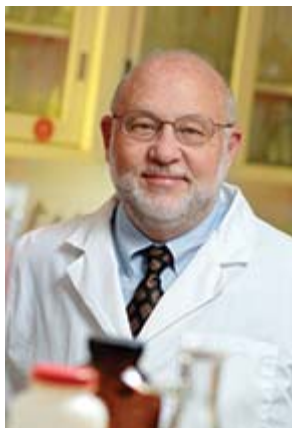


University of Southern California

USC News



Richard Bergman

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## Columbia University honors USC diabetes expert Richard Bergman

By Leslie Ridgeway

For his achievements in research on type 2 diabetes, Richard Bergman has been honored with the Naomi Berrie Award for Outstanding Achievement in Diabetes Research from Columbia University Medical Center.

The award, designed to promote and recognize outstanding accomplishments in the field of diabetes research, gives Bergman \$100,000 to support a two-year research fellowship for a student or research fellow in his lab.

Bergman, professor and chair of the Department of Physiology & Biophysics, accepted the award at the 11th annual Frontiers in Diabetes Research conference on Nov. 14. "It's a great honor for me and my colleagues to receive the Naomi Berrie Diabetes Award," said Bergman. "It is equally honorific to be listed among the previous recipients, who are among the best diabetes researchers in the world. Finally, I am very much looking forward to the arrival in my lab of Dr. Josiane Broussard, who will be supported by the Berrie (award). She is a young investigator with enormous potential."

One of Bergman's most important contributions to diabetes research is the definition of the "disposition index," a predictor of risk for type 2 diabetes. The disposition index describes the capacity of the pancreatic b-cells to secrete additional insulin to compensate over time for alterations in insulin sensitivity. It is now known that the disposition index is inherited, and is a potent predictor of long-term normality versus instability of glucose levels.

The diabetes research community has extensively used Bergman's minimal model analysis to study the regulation of metabolic functions under a variety of environmental and genetically influenced conditions. Large-scale epidemiologic and genetic studies of diabetes and related diseases have been made possible by the analysis of Bergman and his colleagues.

Bergman's other major contributions to understanding endocrine regulation and metabolism include discovering sensors for glucose in the abdominal portal vein that are the first line of defense in the counter-regulatory response to hypoglycemia. This latter work has important implications for countering hypoglycemia in type 1 diabetes mellitus. Bergman received the Banting Medal for Scientific Achievement in 2006 as well as the Man of Distinction Lifetime Achievement Award in 2004, both from the American Diabetes Association.

He is a graduate of the Case Institute of Technology in Cleveland, Ohio, where he received a bachelor's

degree in biomedical engineering in 1965. In 1971, he received his Ph.D. in physiology from the University of Pittsburgh Medical School.



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