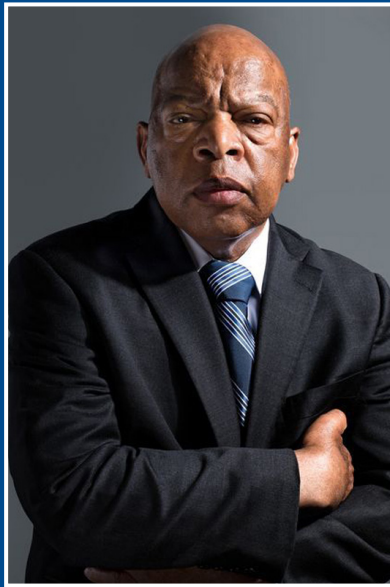


DEDICATION OF  
THE  
JOHN R. LEWIS  
PROFESSORSHIP IN PATHOLOGY



Wednesday, October 4, 2023

The Department of Pathology  
Johns Hopkins Medicine

555 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.  
Washington, D.C.



## THE TRADITION OF ENDOWED PROFESSORSHIPS

Recognized as the highest honor Johns Hopkins Medicine can bestow upon a member of our faculty, the men and women who hold endowed professorships conduct some of our most significant research, attract bright and dedicated students, and bring prestige to the Johns Hopkins name.

At The Johns Hopkins University, endowed professorships are especially important to our ongoing mission of teaching, research, and patient care. Endowments that allow for the hiring and retention of the best faculty are the foundation on which our success is built.

The first endowed professorships were established nearly 500 years ago with the creation of the Lady Margaret chairs in divinity at Oxford and Cambridge. These chairs were sponsored by Margaret, Countess of Richmond and grandmother of Henry VIII, in 1546. Henry VIII established the Regius Professorships at both universities in five subjects: divinity, civil law, Hebrew, Greek, and physics—what we now know as medicine and the basic sciences. Later, private individuals joined in providing chairs, such as the Lucasian Chair of Mathematics held by Isaac Newton beginning in 1669. The honor associated with appointment to an endowed position has remained unchanged since then.



We gratefully acknowledge the anonymous donors who have established  
The John R. Lewis Professorship in Pathology

## PROGRAM

### Welcome

Ralph H. Hruban, M.D.

*Baxley Professor and Director of Pathology  
Director, The Sol Goldman Pancreatic Cancer Research Center  
Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine*

### Presentation of Professorship to the University

Landon S. King, M.D.

*Executive Vice Dean  
Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine*

### Acceptance of Professorship for the University

Anthony A. Anderson

*Vice Chair, Johns Hopkins University Board of Trustees*

### Tribute to the Life of John R. Lewis

Reverend Raphael G. Warnock

*United States Senator from Georgia*

Michael E. Collins

*Chief of Staff to Congressman John R. Lewis (1999 to 2020)*

### Introduction of the Inaugural Professorship Recipient

Ralph H. Hruban, M.D.

### Awarding of the Professorship Medallion

Landon S. King, M.D.

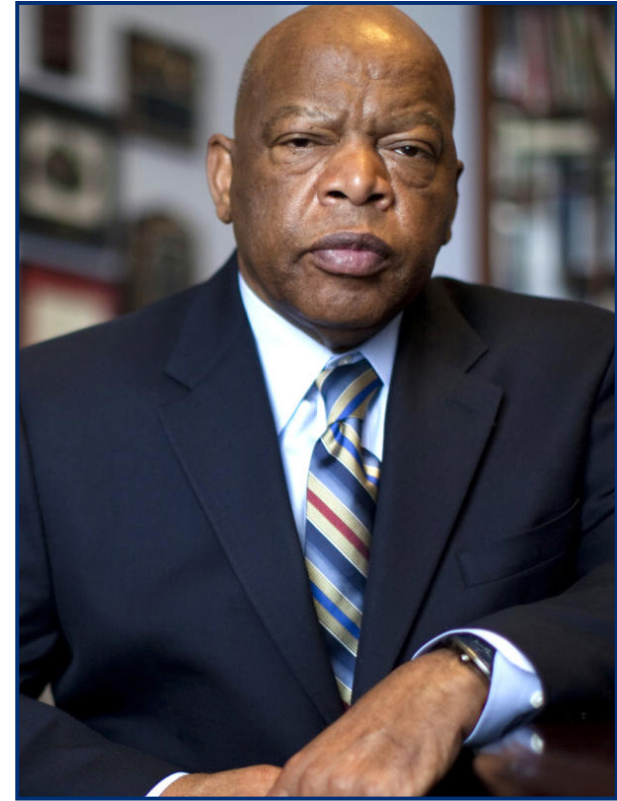
### Remarks

Clayton C. Yates, Ph.D.

*Inaugural John R. Lewis Professor in Pathology*

### Closing Remarks

Ralph H. Hruban, M.D.



