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PROCEEDINGS OF THE XVII INTERNATIONAL ROUNDTABLE

XVII International Roundtable
Nucleosides, Nucleotides and Nucleic Acids
Bern, Switzerland, September 3–7, 2006

Conference Organizers

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University of Bern
Bern, Switzerland

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CENTER FOR DRUG DESIGN
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John A. Montgomery Award

Supported by a grant from Professor Robert Vince and the Center for Drug Design, University of Minnesota

This award has been initiated in honor of the contributions to chemotherapy made by Dr. John A. Montgomery of the Southern Research Institute. Dr. Montgomery not only is a co-inventor on five FDA-approved anticancer drugs, but he has made major contributions to the field of nucleosides with a focus on discovering new drugs. He was a collaborator, colleague, and friend to many in the field, and his approaches to developing new drugs by understanding the biological data and focusing on the relationship between that data and the compound structures set an example now routinely used in the area.

The Montgomery Award is given to a scientist at each International Round Table to recognize scientific contributions in the fields of nucleosides, nucleotides, and nucleic acids that result in significant advances in chemotherapy.

Recipient of the *J. Montgomery Award 2006*

Dr. John A. Secrist, III

Southern Research Institute, Birmingham, Alabama, USA



Dr. John A. Secrist, III is Vice President of Southern Research Institute's Drug Discovery Division. He received his undergraduate degree in Chemistry from University of Michigan and his Ph.D. in Organic Chemistry from the University of Illinois, Urbana with Dr. Nelson J. Leonard. He subsequently completed a postdoctoral fellowship program with E.J. Corey at Harvard University.

At Southern Research Institute, where he has been involved with drug discovery and development research, Dr. Secrist has focused on the development of new anticancer, antiviral, and antibacterial agents, largely on programs funded from the National Institutes of Health. Among Southern Research Institute's achievements are six FDA-approved anticancer drugs: amifostine, carmustine, dacarbazine, fludarabine, lomustine, and the recently approved, clofarabine, which was co-invented by Dr. Secrist. No other organization can claim discovery or development of such a significant number of cancer drugs on its own.

Dr. Secrist is co-founder and president of the International Society for Nucleosides, Nucleotides and Nucleic Acids. He is also president of the International Society for Antiviral Research. He has served on numerous

NIH study sections, including several years as chairman of one of the AIDS-related panels. He has also served regularly on the Army prostate and breast cancer panels. He is on the Editorial Advisory Boards of several journals and serves as executive editor of the journal, *Nucleosides, Nucleotides & Nucleic Acids*, and is presently a consultant or member of the Scientific Advisory Board of several companies.

At Southern Research Institute, Dr. Secrist has been involved with the initiation of two start-up companies derived from SRI technology. He has published over 130 papers and holds over 60 patents. He holds several appointments at the University of Alabama at Birmingham and has been an invited lecturer at many universities, companies, and meetings around the world.



Idenix Pharmaceuticals is proud to support the International Society on *Nucleosides, Nucleotides and Nucleic Acids (IS3NA)* and congratulates

Dr. Marvin H. Caruthers,

the 2006 recipient of the IS3NA Imbach-Townsend Award

The Imbach-Townsend Award is a bi-annual award given for important contributions to the field of chemistry and biology of nucleosides and nucleic acids.

Idenix Pharmaceuticals, Inc. is a biopharmaceutical company engaged in the discovery, development and commercialization of drugs for the treatment of human viral and other infectious diseases. Idenix's current focus is on the treatment of infections caused by HBV, HCV and HIV. Idenix's headquarters are located in Cambridge, Massachusetts and it has drug discovery and development operations in Montpellier, France and drug discovery operations in Cagliari, Italy. For further information about Idenix, please refer to <http://www.idenix.com>

Recipient of the IS3NA Imbach-Townsend Award 2006

Professor Marvin H. Caruthers

University of Colorado, Boulder, Colorado, USA



Marvin H. Caruthers is professor of biochemistry and bioorganic chemistry at the University of Colorado at Boulder. He received his Ph.D. from the Northwestern University, Evanston, Illinois, in 1968. Professor Caruthers' interests include nucleic acid chemistry and biochemistry. The laboratory uses modern concepts in nucleic acid chemistry, biochemistry, and molecular biology to study regulation and control of gene expression.

Approximately 20 years ago, the methodologies that are currently used for chemically synthesizing DNA were developed in this laboratory. These procedures have been incorporated into so-called "gene machines" for the purpose of synthesizing DNA that is used by biochemists, biologists, molecular biologists, and biophysical chemists for various research applications. More recently our research has pioneered the development of a new two step DNA synthesis approach which will be extremely useful for preparing DNA chips and large amounts of DNA. We have additionally developed new methods for the synthesis of RNA. The group's interests have also focused on first the synthesis of new DNA analogs and then on a systematic analysis of how these polynucleotides can be used for various research applications. A particularly attractive new set of DNA analogs called phosphonoacetate and phosphonoformate DNA has recently been synthesized.

These polynucleotides, which have acetate or formate joined to phosphorus at a nonlinking position, are phosphorus chiral, form duplexes with unmodified polynucleotides, are completely resistant to nucleases, and stimulate RNase H activity. Because of these unique biochemical and biophysical properties, they should prove useful for a large number of basic and applied research applications.

Professor Caruthers received numerous awards during his outstanding career, including the following: USPHS Career Development Award, 1975–1980; Guggenheim Fellow, 1981; Council on Research and Creative Work Faculty Research Lectureship, 1984; Biotechnology National Ventures Award, 1992; Elliott Cresson Medal of the Franklin Institute, 1994; Prelog Medal in Recognition of Pioneering Work on the Chemical Synthesis of DNA, ETH, Zurich Switzerland, 2004; National Academy of Sciences Award for Chemistry in Service to Society, 2005; Promega Biotechnology Research Award, 2006; Member, American Academy of Arts and Sciences, 1994; Member, National Academy of Sciences, 1994. In 1999, he was named Distinguished Professor, at the University of Colorado.