

## Residents and Fellows Research Day Keynote Speaker 2013

Profile appears as written in the year of publication, with edits to fit space.



**Manikkam Suthanthiran, M.D.**

### **“Transplantation: Successful Collaboration Between Clinicians And Researchers Resulting in a Medical Miracle”**

Manikkam Suthanthiran, M.D., was the keynote speaker for Residents and Fellows Research Day 2013. Dr. Suthanthiran is the Stanton Griffis Distinguished Professor of Medicine, the founding Chairman of the Department of Transplantation Medicine, and Chief of the Division of Nephrology and Hypertension at New York Presbyterian Hospital-Weill Cornell.

His research contributions are in the area of transplantation immunobiology, and include seminal discoveries made in the laboratory as well as groundbreaking clinical studies, which have been published in the *New England Journal of Medicine* and other prestigious journals. He was the first to describe the role of co-stimulation via CD2 in T cell activation, a discovery that paved the way for development of clinically relevant therapeutics in transplantation and cancer.

Dr. Suthanthiran's work has also focused on the mechanisms of the action of immunosuppressants. He first reported that cyclosporine and tacrolimus stimulate TGF- $\beta$ 1 production, providing an explanation for the nephrotoxicity of these drugs, and for cancer progression in organ graft recipients. Dr. Suthanthiran's laboratory developed competitive quantitative polymerase chain reaction assay, and has pioneered urinary cell mRNA profiling for noninvasive diagnosis and prognosis of acute and chronic rejection of renal allografts and has elucidated microRNA expression patterns of kidney allografts with rejection and fibrosis.

Dr. Suthanthiran is the recipient of numerous awards, including the Established Investigator Award of the American Society of Transplant Physicians, the Lifetime Achievement Award of the Indian Society of Transplantation, the Pioneer in Medicine Award of the National Kidney Foundation of New York and New Jersey, the Distinguished Achievement Award of the American Society of Transplantation, and the NIH MERIT Award.

He is a past President of the American Society of Transplant Physicians, Chair of the NIAID Committee for Cooperative Clinical Trials in Pediatric and Adult Transplantation, and Consultant and Voting Member of the FDA Antiviral Drug Advisory Committee. Dr. Suthanthiran is a member of the American Society for Clinical Investigation, the American and International Society of Transplantation, the Association of American Physicians, and the National and International Society of Nephrology. In addition, he was Editor of the *Journal of Transplantation*, the official journal of the International Transplantation Society, the most cited journal in the field.

Dr. Suthanthiran was born in Madras, India. He received his medical degree from the University of Madras, completed Internal Medicine training at Wayne State University, Detroit, and a Nephrology Fellowship and a Research Fellowship at the Peter Bent Brigham Hospital and Harvard Medical School, in Boston.