

THE KRIEG CORTICAL KUDOS: A LITTLE HISTORY

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In the early 1970's the Cajal Club gave informal awards called the Cortical Kudos. While these carried no formal recognition outside the club, and no cash awards, they were enthusiastically given by the club and greatly appreciated by the recipients. However, after a short period this tradition was discontinued.

At the 1985 meeting of the Cajal Club Dr. Wendell Krieg met informally with Dr. David Whitlock, the Apical Dendrite of the club. Krieg indicated that he was planning on selling his summer home, the Nautilus, at Woods Hole and that he was thinking about giving the resultant funds to the Cajal Club to reestablish the Cortical Kudo Awards. Krieg requested a few minutes at the 1985 business meeting to put forth his idea; and naturally Dr. Whitlock put this on the agenda. However, only about 15 individuals attended the business meeting. Dr. Krieg stated that too few were in attendance to discuss his plans and it would have to wait for another time.

Krieg seemed quite disappointed that there were so few members at the business meeting and there was some concern that he might reconsider his original plan to endow awards. Right after the 1985 meeting, the Apical Dendrite (David Whitlock) wrote to Krieg and suggested that poor attendance at the business meeting should "...not preclude your consideration of support...". Whitlock went on to explain the value and various ramifications of such an award, its very positive reflection on the Cajal Club, and that it could be a "...lasting symbol of your contributions to the club". Whitlock invited Krieg's further consideration of the issue.

Between May and December of 1985 a

variety of discussions took place and arrangements were made to create a legal structure through which Dr. Krieg's donation(s) could be received. The Cajal Club had been granted, in 1972, status as non-profit organization by the IRS under section 501-(c)-6 of the tax code. While appropriate for a small organization such as the Cajal Club (which collects minimal dues) this did not allow an individual to make larger tax-deductible donations to the club. To address this situation the officers of the Cajal Club established the Cajal Club Foundation Corporation (CCFC). The CCFC was chartered in the State of Texas and is classified by the IRS under section 501-(c)-3 of the tax code. This foundation can receive donations in any amount and the donee can claim a charitable deduction when they file their federal income tax. The CCFC was originally governed by a Board of Directors consisting of the Cajal Club Nucleolus (President), Nissl Body (Vice President), Apical Dendrite (Secretary-Treasurer) and two members elected by the membership at large. In 1993-94 the CCFC Board of Directors was enlarged by elevating Dr. Wendell Krieg to lifetime status as a CCFC Director, by adding a third individual to be elected from the membership at large, and the Alpha Helix would become a full member of the board. This increased the size of the CCFC Board from 5 to 8 members. Elected members serve staggered 3 year terms. This organizational structure created a mechanism through which Dr. Krieg could donate the proceeds of the sale of his property at Woods Hole, the Nautilus, and create a corpus the interest from which would support a series of awards that became known as the Krieg Cortical Kudos. In late December of 1985 Dr. Krieg started the ball rolling with an initial donation of \$4,100.00; this has been followed over the

intervening years by large donations resulting from his sale of the Nautilus.

Krieg specifically suggested that his donations be used to fund four awards that recognize work on the cerebral cortex. Following Dr. Krieg's wishes and suggestions, four levels of awards were created. The first, **The Cortical Scholar**, is awarded to a predoctoral student (graduate or medical) who is conducting exemplary research on the structure and/or connections of the cerebral cortex. The second, **The Cortical Explorer** is awarded to a young neuroscientist who is conducting research on the structure and/or connections of the cerebral cortex and who has received an advanced professional degree in the past six years. This individual must have several publications on the topic to their credit. The third level, **The Cortical Discoverer**, is awarded to an established neuroscientist in mid-career (or later) who has made significant contributions to our understanding of the structure, connection, and function of the cerebral cortex. The fourth, **Santiago's Brother**, is awarded to a distinguished senior scientist who has been preeminent in research on the cerebral cortex through a long and productive career. This is an individual who is widely recognized for contributions which span many years and have significantly influenced our view of the cerebral cortex. It was stipulated that this award should be "given rarely"

Nominations for the Krieg Cortical Kudos can be made by members of the Club and previous winners. Individuals who may know of an outstanding candidate for one of these awards but may not be a member of the Cajal Club, are encouraged to contact a member or officer of the club. Naturally, all interested neuroscientists are invited to join the Cajal Club. Our dues in 1995-1996 are only \$20.00 per year.

Nominations for the Cortical Scholar prize should include six copies of each of the following, 1) a nomination letter identifying the candidate, 2) a statement by the candidate on how receipt of this award would aid in their career goals, 3) the candidate's curriculum vitae, 4) the student's professional school academic

record, and 5) two reprints and/or manuscripts of the length published in peer-review journals describing the candidate's research and of which the candidate is the primary author. **Nominations for the Cortical Explorer** should include six copies of each of the following, 1) a nomination letter identifying the candidate and giving the academic history of the nominee including the date on which their advanced professional degree was awarded, 2) the candidate's curriculum vitae, and 3) three publications that describe the candidate's research on the structure and/or connections of the cerebral cortex. **Nominations for the Cortical Discoverer** should include six copies each of the following, 1) a nomination letter identifying the candidate, 2) the candidate's curriculum vitae, and 3) five publications describing the candidate's research on the structure, connections, and/or function of the cerebral cortex.

Announcements of the impending awards each year are sent to all members of the club and to major centers of neurological research. Nominations are submitted, by September 15 of the fall preceding the spring meeting, to the Apical Dendrite. The winners are selected by the Cajal Club Award Committee. The Board of Directors of the CCFC make the decision of how many awards can be funded that year.

Awardees in the first three levels receive a cash award, a certificate, and \$250.00 in travel support. The cash awards, however, are substantial. In 1995, in addition to travel support, The Cortical Scholar received \$1000.00, The Cortical Explorer \$3000.00, and The Cortical Discoverer \$5000.00. The **Cortical Discoverer** also receives the Cajal Medal, a symbol of the highest honor of the Cajal Club for outstanding research.

The award of Santiago's Brother has only been given only one time since the initiation of the Krieg Cortical Kudos in 1987. As described elsewhere in these Proceedings, this award was made to Dr. Wendell J. Krieg in 1991. The recognition of Santiago's Brother carries with it a beautifully done certificate and a medal.