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## **THE GLYCOBIOLOGY RESEARCH & TRAINING CENTER RECOGNIZES DISTINGUISHED SERVICE AND INNOVATION AND PRESIDENT'S INNOVATOR AWARD AT THE 2024 SOCIETY FOR GLYCOBIOLOGY (SFG)**

San Diego, CA – The Glycobiology Research and Training Center (GRTC) at UC San Diego is honored to acknowledge two significant recognitions in the field of glycobiology: the Distinguished Service Award presented to the Essentials of Glycobiology Editors by the Society for Glycobiology (SFG) and the President's Innovator Award, which has been bestowed upon Dr. Jeffrey D. Esko for 2024.

### **SFG Distinguished Service Award – Recognizing the Essentials of Glycobiology Editors**

In 2021, the SFG Board of Directors established the Distinguished Service Award to honor individuals with a sustained record of service to the Society for Glycobiology and the broader glycobiology community. This year, the award has been uniquely conferred upon the collective group of Essentials of Glycobiology Editors, recognizing their extensive efforts in creating, producing, and expanding a textbook that remains an indispensable resource in the field.

The Essentials of Glycobiology textbook has provided critical educational support to students and professionals in glycobiology. Its free open-access availability through the NCBI Bookshelf, facilitated by Dr. Ajit Varki, has significantly increased its reach and accessibility. The editors' dedication to maintaining and enhancing this educational resource underscores their commitment to knowledge dissemination in glycobiology.

The full list of editors receiving this award included: Ajit Varki, Markus Aeby, Carolyn Bertozzi, Richard Cummings, Alan Darvill, Jeffrey Esko, Marilyn Etzler, Hudson Freeze, Gerald Hart, Taroh Kinoshita, Jamey Marth, Debra Mohnen, Nicolle Packer, James Prestegard, Peter Seeberger, Ronald Schnaar, and Pamela Stanley.

Among the honored editors are the previous Co-directors of the GRTC: Dr. Ajit Varki and Dr. Jeffrey Esko. Their leadership and scientific contributions continue to advance the field and inspire new generations of researchers.

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## **2024 President's Innovator Award at SGF – Honoring Dr. Jeffrey D. Esko**

The Society for Glycobiology President's Innovator Award was established in 2015 to recognize a scientist who has made an outstanding innovation in glycoscience, significantly impacting society. Dr. Jeffrey D. Esko, Distinguished Professor of Cellular and Molecular Medicine and a Founding Director of the GRTC, has been named the 2024 award recipient for his pioneering research in glycosaminoglycan (GAG) biology and proteoglycans.

Dr. Esko's career has been dedicated to understanding the interface between cells and their extracellular environment. His groundbreaking research has advanced the field of glycobiology, particularly in the genetic and biochemical analysis of GAG assembly, proteoglycan function, and their roles in disease mechanisms. His extensive contributions include over 250 research publications, 50 review articles and book chapters, and 10 patents, as well as the development of cellular and genetic tools that have been widely adopted by researchers worldwide.

Dr. Esko's most recent work has provided key insights into SARS-CoV-2 interactions, demonstrating how heparan sulfate facilitates viral entry in conjunction with ACE2. His research has also led to the identification of small molecule modulators of glycosylation, offering new therapeutic opportunities in multiple disease contexts.

Beyond academia, Dr. Esko is a founder and scientific advisor for Zacharon Pharmaceuticals, Inc. (acquired by Biomarin) and TEGA Therapeutics, Inc., which focus on glycan-based therapies for lysosomal storage diseases and other conditions. His leadership in both fundamental research and applied biotechnology exemplifies the impact of glycosciences on human health.

Dr. Esko's numerous accolades include being an AAAS Fellow, recipient of the Karl Meyer Award (2007) from the Society for Glycobiology, and the IGO Award from the International Glycoconjugate Organization. The 2024 President's Innovator Award further solidifies his legacy as a leader in the field. Celebrating Excellence in Glycobiology.

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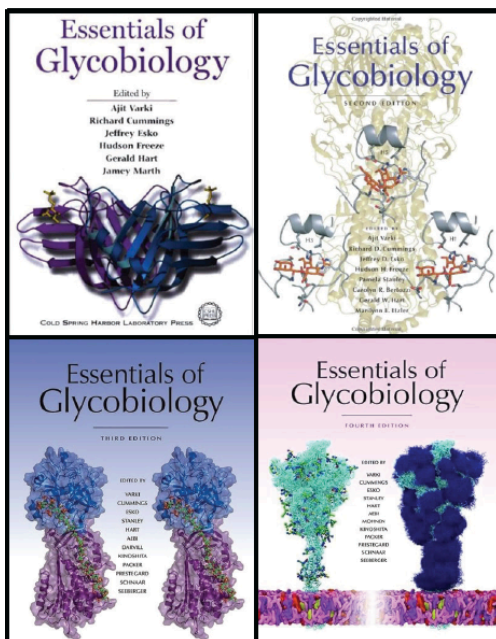


The GRTC at UC San Diego is proud to celebrate Dr. Ajit Varki, Dr. Jeffrey Esko, and all Essentials of Glycobiology Editors for their remarkable achievements.

Their dedication to research, education, and innovation continues to shape the future of glycobiology, expanding knowledge and improving scientific impact worldwide.

For more information about the Glycobiology Research and Training Center, visit:  
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## DISTINGUISHED SERVICE AND INNOVATION AWARD AT SFG 2024



**Essential of Glycobiology Editors**

## PRESIDENT'S INNOVATOR AWARD AT SFG 2024



**Dr. Jeffrey D. Esko, Ph.D.**

**UC San Diego**

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