

THE IRWIN ESKIND LECTURE IN BIOMEDICAL SCIENCE

Dr. Irwin Eskind was a native of Nashville, Tennessee, and a supporter of Vanderbilt University, the School of Medicine, and the Medical Center, for more than four decades. A clinical professor of medicine, emeritus, he was a 1945 graduate of Vanderbilt and a 1948 graduate of the Vanderbilt School of Medicine. He received his residency training in Internal Medicine at Boston City Hospital 1948-51 and completed his training at Vanderbilt in 1951. He served in the U.S. Army Medical Corp. 1951-53, and was a fellow in Gastroenterology at the Lahey Clinic in Boston 1953-54. Dr. Eskind was a long-standing member of the University community and established his clinical practice in Internal medicine in Nashville in 1954.

Working on the medical staffs of Vanderbilt Hospital and Saint Thomas Hospital, he not only supported the clinical teaching programs directed at our medical students and residents, but devoted enormous personal effort to enhancing the resources of the University and the Medical Center. Dr. Eskind's abilities in this area were built on his strong reputation in the community.

He served as president of both the Middle Tennessee Diabetes Association and The Temple Congregation OHABAI Shalom, and was on the boards of the WPLN Foundation, the Nashville Jewish Federation and the Jewish Philanthropic Fund. Dr. Eskind was the recipient of the Humanitarian Award of the Middle Tennessee Community Foundation and was honored as Person of the Year by the Nashville Council on Community Justice. His active participation in these organizations and in his very busy practice did not prevent him from extending his service to Vanderbilt. Dr. Eskind was involved in important ways in the support of the Medical School and Nursing School, the Blair School of Music, the Vanderbilt Institute for Public Policy Studies and the University as a whole. His understanding of the needs of the University was reflected in and driven by his service on the Vanderbilt Board of Trust, as a member of the Executive Budget and Hospital Committees. Dr. Eskind's perceptions of the needs of the University not only led him to contribute in substantial ways personally, as a Life Member of the Canby Robinson Society and a member of the Friends of Blair, the Friends of the Library and the Julia Hereford Society, but also motivated him to bring others to participate in this support as well.

He served as president of the Canby Robinson Society and on the Executive Committee of the Campaign for Vanderbilt. Finally, the Eskind Biomedical Library and the Vanderbilt Eskind Diabetes Clinic stand as a clear and magnificent mark of the commitment to Vanderbilt of Dr. Eskind and his family.

Dr. Eskind and his wife of more than 50 years, Annette, raised two sons, Jeffrey and Steven, who are both physicians in Nashville.



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BRUCE SPIEGELMAN, PH.D.

TRANSCRIPTIONAL CONTROL OF ADIPOGENESIS:
TOWARD A NEW GENERATION OF THERAPEUTICS

DECEMBER 1, 2011

4:00 P.M.

208 LIGHT HALL

**IRWIN ESKIND LECTURE
IN BIOMEDICAL SCIENCE**

VANDERBILT  UNIVERSITY
MEDICAL CENTER

TRANSCRIPTIONAL CONTROL OF ADIPOGENESIS:
TOWARD A NEW GENERATION OF THERAPEUTICS

There is a world-wide epidemic of obesity and type II diabetes and the development of new therapeutics for metabolic disease is crucial. Exercise is a very effective treatment for many metabolic disorders but how and why exercise improves these conditions is not clear. We have found that exercise increases the expression and secretion of a novel polypeptide hormone from muscle that we have termed irisin. Irisin is under the control of the transcriptional coactivator PGC1 α . Circulating irisin is elevated with exercise in mouse and man, and even mildly elevated irisin in the blood of mice caused the “browning” of white adipose tissues with increased expression of UCP1 and a thermogenic program. It also increases total body energy expenditure and has anti-diabetes activity. Irisin acts on primary white fat cells in culture to activate a thermogenic program at 5-50nM and mostly likely works through a cell-surface receptor. These data suggest that this pathway may represent a novel opportunity for the treatment of common metabolic disorders.



BRUCE SPIEGELMAN, PH.D.

**STANLEY J. KORSMEYER PROFESSOR OF
CELL BIOLOGY AND MEDICINE**

**HARVARD MEDICAL SCHOOL AND DANA FARBER
CANCER INSTITUTE**

MEMBER, NATIONAL ACADEMY OF SCIENCES

Bruce M. Spiegelman is the Stanley J. Korsmeyer Professor of Cell Biology and Medicine at Harvard Medical School and Dana-Farber Cancer Institute. Dr. Spiegelman received a B.S. with highest honors from the College of William and Mary in 1974, his PhD in biochemistry from Princeton University in 1978, and completed postdoctoral work at MIT. He joined Harvard Medical School and Dana-Farber Cancer Institute in 1982. His research focuses on fat cell biology, diabetes and muscular diseases. Dr. Spiegelman has been honored with many awards including Bristol-Myers Squibb Award for Distinguished Achievement in Metabolic Research; the Solomon Berson Award, American Physiological Society; the Rolf Luft Award in Endocrinology, Karolinska Institute (Sweden); the Trans-Atlantic Medal, British Endocrine Society; the Naomi Berrie Award for Outstanding Achievement in Diabetes Research, Columbia University. In 2002 Dr. Spiegelman was elected to the American Academy of Arts and Sciences and the National Academy of Science.
