## Florence Shyne Bowers

Medical Researcher/Biologist Inducted July 30, 2005

Florence Shyne Bowers was born in Grambling, Louisiana. She earned a Bachelor of Science degree in Biology from Lincoln University in 1957, and Master of Science degree from American University in Washington, D.C., with a dual major in Molecular Biology and Immunology.

Her career in the life sciences began in 1963 in Rheumatology Laboratory at Georgetown University Medical Center, in Washington, D.C. There, she was a research assistant studying autoimmune disease. In 1966, she worked as a research assistant to a nephrologist, who was a protein chemist, studying the immunology of kidney disease.

In 1972, she began work at Huntingdon Research Center, where she was a research assistant, a staff assistant and later manager of Immunology Department. Shyne-Bowers career as Research Biologist began in the Laboratory of Immunogentics with the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases at the National Institutes of Health. At NIH, she joined a team of investigators who were attempting to establish an animal model in which to study the human T-cell leukemia virus, HTLV-1, a Type C retrovirus shown to be closely associated with human T-cells. Her passion for research, training and investigations in the immunological area led her in 2001 to present a research paper on "Apoptosis in the Physiology of the Immune System" at the 11<sup>th</sup> International Congress of Immunology in Stockholm, Sweden. She has received numerous awards and honors for her pioneering research.

Florence Shyne Bowers is married to Lincoln University alumnus, the Honorable Shellie Bowers, Sr., retired Judge of the District of Columbia Superior Court, also a member of the Hall of Fame. They have two adult sons and one granddaughter.