

## Julius Axelrod

Dr. Julius Axelrod was born in New York City on May 30, 1912. He attended public schools there and graduated from the College of the City of New York with a B.S. degree in 1933. After working in the Laboratory of Industrial Hygiene from 1935-1946, an opportunity arose for Dr. Axelrod to carry out research on the fate of drugs in the body at the Goldwater Memorial Hospital where he stayed until 1949. In 1950 Dr. Axelrod obtained a position as Associate Chemist at the National Heart Institute, where he worked on drug metabolism and first described the microsomal drug metabolizing enzymes. In 1955 Dr. Axelrod obtained his Ph.D. degree from George Washington University, after which he joined the National Institute of Mental Health as Chief of the Section on Pharmacology in the Laboratory of Clinical Science, a position he still holds.

During Dr. Axelrod's distinguished career he has received numerous honors, including the Superior Service Award (1968) and the Distinguished Service Award (1970) from the Department of Health, Education and Welfare, the Nobel Prize for Physiology or Medicine (1970), the Albert Einstein Achievement Award from Yeshiva University (1971), The Rudolph Virchow Medical Society Award from the New York Academy of Sciences (1971), The Townsend Harris Medal for Distinguished Achievement from The City College of New York (1971), The Torald Sollmann Award in Pharmacology (1973) and the Paul Hock Award from the American Psychopathological Association (1975).

Dr. Axelrod has been the recipient of numerous honorary degrees, awards and lectureships and he holds memberships in many societies and professional organizations including the National Academy of Sciences. Dr. Axelrod has served on numerous professional committees and editorial boards.

Since joining the National Institute of Mental Health, Dr. Axelrod's research interests have included studies of the enzymes involved in neuro-transmitter formation and metabolism, the pineal gland, the sympathetic nervous system and the mechanisms of action of drugs.