The Josiah Kirby Lilly, Sr. Distinguished Service Award Gala

The 24th Annual Josiah K. Lilly, Sr. Distinguished Service Award Gala is the Indiana Area’s annual gala event which honors an individual(s) making an outstanding contribution in the field of diabetes.

In 1990, the national Josiah Kirby Lilly, Sr. Distinguished Service Award was created to honor the vision of Eli Lilly’s only son. As president of Eli Lilly and Company, J.K. Lilly was the driving force behind the manufacturing of insulin to make it commercially available to the world. Because of J.K.’s foresight for the future of medicine, the manufacturing of insulin for commercial availability worldwide has truly changed the lives of all people with diabetes in the world.

According to his biography, "when all parties involved with the discovery and production of the insulin began to realize the significance of what they were doing, J.K. wrote to Dr. Clowes (head of the research division at Eli Lilly and Company), ‘I am almost overwhelmed with the tremendous situation and experience some difficulty in keeping my feet on the ground and my brain in normal operation… MacDonald (one of the Indianapolis clinicians) says it looks to him like the biggest thing that ever happened in medicine, and that is saying a good deal for some very big things have happened in medicine.’ “ It is in honor of this vision and passion that this award is given each year at this event.

The support of corporations such as Eli Lilly & Co., Roche Diagnostics, BD, Novo Nordisk, Sanofi, LifeScan, Bayer, local hospitals, banks, law firms, and many other companies over the past 23 years has allowed the Josiah Kirby Lilly, Sr. Distinguished Service Award event to become one of the most well known and respected diabetes events in Indiana, as well as the United States. This event is not only a fundraiser, but an opportunity for the American Diabetes Association to spotlight the latest developments in diabetes research and programs to the Indianapolis area. It is a celebration of the outstanding progress in the field of diabetes and showcases how far the vision of J.K. has come to fruition since those days in the early 1900’s.

Past Honorees:
1990 Josiah Kirby Lilly, Sr.
1991 Wendell Mayes, Jr.
1992 Rachemiel Levine, MD
1993 Harold Rifkin, MD
1994 Oscar Crofford, MD
1995 Gerald M. Reaven, MD
1996 Maria L. deAlva
1997 American Association of Diabetes Educators
1998 John A. Galloway, MD
1999 Frank Vinicor, MD, MPH
2000 Paula Harper, RN, CDE
2001 James Gavin III, MD, PhD
2002 Alan D. Cherringon, PhD
2003 Charles M. Clark, Jr., MD
2004 Larry Ellingson, RPh
2005 George S. Eisenbarth, MD, PhD
2006 Lois Jovanovic, MD
2007 Linda M. Siminerio, RN, PhD
2008 David G. Marrero, PhD
2009 Richard R. Rubin, PhD, CDE
2010 Francine Kaufman, MD
2011 Jaime A. Davidson, MD, FACP, MACE
2012 Ann Albright, PhD, RD