

Mr President, My Colleagues in Gastroenterology and Endoscopy, Ladies and Gentlemen, it is with great humility and ~~everlasting~~ <sup>very deep</sup> gratitude that I accept this distinguished Award in honor of and in memory of our most distinguished founder, Rudolf Schindler.

I am especially honored to be one of the recipients who personally witnessed the power of his indomitable spirit, his infectious enthusiasm, and in whom he lit a spark which has led to the present day realization of his dream.

If ever a man lit <sup>a</sup> candle rather than curse the darkness it was Rudolf Schindler.

I accept this recognition which you bestow upon me today especially for the many graduate students who studied the fundamentals of G.I. Endoscopy with me during a continuous journey of nearly 40 years at the Cook County Graduate School and Hospital. <sup>It is they</sup> who ~~were~~ demonstrated to me the energizing power of stimulation and inspiration in the pursuit of human achievement.