David E.R. Sutherland, MD, PhD, is recipient of the 2016 Thomas E. Starzl Prize in Surgery and Immunology. Dr. Sutherland is emeritus professor of surgery at the University of Minnesota Medical School. He spent four decades at Minnesota, serving as founding director of the Shulze Diabetes Institute, head of the Division of Transplantation, and the John S. Najarian, MD, Surgical Professor of Clinical Transplantation. He will deliver the Starzl Prize Lecture, “Evolution of Beta Cell Replacement Therapy To Treat Diabetes Mellitus,” at 4 p.m. on Wednesday, April 20, in Lecture Room 6, Scaife Hall.

Dr. Sutherland received his MD from the University of Minnesota in 1966 and completed an internship at West Virginia University and a surgical residency and clinical transplantation fellowship at Minnesota, where he also earned a PhD in 1977. He joined the Department of Surgery faculty at Minnesota in 1976. Dr. Sutherland’s research and career have focused on developing treatments for patients with diabetes and pancreatic disorders. He performed the first clinical islet transplant during his residency alongside mentor John Najarian, MD. Dr. Sutherland demonstrated that islets in an ectopic location were metabolically durable and that autografts were more durable than allografts, which helped pioneer minimally invasive beta-cell replacement therapy as an alternative to insulin therapy or pancreas transplantation. He performed the first living-donor partial pancreas transplant, and, perhaps more than anyone in his field, he advocated for pancreas-transplant-alone (PTA) in nonuremic patients whose diabetes posed a greater health risk than from the side-effects of immunosuppression.

Dr. Sutherland received the American Society of Transplant Surgeons Roche Pioneer Award in 2007 and the Medawar Prize of The Transplantation Society in 2012. He has served as president of the American Society of Transplant Surgeons, the Cell Transplantation Society, the International Pancreas and Islet Transplant Association, and The Transplantation Society.

The Thomas E. Starzl Prize honors the clinical and scientific contributions of Pitt’s transplantation icon, Thomas Starzl, MD, PhD. Recipients are national and international leaders and researchers who have significantly impacted the fields of organ transplantation and immunology. The prize was established in 1996 by Pitt’s Department of Surgery and was formerly known as the Annual Thomas E. Starzl Lectureship.