The International Association of Bioinorganic Scientists (IABS)

The **International Association of Bioinorganic Scientists (IABS)** was founded in 1975 as a non-profit scientific organization to provide workers in the field of "Bioinorganic Chemistry" a unifying forum for the exchange and publication of ideas. The Association's vice president was the renowned Klaus Schwarz, whose passing in 1978 prompted the creation of the Klaus Schwarz Commemorative Medal to honor trace element researchers for their accomplishments. Candidates for the annual award are selected on recommendation from fellow workers in the field or from members of the Editorial Board of the Association's journal, Biological Trace Element Research, or other qualified individuals.

List of Prior Medallists

1981 Eric J. Underwood, leading Australian trace element researcher and author of a widely read monograph on the subject (awarded posthumously)

1982 James Cecil Smith, USDA Nutrition Institute in Beltsville, MD, for his development of methods of maintaining experimental animals under controlled, 'trace element sterile' conditions.

1983 Manfred Anke, the head of the Institute of Animal Nutrition at the University of Jena, Germany.

1984, 1985 Keshan Disease research groups of the Chinese Academy of Medical Sciences in Beijing, China, and at X'ian Medical College.

1986 Noted toxicologist Arthur J. Furst of the Institute of Chemical Biology at University of San Francisco, CA.

1987, 1988, 1989 Th. H. Jukes, R. Milstrey, E. Patterson and Robert Stokstad of the University of California at Berkeley, CA, and Thressa C. Stadtman, NIH, Bethesa. MD, primarily for their contributions toward the understanding of the physiological functions of selenium.

1990 Forrest H. Nielsen, the director of the USDA Grand Forks Human Nutrition Research Center from 1985 to 2001. The research of Dr. Nielsen focused on determining the needs for essential nutrients for and beneficial action of bioactive trace minerals on bone health, cardiovascular function, and neuropsychological function.

1991 John R. Arthur, The Rowett Research Institute at Aberdeen, Scotland, and Dietrich Behne, the Hahn-Meitner Institute in Berlin, Germany, for their work on selenoenzymes.

1992, 1993 John T. Rotruck and William G. Hoekstra, Univ. of Wisconsin, for their discovery, in 1972, that a then known enzyme, glutathione peroxidase, was a seleno-enzyme.

1994 Orville A. Levander, the Human Nutrition Research Center in Beltsville, MD. Levander is

best known for his discovery of the dependence of the pathogenicity of viruses on selenium status.

1997 Fulvio Ursini of the University of Padova, Italy, for his contributions to the understanding of the biochemistry of the selenium dependent peroxidases in the prevention of lipid peroxidation.

1998 James E. Oldfield, of the Oregon State University Nutrition Research Institute at Corvallis, Oregon. Oldfield was one of the leading pioneers in the research aiming at finding the causes and the means of prevention of White Muscle Disease.

1999 Josef Köhrle of the Institute of Experimental Endocrinology at Humboldt University, Berlin, Germany, mainly for his work on the importance of selenium and iodine metabolism for thyroid hormone biosynthesis and human health.

2000 Leslie M. Klevay, USDA Grand Forks Human Nutrition Research Center, Grand Forks, ND, for his work on copper metabolism.

2001-2010 Medal recipients were the selenium researchers Matilde Maiorino, of the School of Medicine, Univ. of Padova, Howard E. Ganther (Univ. of Wisconsin), Dolph Hatfield (National Cancer Institute), Kazuo T. Suzuki, University of Chiba, Japan.

2011 Joel D. Wallach, AL International, for his observation in 1978 of pancreatic lesions that were identical to those observed in human patients in the offspring of inadequately-fed rhesus monkeys, suggesting that cystic fibrosis—at the time believed to be a genetic disorder of humans only—could also be the result of selenium deficiency, and that some forms of cystic fibrosis might be preventable. Dr. Wallach had been under consideration for the medal since 1979, after he presented his findings at an symposium held in La Jolla, California, to an international audience of leading trace element researchers.
