Ray C. Fish (1902–1962) was a leading figure in Houston's natural gas industry and a philanthropist. He believed in the American dream of “opportunity for success.” The Ray C. Fish Foundation was established so that others might be encouraged to broaden man's self-knowledge and to keep the American dream alive. After its founder's death from heart disease, the Fish Foundation granted $5 million to make the Texas Heart Institute a reality. For this reason, the Institute's highest professional award is given in honor of this extraordinary man. The award recognizes those whose innovations have made significant contributions to cardiovascular medicine and surgery.

The 1st Texas Heart Institute Medal and Ray C. Fish Award for Scientific Achievement in Cardiovascular Diseases were presented in 1972 to Dr. Norman Shumway. Since 1972, 31 other highly deserving recipients have been so honored by the Institute. The complete Roll of Recipients appears on the next page.

Patrick W. Serruys, MD, PhD

The 2011 Fish Award recipient is Patrick W. Serruys for his major contributions to interventional cardiology, including those to the development of both bare-metal and drug-eluting stents. Dr. Serruys has served as Professor of Interventional Cardiology at the Interuniversity Cardiological Institute of the Netherlands (1988–98) and at Erasmus University, Rotterdam. Since 1980, he has directed the clinical research program of the Catheterization Laboratory, Thoraxcenter, Erasmus University, and since 1997 he has led the interventional department of Heart Center Rotterdam. He is a Fellow of the American College of Cardiology and a Fellow of the European Society of Cardiology, and he is a member of the scientific council of the International College of Angiology. He is the author or co-author of over 1,600 papers and editor or coeditor of 37 books, and he is a member of the editorial boards of 20 scientific journals.

Dr. Serruys received his MD degree (1972) from the Catholic University of Louvain, Belgium, and his PhD degree (1986) from the Erasmus University. He has been Circulation's associate editor for Europe for 5 years, and he co-edited the European Society of Cardiology Textbook of Cardiovascular Medicine. In 1997, he received the Wenckebach Prize of the Dutch Heart Foundation. In 2000, he was awarded the Gruentzig Award of the European Society of Cardiology. In 2001, he presented the Paul Dudley White Lecture at the American Heart Association meeting. In 2011, he received the Lifetime Achievement Award of the American College of Cardiology, in recognition of many years of service and invaluable contributions to the ACC.
Roll of Recipients

of the Texas Heart Institute Medal and the Ray C. Fish Award
for Scientific Achievement in Cardiovascular Diseases

1972  Norman E. Shumway  
Cardiovascular Surgery (Heart Transplantation)  
1988  J. Willis Hurst  
Cardiology (Writing and Teaching)

1973  F. Mason Sones, Jr.  
Cardiology (Coronary Angiography)  
1989  Robert J. Hall  
Cardiology (Clinical Practice and Teaching)

1974  Eugene E. Braunwald  
Physiology (Myocardial Preservation)  
1990  Sol Sherry  
Cardiology (Thrombolytic Therapy)

1975  Willem J. Kolff  
Cardiovascular Surgery (Artificial Organs)  
1992  Arthur S. Keats  
Cardiovascular Anesthesiology

1976  Harvey Feigenbaum  
Cardiology (Echocardiography)  
1997  Aldo R. Castañeda  
Pediatric Cardiovascular Surgery

1977  John W. Kirklin  
Cardiovascular Surgery (Heart-Lung Machines)  
1997  Julio C. Palmaz  
Radiology (Endovascular Stents)

1978  Bernard Lown  
Cardiology (Cardiac Arrhythmias)  
1998  Magdi Yacoub  
Cardiovascular Surgery (Heart-Lung Transplantation)

1979  John J. Gallagher and William C. Sealy  
(co-recipients)  
Cardiology and Cardiovascular Surgery 
(Surgery for Pre-Excitation)

1980  W. Proctor Harvey  
Cardiology (Clinical Practice and Teaching)  
1999  Thomas J. Fogarty  
Cardiovascular Surgery (Medical and Surgical Devices)

1981  Paul M. Zoll  
Cardiology (Pacemaking)  
2004  James L. Cox  
Cardiovascular Surgery (Surgery for Atrial Fibrillation)

1983  Andreas R. Grünzig  
Cardiology (Percutaneous Transluminal Coronary Angioplasty)  
2004  Stephen Westaby  
Cardiovascular Surgery (First Clinical Trial of Axial-Flow Devices for Destination Therapy and Significant Contributions to the Surgical Literature)

1984  Hein J.J. Wellens and Douglas P. Zipes  
(co-recipients)  
Cardiology (Diagnosis and Management of Pediatric Cardiac Arrhythmias)  
2007  Charles E. Mullins  
Pediatric Cardiology (Teaching and Pioneering Work in Interventional Techniques for Congenital Heart Disease)

1985  Denton A. Cooley  
Cardiovascular Surgery (Surgery for Congenital Heart Disease, Aneurysms of the Aorta, and Implantation of the Artificial Heart)  
2008  O.H. Frazier  
Cardiovascular Surgery (Heart Transplantation and Research and Development of the Left Ventricular Assist Device)

1986  William J. Rashkind  
Pediatric Cardiology (Non-surgical Treatment of Congenital Heart Disease)  
2009  James T. Willerson  
Cardiology (Pioneering Work in Unstable Atherosclerotic Plaques, Acute Coronary Syndromes, and Cardiac Stem Cells)

1987  Dwight E. Harken  
Cardiovascular Surgery (Intracardiac Surgery)  
2010  Charles D. Fraser, Jr.  
Cardiovascular Surgery (Development of a Program Known for Its Effectiveness in Correcting Congenital Cardiovascular Disease in Children)

2004  Stephen Westaby  
Cardiovascular Surgery (First Clinical Trial of Axial-Flow Devices for Destination Therapy and Significant Contributions to the Surgical Literature)

2007  Charles E. Mullins  
Pediatric Cardiology (Teaching and Pioneering Work in Interventional Techniques for Congenital Heart Disease)

2008  O.H. Frazier  
Cardiovascular Surgery (Heart Transplantation and Research and Development of the Left Ventricular Assist Device)

2009  James T. Willerson  
Cardiology (Pioneering Work in Unstable Atherosclerotic Plaques, Acute Coronary Syndromes, and Cardiac Stem Cells)

2010  Charles D. Fraser, Jr.  
Cardiovascular Surgery (Development of a Program Known for Its Effectiveness in Correcting Congenital Cardiovascular Disease in Children)

2011  Patrick W. Serruys  
Interventional Cardiology (Major Contributions to Interventional Cardiology, Including Those to the Development of Both Bare-Metal and Drug-Eluting Stents)