



ASSOCIATION FOR MOLECULAR PATHOLOGY
Education. Innovation & Improved Patient Care. Advocacy.
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Association for Molecular Pathology Announces 2019 Award Recipients

ROCKVILLE, Md. – September 19, 2019 – The Association for Molecular Pathology (AMP), the premier global, molecular diagnostics professional society, today announced the recipients of this year’s Award for Excellence in Molecular Diagnostics, Jeffrey A. Kant Leadership Award and Meritorious Service Award. These prestigious accolades will be presented this November during [AMP’s 25th Annual Meeting & Expo](#) in Baltimore, Maryland.

[Award for Excellence in Molecular Diagnostics](#)

Russell Higuchi, PhD

Cepheid, Sunnyvale, CA, USA

Dr. Higuchi is receiving AMP’s highest honor in recognition of his pioneering work in molecular biology. Over a distinguished career spanning more than three decades, Dr. Higuchi has authored more than 60 publications, which have been cited over 25,000 times. He is an inventor on thirteen different issued US patents, including sole inventor on the first method and instrument patents for real-time PCR. Subsequently, Dr. Higuchi helped establish real-time PCR as the standard molecular diagnostics technology. Earlier in his career he published the first paper in the field of ancient DNA as well as the first paper describing the forensic science use of PCR. This was to identify an individual from a single hair. He is currently involved in the management of projects that are looking to discover effective nucleic acid markers for the non-invasive detection and diagnosis of cancer and infectious disease agents.

Following his award presentation, Dr. Higuchi will deliver the meeting’s keynote lecture, “Efficient Use of the Available DNA - A Career.”

[Jeffrey A. Kant Leadership Award](#)

Karl V. Voelkerding, MD

University of Utah School of Medicine, ARUP Laboratories

AMP is recognizing Dr. Voelkerding for his exceptional leadership and commitment to advancing AMP’s mission. He has consistently provided educational and practical leadership to AMP, from his early days educating AMP members about hemochromatosis on our listserv, all the way through to his tireless efforts concerning next-generation sequencing and advising AMP for strategic success. Dr. Voelkerding has served AMP in many capacities, including as the first chair of AMP’s Infectious Diseases subdivision in 1994, as Program Chair in 1999, as President in 2001, and as a member of the Strategic Opportunities Committee.

[AMP Meritorious Service Award](#)

Rami Mahfouz, MD

American University of Beirut, Lebanon

Dr. Mahfouz is being recognized for his dedication to making AMP a truly international society. He is the first non-U.S. resident to receive this award. Shortly after becoming a member in 2002, Dr. Mahfouz helped spearhead the creation of the International Affairs Working Group, which later

became the permanent International Affairs Committee (IAC). Dr. Mahfouz has served as the IAC Chair since 2017. Under his tenure, AMP has hosted three international meetings and doubled its number of international affiliate organizations. AMP's international membership and meeting attendees have also increased substantially.

"Drs. Higuchi, Voelkerding and Mahfouz have made indispensable contributions to the molecular diagnostics field and to AMP," said Victoria M. Pratt, PhD, FACMG, AMP President. "On behalf of the more than 2,500 AMP members, I wish to congratulate and thank them for their unwavering commitment to the molecular diagnostics community and all of the patients we serve."

For more information on the AMP 2019 Annual Meeting, please visit our [meeting website](#). Register for the AMP 2019 Annual Meeting [here](#).

ABOUT AMP

The Association for Molecular Pathology (AMP) was founded in 1995 to provide structure and leadership to the emerging field of molecular diagnostics. AMP's 2,500+ members practice various disciplines of molecular diagnostics, including bioinformatics, infectious diseases, inherited conditions, and oncology. Our members are pathologists, clinical laboratory directors, basic and translational scientists, technologists, and trainees that practice in a variety of settings, including academic and community medical centers, government, and industry. Through the efforts of its Board of Directors, Committees, Working Groups, and Members, AMP is the primary resource for expertise, education, and collaboration in one of the fastest growing fields in healthcare. AMP members influence policy and regulation on the national and international levels, ultimately serving to advance innovation in the field and protect patient access to high quality, appropriate testing. For more information, visit www.amp.org and follow AMP on Twitter: [@AMPath](https://twitter.com/AMPath)

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