Berk/Fise Clinical Achievement Award

The Berk/Fise Clinical Achievement Award, formerly the ACG Clinical Achievement Award, is presented to not more than one Member/Fellow of the College in any year and is made in recognition of distinguished contributions to clinical gastroenterology over a significant period of time. Specific criteria include, in addition to a career of distinguished clinical practice of gastroenterology, contributions in patient care, clinical science, clinical education, technological innovation, and public and community service.

2015 Recipient
Peter A. Banks, MD, MACG

The College is honored to bestow on Peter A. Banks, MD of the Brigham and Women’s Hospital, the prestigious Berk/Fise Clinical Achievement Award for his distinguished contributions in the field of gastroenterology, his dedication to medical education, research, and mentoring, and his outstanding leadership in many institutions of our medical community including the American College of Gastroenterology.

Dr. Peter A. Banks graduated from Harvard College in 1957, received his MD from Columbia College of Physicians and Surgeons in 1961, and completed his internship and medical residency at Beth Israel Hospital in Boston. He was a Clinical Associate at the National Institutes of Health in Bethesda, MD, from 1963-1965 and was a resident in gastroenterology at Mount Sinai Hospital in New York from 1965-1967. He joined the faculty at Harvard Medical School in 1967 and the faculty at Tufts Medical School in 1973. He was Chief of Gastroenterology at St. Elizabeth’s Hospital in Boston from 1973-1992. In 1992, he joined the faculty at Brigham and Women’s Hospital as Director of Clinical Gastroenterology and Director of the Center for Pancreatic Disease. Since 1999 he has been a Professor of Medicine at Harvard Medical School. He initiated the Academic Clinical Track Fellowship in Gastroenterology at Brigham and Women’s Hospital in 1993. This Fellowship is designed to train Fellows to be outstanding clinicians, teachers, and clinical investigators. Fellows in the program enroll in courses at the Harvard School of Public Health and obtain a Masters Degree in Public Health. This program continues to be headed by Dr. Banks and funded through two endowments that he created. Thus far, 46 Fellows have completed the program and 14 are currently in training. Many of the graduates of this training program have gone on to achieve national stature.
Dr. Banks’ major contributions in clinical research are in the field of pancreatic disease with particular emphasis on the recognition and treatment of severe acute pancreatitis, recognition and treatment of infected necrosis, and treatment of chronic pancreatitis. His contributions in the medical literature are substantial, including 160 peer-reviewed articles, 116 chapters and editorials, and two books on pancreatitis. He has written guidelines for the treatment of both acute and chronic pancreatitis.

Dr. Banks is a Master of the American College of Gastroenterology. He served as a member of the Board of Governors for three years, a member of the Board of Trustees for nine years, and Chairman of the Public Relations Committee. He has also served as a member of other committees including Educational Affairs, National Affairs, Patient Care, and Awards as well as several Ad-Hoc Committees. Dr. Banks has served as President of the American Pancreatic Association, President of the International Association of Pancreatology, and Chairman of the Pancreatic Disease Disorder Section of the American Gastroenterological Association.

Dr. Banks was a member of the Gastrointestinal Drugs Advisory Committee for the U.S. Food and Drug Administration from 1992-1996. He has served on the editorial board of several notable journals including Pancreas and the International journal of Pancreatology, and has been Associate Editor of Pancreatology.

Dr. Banks has participated actively in community service related to professional work. He served as Chairman of the Education Committee for the Crohn’s and Colitis Foundation as well as Chairman of the Scientific Advisory Board for the Massachusetts Chapter. In 1991 he was honored as Humanitarian of the Year by the Greater Boston Chapter of Crohn’s and Colitis Foundation. In addition, he has been a member of the Board of Directors of the National Pancreas Foundation since 1998 and was honored by this foundation in 2006. He has been active for more than 20 years in the Digestive Disease Coalition, and has served as Chairman of this organization.

Dr. Banks has received many awards for teaching, community service, and leadership. He has been the recipient of the St. Luke Award at St. Elizabeth’s Hospital for dedication and excellent in education and the Jerry S. Trier Award for Excellence in Clinical Teaching at Harvard Medical School and Brigham and Women’s Hospital. He has also received the American Gastroenterological Association (AGA) Distinguished Educator Award in 2000 and the AGA Outstanding Achievement in Clinical Gastroenterology Award in 2006. He received the James S. Winshall Leadership Award from Brigham and Women’s Hospital in 2008. He has received the Vay Liang and Frisca Go Award for Lifetime Achievement by the American Pancreatic Association in 2010, the Joan Cutler Lifetime Achievement Award by the Crohn’s and Colitis Foundation of America in 2011, the Lifetime Achievement Award by the Digestive Disease National Coalition in 2012, and the Lifetime Achievement Award by the Collaborative Alliance for Pancreatic Education and Research in 2013.