**JOHN R. LEWIS**  
**(1940 – 2020)**

A key figure in some of the most pivotal moments of the civil rights movement, Congressman John R. Lewis was the face of the Nashville, Tennessee Student Movement; chairman of the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee; an original Freedom Rider; and one of the keynote speakers at the historic 1963 March on Washington, D.C. Congressman Lewis served as executive director of the Voter Education Project; as associate director of ACTION—the federal agency that oversaw the Peace Corps and VISTA; and as a member of the Atlanta, Georgia, City Council. He authored several best-selling books, including the *March* comic book trilogy and his inspiring autobiography, *Walking with the Wind*.

Congressman Lewis was a staunch and unwavering believer and advocate of nonviolent protest. The recipient of more than 50 honorary degrees, he was called a “*saint*” by *Time* magazine and the “*conscience of the Congress*” by his colleagues in the United States Congress, where he spent more than 30 years steadfastly defending and building upon key civil rights gains of the 1960s. Even in the face of hatred and violence, and more than 45 arrests, Congressman Lewis remained resolute in his commitment to what he called “*good trouble*.”

The defining moment of Congressman Lewis’s life occurred on Sunday, March 7, 1965. He and more than 600 demonstrators intended to march from Selma, Alabama, to the state capitol in Montgomery, 50 miles away, in support of equal voting rights. Ordered to disperse by Alabama state troopers, the demonstrators knelt in prayer instead. Through clouds of tear gas, the troopers advanced, trampling the marchers under horses and hitting them with nightsticks. Congressman Lewis, having been struck on the head and beaten repeatedly, crumpled to the ground with a fractured skull. That day became known as “*Bloody Sunday*.” The brutal response to what was a peaceful, non-violent demonstration helped to galvanize public opposition to racial segregation when the horrific scenes were televised nationwide. The landmark Voting Rights Act, which strengthened the federal government’s ability to prevent state and local governments from denying citizens the right to vote because of race, was signed into law on August 6, 1965. Congressman Lewis, who was born near Troy, Alabama, in 1940 and spent the majority of his life in Atlanta, was elected to represent Georgia in the United States House of Representatives in 1986. During his more than three decades in Congress, he garnered the support needed to pass the Civil Rights Act of 1991, sponsored the legislation that created the 54-mile-long Selma to Montgomery National Historic Trail, and worked for more than a decade to establish the National Museum of African American History and Culture on the National Mall in Washington, D.C. In 2010, Congressman Lewis was awarded the Presidential Medal of Freedom—the nation’s highest civilian honor—by President Barack Obama.

Congressman Lewis was a member of the House Committee on Ways and Means Subcommittee on Health, where he authored the essential community providers bill to address the issue of health disparities by ensuring affordable, accessible, and quality health care for all. In 2000, Congressman Lewis was the primary sponsor of legislation to elevate what was then the National Institutes of Health Office of Research on Minority Health to become the National Center on Minority Health and Health Disparities—a name the Congressman chose to reflect the importance he saw in building the nation’s research capacity and infrastructure to address pervasive health disparities among communities of color. The legislation created an endowment fund to facilitate minority health and health disparities

research, increase the diversity and strength of the scientific workforce, and enhance the recruitment and retention of individuals from communities under-represented in science. The Center has since been elevated to an institute. In 2022, Congress passed the John Lewis National Institute on Minority Health and Health Disparities Research Endowment Revitalization Act, to increase investments in universities conducting critical research into minority health disparities.

In 2019, Congressman Lewis was diagnosed with pancreatic cancer—a disease with a 50% to 90% higher incidence rate among African Americans than other racial groups in the United States. He passed away on July 17, 2020, at the age of 80.

Befitting his significant impact on 20th-century United States history, Congressman Lewis was the first black lawmaker to lie in state in the U.S. Capitol Rotunda. Just a few months earlier, he had once again crossed the Edmund Pettus Bridge, as he had done every year for decades. “*Speak up*,” he exhorted the young people gathered around him on the bridge that day. “*Speak out. Get in the way. Get in good trouble, necessary trouble.*”

Always wanting to teach and inspire young people, Congressman Lewis left a message to be published following his death. “*Though I may not be here with you*,” he wrote, “*I urge you to answer the highest calling of your heart and stand up for what you truly believe in. In my life, I have done all I can to demonstrate that the way of peace, the way of love, and nonviolence is the more excellent way. Now it is your turn to let freedom ring.*”

Following his death, in 2021 a statue of Congressman Lewis was erected in Cook Park in Atlanta, and in 2022 the city’s main Post Office was renamed in his honor. Troy University (formerly Troy State College) in Alabama, which had refused to acknowledge Lewis’s inquiry about admission in 1957, renamed one of its central buildings after him. Schools in Georgia, Virginia, and Washington, D.C., have been renamed in his honor, and universities in California, Georgia, and Louisiana have created programs and schools bearing his name and offering curricula that educate current and future leaders about civic engagement and social justice.



