

ISHLT Pioneer Award

2016 Recipient – Sir Roy Calne

Sir Roy Calne is a British transplant surgeon and a pioneer in organ transplantation whose work has been concerned with the improvement of immunosuppression techniques aimed at prolonging the life of liver transplant recipients.

As a young surgeon he was frustrated by repeated assertion that organ transplantation would not be viable. He was inspired by Peter Medawer to develop chemical approaches to control the immune response and played a key role in the development of Azathioprine as an immunosuppressive therapy.

He was appointed Professor of Surgery at University of Cambridge in 1965 and performed the first liver transplant operation in Europe in 1968. For his scientific excellence in the field, he was elected to the Fellowship of the Royal Society in 1974 and subsequently received a knighthood in 1986.

His experimental work was critical to the translation of cyclosporin A into clinical practice which was a turning point in the modern era of organ transplantation. He remains research active and is acclaimed as a talented artist, sculptor and author.

It's a great honor for the ISHLT to recognize Sir Roy as a pioneer who has allowed heart and lung transplantation to evolve from experimental concept to therapeutic reality.



Sir Roy Calne receives the ISHLT Pioneer Award on April 27, 2016. Pictured: ISHLT 2016 Program Chair Andrew Fisher, Sir Roy Calne, and ISHLT President Duane Davis.