

Mortimer M. Elkind is Third Recipient of Gray Medal



The International Commission on Radiation Units and Measurements (ICRU) announced today that Mortimer M. Elkind is to be the third recipient of the L.H. Gray Medal. Dr. Elkind, who is a Senior Biophysicist at Argonne National Laboratory, Chicago, Illinois, USA, will receive the award at the XIVth International Congress of Radiology to be held in Rio de Janeiro in October 1977 where he will also give a scientific lecture on an appropriate topic.

The award to Dr. Elkind is based on outstanding contributions to the understanding of cellular radiobiology, especially those leading to the identification of repair in cells. He used a two-dose method of challenging cell populations to establish that cells which sustain sublethal damage from x radiation are able to recover from this damage during the remainder of the division cycle following the exposure. This is sometimes referred to as the “Elkind” recovery. He quickly applied this finding to the understanding of kinetics of irradiated cells. He realized the importance of this result in tumor therapy and our knowledge of the cellular factors involved in the response of tumors to irradiation owes much to his contributions. He has also contributed substantially to our further understanding of the effects of other physical agents such as ultraviolet light, visible light, hyperthermia and various drugs, on mammalian cells.

Dr. Elkind, like Dr. Gray, is a physical scientist with accomplishments in that field, who turned to biology and made significant contributions to cellular radiobiology and thence to radiotherapy. Their careers and their achievements have many parallels and the mutual respect in which they properly held each other makes this award especially appropriate.