

6th Annual Keith B. Taylor Memorial Lecture
14th Annual WINDREF Lecture

Dr John Strasswimmer, MD, PhD

“Dr Albert Schweitzer, his life; legacy and the future: A celebration of his centenary”



THURSDAY, 6 NOVEMBER, 2014

6:00 pm • Caribbean House
True Blue Campus



Dr. Strasswimmer received his MD and PhD (molecular biology) doctorates from Tufts, internship at Harvard, dermatology residency at Yale, and fellowships in photomedicine and Mohs Surgery. He discovered a function of the most common recessive neurologic disease gene, spinal muscular atrophy; a work which has been cited by others nearly 500 times. His current research on skin cancer received the Sulzberger Award from the American Academy of Dermatology in 2006. He is the Medical Director of the Melanoma and Cutaneous Oncology Program of the Lynn Regional Cancer Center in Boca Raton, Florida.

Dr. Strasswimmer founded the nonprofit *Dermatology Medical Missions, Inc.* to treat the underserved in the USA and overseas. A focus of DMM is to demonstrate the need for care for skin cancers as an overlooked tropical disease. In the words of Dr Albert Schweitzer “The purpose of human life is to serve, and to show compassion and the will to help others” One hundred years ago, Dr Schweitzer set the paradigm of medical service for the needy. Through respect for life and compassion for all, DMM strives to continue his legacy in this centennial year

“Albert Schweitzer, OM (14 January 1875 – 4 September 1965) was a German—and later French—theologian, organist, philosopher, physician, and medical missionary in Africa, also known for his interpretive life of Jesus. He was born in the province of Alsace-Lorraine, at that time part of the German Empire, considered himself French and wrote mostly in French. Schweitzer, a Lutheran, challenged both the secular view of Jesus as depicted by historical-critical methodology current at his time in certain academic circles, as well as the traditional Christian view.

He received the 1952 Nobel Peace Prize for his philosophy of "Reverence for Life", expressed in many ways, but most famously in founding and sustaining the Albert Schweitzer Hospital in Lambaréné, now in Gabon, west central Africa (then French Equatorial Africa). As a music scholar and organist, he studied the music of German composer Johann Sebastian Bach and influenced the Organ reform movement (Orgelbewegung).