

From the AOWC 2010 meeting website:

<http://www.aow.lsu.edu/AOW%20Prog%20041310.pdf>

Howard Rines  
Award for Distinguished Service to Oat Improvement



Dr. Rines grew up on a general crops/livestock farm in Indiana and received his BS (Agricultural Science) and MS (Genetics) degrees from Purdue University and PhD (Genetics) from Yale University. Following 2 years of military service and 5 years as an Assistant Professor in the Department of Botany at the University of Georgia, Athens, he joined ARS in 1976 as a Research Geneticist in the Plant Science Research Unit, St. Paul, with an adjunct appointment in the Department of Agronomy and Plant Genetics, University of Minnesota. He was promoted to GS-15 rank in ARS in 2000 and to Adjunct Full Professor in the University of Minnesota in 1989.

Dr. Rines' research in his ARS career has focused on oat genetics with emphasis on cellular and molecular approaches to oat improvement. Highlights of this research include recovery of the first haploid oat plant from anther culture, participation in development of molecular marker maps in oat and mapping of oat genes for disease resistance and grain quality traits, production of partial hybrids of oat and corn, and sexual transfer of disease resistance genes from related wild species into cultivated oat.

During his career he has authored or co-authored more than 90 journal articles and book chapters, advised or co-advised 17 MS or PhD students and 11 post doctorates, and served as co-Principal Investigator with University and other ARS colleagues on grants from Federal Agencies and Industry totaling more than \$7,000,000. He has served as coordinator of the regional Uniform Early and Midseason Uniform Oat Performance Nurseries his entire ARS career. He also served as an associate editor for Crop Science, a Division 7 chair of the Crop Science Society of America, and secretary of the American Oat Workers Conference. He is a Fellow of the Crop Science Society of America and the American Society of Agronomy.

During his career, Dr. Rines provided an important connection between cellular-molecular research and applied cultivar development. His expertise and understanding of germplasm evaluation in the field coupled with molecular biology expertise enabled identification of research areas that would benefit applied breeding and provided important input that drew applied and basic research closer together. He provided extremely valuable service in his careful coordination and reporting of the Uniform Early and Midseason Oat Performance Nurseries. He was familiar with germplasm lines in the Uniform Nurseries and could discuss the pertinent agronomic characteristics of the lines while readily recognizing traits of genetic interest for further study. After his retirement, Dr. Rines is again contributing beyond normal duty and continues to coordinate the Uniform Nurseries while remaining familiar with nursery entries. In addition to an extensive list of publications, he developed useful germplasm including crown rust resistance sources that he generously shared with breeding programs. These will continue to benefit oat improvement long into the future.

Dr. Howard Rines was outstanding in his advocacy for workplace and work assignment adjustments regarding the progressive disability of Richard Halstead, the technician who worked on his research project. Dr. Rines established a flexible workplace agreement which allowed Richard to work from home as necessary and remain productive in the oat research community. Dr. Rines' sensitivity and awareness made it possible for Richard to continue to be productive until his retirement. Dr. Rines received the USDA-ARS Midwest Area Equal Opportunity Award for his exemplary efforts on behalf of disabled.