

2010 Recipient of the Margaret L. Kripke Legend Award

Janet Rowley, M.D.

**Blum-Riese Distinguished Service Professor of Medicine,
of Molecular Genetics and Cell Biology, and of Human Genetics,
Section of Hematology/Oncology
University of Chicago Medical Center, Chicago, IL**



International chromosome expert Janet Rowley, M.D., was selected as the 2010 recipient of MD Anderson's Margaret L. Kripke Legend Award for Promotion of Women in Cancer Research and Cancer Medicine. Rowley is the Blum-Riese Distinguished Service Professor of Medicine and professor of molecular genetics and cell biology and of human genetics at the University of Chicago Medical Center.

Described as a pioneer, Rowley made a series of remarkable breakthroughs, including the landmark discovery of the first consistent chromosome translocations in any human cancer, the 8:21 translocation in acute myeloid leukemia (AML). Subsequently, she identified a number of recurring translocations in children and adults with leukemia and lymphoma. Her studies of chromosome abnormalities in human leukemia and lymphoma have led to cures for previously untreatable cancers and the development of targeted therapies such as Imatinib (Gleevec) for CML.

In 1998, Rowley was one of three scientists awarded the prestigious Lasker Award and, in 1999, she received the National Medal of Science. In 2005, Rowley received the Landon-AACR Prize for translational research, and, in 2009, she was awarded the Gruber Prize in Genetics and the presidential Medal of Freedom, the United States' highest civilian honor. In addition to her scientific contributions, she was selected for her dedication to training and mentoring future generations of female scientists, many of whom have become highly successful in their own right.

"Janet Rowley has transformed the fields of cancer and cytogenetics, and, as a result, the field of molecular oncology," says Elizabeth Travis, Ph.D., associate vice president of Women Faculty Programs, which sponsors the Kripke Legend Award. "Her scientific work has proven immensely influential. She has had a major impact on patient treatment. For more than 40 years, she's been a dedicated mentor and an excellent role model for women in science and medicine, all while being fully committed to her family, as evidenced as working part-time for 20 years in order to raise her children. I can think of no one who better exemplifies the essence of this award."



Dr. Rowley received her award at MD Anderson on May 17, 2010.