunity to design and equip the most advanced and functional clinical chemistry facility in our country.

Dr. Cotlove’s career exemplified the progress seen in medical research and technology. He designed the electronic chloridometer that bears his name, in spite of published reports that such an approach was theoretically impossible. He used this innovative skill to develop new instruments and methods at the Clinical Center. Many recognized him as an expert in clinical chemistry, computer programming, systems design for laboratory operations, and automation of analytical instruments. He designed and closely supervised fabrication of an automated enzyme analyzer with temperature control to 0.02 °C. His informed consultations were much sought by research scientists and clinicians alike. He wrote lucidly, and unselfishly shared his new knowledge and research findings with all. Ernie was a dedicated pioneer; he never complained or hesitated to respond, even in the middle of the night, when called out because the computer broke down, or when called to interpret an emergency test result, or when rain flooded the computer room, and while covering the machines with tarps, he would joke with his night staff that they had the only computer in the world that could run underwater.
Dr. Cotlove was a founding member of ACLPS. Following his untimely death in 1970, ACLPS established the Cotlove Lectureship. This award is presented to a scientist (member or non-member of the academy) for outstanding contributions to the science of laboratory medicine.

### Cotlove Lecturers

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Lecturer Name</th>
<th>Institution and Location</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1971</td>
<td>George Miller</td>
<td>Univ. of Illinois Chicago, IL</td>
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<td>1972</td>
<td>Brian Bull</td>
<td>Loma Linda University Loma Linda, CA</td>
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<td>1974</td>
<td>David Sencer</td>
<td>Centers for Disease Control Atlanta, GA</td>
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<td>1976</td>
<td>Robert Good</td>
<td>Sloan Kettering Cancer Institute New York, NY</td>
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<td>1977</td>
<td>Paul E. Lacy</td>
<td>Washington University St. Louis, MO</td>
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<td>1978</td>
<td>Daniel Steinberg</td>
<td>Univ. of Calif., San Diego San Diego, CA</td>
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<td>1979</td>
<td>Baruch S. Blumberg</td>
<td>Univ. of Pennsylvania Fox Chase, PA</td>
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<td>1980</td>
<td>C. D. Arnaud</td>
<td>Mayo Clinic Rochester, MN</td>
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<td>1981</td>
<td>Pedro Cuatrecasas</td>
<td>Burroughs Wellcome Research Triangle Park, NC</td>
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<td>1982</td>
<td>Stanley Falkow</td>
<td>Stanford University Stanford, CA</td>
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<td>1983</td>
<td>Roscoe O. Brady</td>
<td>National Institute of Health Bethesda, MD</td>
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<td>1984</td>
<td>Willem J. Kolff</td>
<td>Univ. of Utah School of Medicine Salt Lake City, UT</td>
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<td>1985</td>
<td>Leonard Jarett</td>
<td>University of Pennsylvania Philadelphia, PA</td>
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1986  David Seligson ..............................................................Yale University
        New Haven, CT
1987  Peter Nowell ..........................................................University of Pennsylvania
        Philadelphia, PA
1988  Daniel P. Stites ..........................................................University of California, San Francisco
        San Francisco, CA
1989  Jorge Yunis ..........................................................University of Minnesota
        Minneapolis, MN
1990  Peter Jatlow ..........................................................Yale University
        New Haven, CT
1991  K. M. Brinkhous ..........................................................University of North Carolina
        Chapel Hill, NC
1992  Y. W. Kan ..........................................................University of California, San Francisco
        San Francisco, CA
1993  Howard Rasmussen ..........................................................Yale University
        New Haven, CT
1994  Leroy E. Hood ..........................................................University of Washington
        Seattle, WA
1995  Janet D. Rowley ..........................................................University of Chicago
        Chicago, IL
1996  Barry Marshall ..........................................................University of Virginia
        Charlottesville, VA
1997  John A. Hansen ..........................................................University of Washington
        Seattle, WA
1998  M. Desmond Burke ..........................................................Cornell University
        New York, NY
1999  Victor Nussenzweig .......................................................New York University
        New York, NY
2000  Mario R. Capecchi ..........................................................University of Utah
        Salt Lake City, UT
2001  Robert Nakamura .......................................................Scripps College
        La Jolla, CA
2002  Barry S. Coller ..........................................................Rockefeller University
        New York, NY
2003  Thomas Grogan ..........................................................University of Arizona
        Tucson, AZ