## **CLAYTON C. YATES, PH.D.**

Clayton C. Yates, Ph.D. was recruited to the Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine to join the Division of Urologic Pathology in the Department of Pathology where he serves as the Director for Translational Health Disparities and Global Health Equity Research. He has joint appointments in the Department of Oncology, where he serves as the Program Co-Leader for Cancer Genetics and Epigenetics, and in the Department of Urology. Dr. Yates is an internationally recognized expert in health disparity research, cell biology, molecular biology, and molecular pathology. Prior to coming to Johns Hopkins, he was Professor of Biology in the Department of Materials Science and Engineering, and Director of the Center for Biomedical Research at Tuskegee University in Alabama. He also held adjunct faculty positions in the Department of Biological Sciences at Clark Atlanta University in Georgia, and the Department of Pathology at the University of Alabama in Birmingham (UAB).

Dr. Yates received both his Bachelor of Science degree and Master of Science degree from Tuskegee University. He earned his doctoral degree from the University of Pittsburgh School of Medicine in molecular pathology, as well as a certificate of training in Tissue Engineering and Regenerative Medicine from the McGowan Institute of Regenerative Medicine. He completed his postdoctoral fellowship at the Emory University School of Medicine Department of Urology before joining the faculty at Tuskegee University.

Dr. Yates is internationally recognized for his research. Cell-MENTOR—an online resource from Cell Press and Cell Signaling Technology—recognized Dr. Yates among the 100 most inspiring Black Scientists in America. His research focuses on prostate and breast cancers, particularly in African Americans. His laboratory established several cancer cell line-based models derived from African American patients and these are used by many scientists today to study molecular events that lead to prostate cancer development and metastasis. Additionally, Dr. Yates identified a subtype of breast cancer called “Quadruple Negative Breast Cancer,” which is more prevalent in women of African ancestry. His research, which incorporates novel genetic admixture analyses, identified a specific ancestry-associated, immune-related signature in both breast and prostate cancers. Using this signature, Dr. Yates’s team was able to identify and develop a novel therapeutic that targets a specific immune cell, termed the tumor-associated macrophage, that contributes to increased tumor aggressiveness and therapeutic resistance. This novel therapy was licensed to Aurinia Pharmaceuticals in October 2021 for development and is poised to enter clinical trials in 2023. Dr. Yates’s laboratory has been continuously funded by the NIH and the Department of Defense—Congressional Directed Medical Research Programs’ (CDMRP) Prostate Cancer Research Program for more than 15 years.

An impactful educator, Dr. Yates has trained 15 Ph.D. students, 28 master’s-level students, and five postdoctoral trainees. He mentored more than 10 junior faculty through the Morehouse School of Medicine–Tuskegee University–University of Alabama’s collaborative Minority Health and Health Disparities Research Center Training Program. Currently, five of these junior faculty mentees have received tenure at their respective universities.

Dr. Yates speaks nationally at universities and conferences including the inaugural National Cancer Institute (NCI) Health Disparities Conference, the American Association for Cancer Research Plenary Session, and numerous grand rounds and distinguished lecture series. Dr. Yates was featured on NCI’s website for the NCI Annual Plan and Budget Proposal for Fiscal Year 2023 that will be provided to the United States Congress, President Joseph R. Biden, Jr., and the public.

Dr. Yates currently serves on the UAB External Advisory Board for Training of Oncology Surgeons; the University of North Carolina NCI T32 External Advisory Board; and as Chair of the University of Florida, University of Southern California, Florida Agricultural and Mechanical University's U54-NCI Comprehensive Partnerships to Advance Cancer Health Equity. He has received numerous honors and awards, has authored more than 80 peer-reviewed publications, and serves on the editorial board of Scientific Reports.

Dr. Yates is Co-Director of the Transatlantic Prostate Cancer Consortium, which focuses on understanding the tumor biology in native African men in Nigeria. He co-chaired the April 2022 American Association for Cancer Research Conference in New Orleans, and currently is the Past Chair of the Minorities in Cancer Research Council within the American Association for Cancer Research, which serves more than 7,000 minority cancer-focused scientists. Prior to joining Johns Hopkins, Dr. Yates was principal investigator of the NIH/NIMHD (National Institute on Minority Health and Health Disparities) Research Centers at Minority Institutions; site principal investigator for Clinical and Translational Science Awards (jointly with UAB-hub institution); and principal investigator of NIH/NCI U54 Cancer Health Disparities with Morehouse School of Medicine and UAB.

Dr. Yates is married to Adrienne Yates. They are proud of their two children—Cionni Yates, a third-year law student at Samford University Cumberland School of Law in Birmingham, Alabama; and Nicholas Mathis, a junior at Goucher College in Baltimore, Maryland, majoring in sports psychology.



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