Ada Doisy Lecturers

1970-71  Charles Huggins* and Elwood V. Jensen
1972-73  Paul Berg* and Walter Gilbert*
1973-74  Saul Roseman and Bruce Ames
1974-75  Arthur Kornberg* and Osamu Hayaishi
1976-77  Luis F. Leloir*
1977-78  Albert L. Lehninger and Efraim Racker
1978-79  Donald D. Brown and Herbert Boyer
1979-80  Charles Yanofsky
1980-81  Leroy E. Hood
1983-84  Joseph L. Goldstein* and Michael S. Brown*
1984-85  Joan Steitz and Phillip Sharp*
1985-86  Stephen J. Benkovic and Jeremy R. Knowles
1986-87  Tom Maniatis and Mark Ptashne
1988-89  J. Michael Bishop* and Harold E. Varmus*
1989-90  Kurt Wüthrich
1990-91  Edmond H. Fischer* and Edwin G. Krebs*
1993-94  Bert W. O’Malley
1994-95  Earl W. Davie and John W. Suttie
1995-96  Richard J. Roberts*

*Indicates received Nobel Laureate

In our effort to celebrate the academic milestone of 25 years of medical education at the University of Illinois College of Medicine at Urbana-Champaign, we acknowledge with sincere gratitude the combined efforts of the faculty of the Department of Biochemistry. The College of Medicine recognizes the Department’s integral contribution to our past and future, towards providing education both for primary care physicians and for leaders and scholars in the health care system.
In 1970, Dr. Edward A. Doisy endowed the Ada Doisy Lectures in Biochemistry in honor of his mother. Dr. Doisy described his mother as “a kind and gentle woman who was always racing her motor in a determined and well-governed direction toward her objective.” Dr. Doisy noted that she was devout in her Baptist beliefs and that “the other god she also worshipped seven days a week was knowledge and education, and she early inculcated this adoration into her children.” He also noted that she was best remembered for “an inflexible tenacity of purpose, of “stick-to-it-iveness,” and of wrestling with and solving problems against all obstacles.”

Dr. Doisy closely followed the example set by his mother. He received his Bachelor’s degree in 1914 and his Master’s degree in 1916 from the University of Illinois. He earned his Ph.D. in 1920 from Harvard University. After a brief period at Washington University School of Medicine, he headed the Department of Biochemistry at St. Louis University School of Medicine until his retirement in 1965. Dr. Doisy was the first to isolate and synthesize vitamin K, the vitamin responsible for blood coagulation. In 1943 Dr. Doisy received the Nobel Prize in Medicine and Physiology in recognition of this work.

The inaugural Ada Doisy Lectures were held in May 1971 by Nobel Laureate Dr. Charles Huggins and Dr. Elwood Jensen. The Doisy Lectures are recognized as the most distinguished lectureship in Biochemistry at the University of Illinois. Of the thirteen Doisy lecturers who are Nobel laureates, nine received their Prize after serving as Doisy Lecturers. The list of Doisy Lecturers is printed on the last page of this brochure.