

MRICD's Dr. Petrali appointed chair for national certification board

A scientist at the US Army Medical Research Institute of Chemical Defense, Dr. John Petrali, recently received another honor in his long career. Petrali has been appointed chairman of the National Certification Board of Electron Microscopy Technologists, which functions under the charter the Microscopy Society of America.

The appointment was finalized during the recent international meeting of the Microscopy Society of America and the Microanalysis Society, which was held in Fort Lauderdale, Fla., in early August. This distinction recognizes Petrali's many contributions to the field of electron microscopy.

In addition, Petrali has been re-appointed visiting professor in the Department of Dermatology and Dermatopathology at the University of Maryland School of Medicine. His appointment requires input to the theoretical and practical ultrastructural and immunohistochemical concepts of skin disease. Petrali's participation will be limited to that which complements the MRICD mission interests in vesication and related skin pathologies.

A member of MRICD's Comparative Pathology Branch, Petrali has designed and conducted primary research to detect the mechanisms of chemical threat agents and to identify those that may be predictive or diagnostic of a given pathogenesis. His work has led to a number of breakthrough discoveries, including the effects of nerve agents on the blood-brain barrier as being convulsive-dependent and the sequential pathogenesis of sulfur mustard-induced blister formations in exposed skin. His discoveries have led to the development of specific immunodiagnostic tests and to new treatment regimens following exposure. Petrali is author of more than 120 peer-reviewed scholarly articles, 8 book chapters, and 31 technical reports.