

For Immediate Release

**AMERICAN FEDERATION FOR AGING RESEARCH
ANNOUNCES 2014 SCIENTIFIC AWARDS**

New York, NY – November 7, 2014

The American Federation for Aging Research (AFAR) is proud to announce the recipients of its 2014 Scientific Awards:



Terrie Fox Wetle, MS, PhD, the inaugural Dean of Brown University's School of Public Health and Professor of Health Services, Policy and Practice, will receive the **Irving S. Wright Award of Distinction**. This award is named in honor of AFAR's founder and recognizes exceptional contributions to basic or clinical research in the field of aging. Established in 1982, the award is a framed citation and carries a cash prize of \$2,500.



Rafael de Cabo, PhD, Senior Investigator, Translational Gerontology Branch, National Institute on Aging, National Institutes of Health, will receive the **Vincent Cristofalo Rising Star Award in Aging Research**. This award is named in honor of the late Dr. Cristofalo, who dedicated his career to aging research and to encouraging young scientists to investigate important problems in the biology of aging. Established in 2008, the award is a framed citation and carries a cash prize of \$5,000.

"These awards are given annually to members of the aging research community whose work advances the field, and advances our understanding of aging," notes AFAR Executive Director Stephanie Lederman, EdM. "Both awards are named in honor of farsighted scientists, and the recipients are chosen for their vision and accomplishments as well."

Nominations for the awards are by invitation, and are judged by an independent panel of leading aging researchers. Nominees must have made significant contributions to aging research.

This year, the honorees will receive their awards and present related **lectures on Friday, November 7** at the Annual Scientific Meeting of the Gerontological Society of America (GSA) in Washington D.C. Dr. Wetle will present on "Translating Research to Improve Health of Aging Populations." Dr. de Cabo's lecture will explore "Calorie Restriction: Where Are We Now?"

The awardees also will be recognized at AFAR's 2014 Regional Awards Dinner on Wednesday, November 12 in New York City at the Lotos Club.

About this Year's Awardees

In nominating **Dr. Terrie Fox Wetle** for the *Irving Wright Award of Distinction*, a colleague noted that “Dr. Wetle has consistently built bridges between disciplines, and in doing so, her leadership skills and intellect have significantly helped translate biomedical research into public health initiatives.”

Dr. Wetle has authored more than 300 scientific publications and edited several books, including *Public and Private Responsibilities in Long-Term Care: Finding the Balance* and a research methods text, *Improving Aging and Public Health Research: Qualitative and Mixed Methods*. Her research interests include end of life care, ethical issues in geriatrics, and promoting health of aging populations.

As Associate Dean of Medicine for Public Health and Public Policy at Brown University's Alpert Medical School, she first led the development of the School of Public Health, where she is now the inaugural Dean of the School of Public Health and Professor of Health Services, Policy and Practice.

Dr. Wetle has served in leadership roles for several government agencies, including Deputy Director of the National Institute on Aging at the National Institutes of Health, and Director of an Area Agency on Aging and a Social Policy Analyst at the Administration on Aging. In the non-profit community, she is Past-President of the Gerontological Society of America and immediate past President of the American Federation for Aging Research.

Currently, Dr. Wetle serves on the Governing Council of the International Association for Gerontology and Geriatrics, and is Program Chair for the 2017 meeting. At NIH, she was appointed to the Council of Councils and the National Advisory Council on Aging.

The winner of this year's *Vincent Cristofalo Rising Star Award in Aging Research*, **Dr. Rafael de Cabo**, has been lauded by his nominators as “one of the most preeminent young scientists in the field of aging research” whose publications “have already led to important surprises and already begun to modulate our understanding of the fundamental aspects of the genetics, cell biology and the molecular processes of aging.”

As Senior Investigator, Translational Gerontology Branch, National Institute on Aging, National Institutes of Health, Dr. de Cabo's research has focused on the molecular mechanisms for the effects of caloric restriction on aging, and pharmacological interventions for healthy aging.

After receiving a postdoctoral position in the Laboratory of Neurosciences at the National Institute on Aging in Baltimore, Maryland, in 2004 he was appointed as a tenure track investigator in the Laboratory of Experimental Gerontology. He is now a senior investigator and Chief of the Experimental Gerontology Section at NIA.

In addition to authoring 150 publications to date, Dr. de Cabo is Editor in Chief of the *Journal of Gerontology Biological Sciences* and serves on the editorial boards of *Aging Cell*, *BBA-Molecular Mechanisms of Disease*, *Aging Research Reviews*, *Longevity & Healthspan*, *Impact Aging*, and *AGE* and is one of the founding editors of *Microbial Cell* as well.

To date, AFAR has presented thirty-five Irving Wright Awards and seven Vincent Cristofalo awards. Learn more about the **history of AFAR's Scientific Awards and past awardees** at <http://www.afar.org/research/awards/scientific-awards>

About AFAR

The American Federation for Aging Research (AFAR) is a national non-profit organization whose mission is to support and advance healthy aging through biomedical research. Founded in 1981, AFAR has championed the cause and supported the funding of science in healthier aging and age-related medicine. To address the shortage of physicians and researchers dedicated to the science of healthier aging, AFAR funds physicians and scientists probing the fundamental mechanisms of aging, as well as specific diseases associated with aging populations at critical points throughout their careers. AFAR engages the public through webinars, conferences and our online resource, InfoAging.org, featuring over two dozen downloadable guides, edited by guest experts on topics ranging from theories of aging, age-related conditions, healthy lifestyle tips, and more.

Learn at www.afar.org or follow AFARorg on Twitter and Facebook.