

PROCEEDINGS - PART I
SEVENTH INTERNATIONAL CONGRESS OF BIORHEOLOGY
NANCY, FRANCE, 18-23 JUNE 1989

POISEUILLE GOLD MEDAL AWARD CEREMONY

Laudatio: Poiseuille Awardee Richard Skalak

A. Silberberg

It is my privilege and pleasure to present to you, the award of the Poiseuille Medal of our Society, a most esteemed and appreciated theorist in the field of Biorheology, Richard Skalak.

Richard Skalak is a New Yorker. He was born in New York City, grew up there and then attended Columbia University, eventually becoming James Kip Finch Professor of Engineering Mechanics at Columbia in 1977. Until 1988, when he retired from Columbia he was also the director of its Bioengineering Institute. Since 1988 he is a Professor of Bioengineering in the University of California, San Diego, having moved to San Diego to continue his fruitful and imaginative collaboration with the outstanding bioengineering group there and with his close associate Shu Chien who also moved there from Columbia.

On leaves of absence he has also worked in Cambridge, England and in Gothenburg, Sweden. During his career he has acquired a long list of previous awards and honors. He is a Fellow of the American Society of Mechanical Engineers, a Fellow of the American Academy of Mechanics, a Fellow of the New York Academy of Medicine, a Fellow of the American Society of Civil Engineers and he is a member of the National Academy of Engineering, USA. He has also received the Centennial Service Award, the Alza Medal

of the Biomedical Engineering Society and the Lissner Award of the Bioengineering Division of the American Society of Mechanical Engineers.

He has contributed fundamental work on blood flow, on blood cell rheology, on the mechanical analysis of the cell membrane, on rouleaux formation by red blood cells and on the mechanics of the functioning of leukocytes. He has made fundamental advances in our understanding of bone growth and in the modelling of stress lines in tissue, work which has had profound impact on plastic surgery.

He has applied his great knowledge of mechanics to biological systems. In his hands mechanical analysis has yielded tremendous benefits to Biorheology. His work has caused us to appreciate the role of the special rheological features of the biological systems he discusses and has inspired us to relate them to the physiological role they are asked to play and to elucidate the biophysical aspects of their molecular composition and structure. His work is a model to us all, his achievements are the inspiration of the coming generation. This is indeed a very happy occasion for us all.