

American College of Sports Medicine 2023 Citation Award

Presented to

Tony G. Babb,
Ph.D., FACSM

Tony G. Babb, Ph.D., FACSM, is a professor in the University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center's Department of Internal Medicine and a Charter member of The Institute for Exercise and Environmental Medicine, the latter of which has grown to become the largest locus for the study of human physiology in the United States. Nominated by Benjamin Levine, M.D., FACSM, Dr. Babb is an internationally recognized expert in exercise and pulmonary physiology, with more than 25 years' experience in the field, focusing primarily on respiratory control and ventilatory limits in the context of physical performance. His current work centers on aging, obesity, and weight loss as they relate to respiration.

Dr. Babb earned a Bachelor of Science in biology from Western Kentucky University in 1976, a Master of Science in exercise physiology from the University of Illinois in 1981 and a Ph.D. in exercise physiology from The Pennsylvania State University in 1986. Thereafter, he completed postdoctoral training at Penn State's Graduate Program in Physiology (1986) and a postdoctoral research fellowship at the Mayo Clinic's Thoracic Disease Research Unit within the Mayo Graduate School of Medicine (1987-89). His professional experience spans a number of institutions and roles, from assistant director of the University of Texas Health Center at Tyler's Department of Physiology and Rehabilitation (1982-83) to research assistant professor at Baylor College of Medicine's Department of Medicine (1991-92) to assistant professor (1992-2005), then associate professor (2005-2012) and professor (2012-present) at UT Southwestern Medical Center. During that time, he has variously collected an NIH Institutional National Research Service Award, a First Independent Research Support and Transition Award and an American Lung Association Career Investigator award, and he was named the Effie and Wofford Cain Chair in Cardiopulmonary Research, among other recognitions and accolades.

Dr. Babb has published more than 100 academic articles and 15 book chapters and research reviews, two of which, "Exercise Assessment of the Pulmonary Patient" and "Pulmonary Assessment" he was asked to write for ACSM's *Resource Manual for Guidelines for Exercise Testing and Prescription*. Eight of his articles have been published in ACSM's flagship journal *Medicine & Science in Sport & Exercise*, and he has garnered more than \$9M in funding as a principal investigator. Since 1994, he has mentored 11 postdoctoral fellows, nine of whom have gone on to prosper in academia, the remaining three having entered into clinical practice or government research. According to Dr. Levine, "Tony only accepts candidates who have a sincere interest in learning integrative exercise and respiratory physiology and have true interest in becoming independent investigators. This selectiveness has allowed him the time to work closely with each fellow in achieving their career goals. The quality of his trainees speaks to Tony's commitment to training the future generation of scientists which have and will continue to support ACSM's goals."

Dr. Babb joined ACSM in 1980, attaining fellowship in 1992. Since then, he has served the college in numerous capacities, acting as ACSM's Respiratory Physiology Area Representative (1996-2000), serving on the board of directors of ACSM's Texas chapter (1997-2009), on the Research Review Committee (2003-2009), the Ad Hoc Scientific Content Advisory Committee (2007-2009) and the Ad Hoc Health-Fitness Content Advisory Committee (2007-2009).

Of particular importance to ACSM, Dr. Levine notes: "(Dr. Babb) consistently organizes, submits, and participates in symposia that bring the experts in pulmonary physiology together at ACSM, and in my opinion, it is his gravitas and reputation that have kept many of the key thought leaders in pulmonary physiology coming regularly to the ACSM national meeting."

ACSM is thrilled to present Dr. Babb with a 2023 Citation Award.



Anastasia Fischer, M.D., FACSM
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