

People



Distinguished Achievement Award for H. Robert Horvitz

H. Robert Horvitz has been awarded the Bristol-Myers Squibb Award for Distinguished

Achievement in Neuroscience Research for his discovery that specific genes control programmed cell death. Horvitz, a neurobiologist, developmental biologist and geneticist, will receive US\$50,000 in cash, a silver medallion and a dinner in his honour in New York.

Horvitz's discovery of a genetic pathway responsible for apoptosis revealed that this is an active biological process. Through the use of *Caenorhabditis elegans*, Horvitz discovered and characterized the genes responsible for apoptosis and showed that these genes and proteins in *C. elegans* are broadly conserved among all organisms and are very similar to those that are involved in apoptosis in humans. These genes and proteins are involved in a variety of neurological disorders, including neurodegenerative diseases, stroke and traumatic brain injury.

Horvitz is currently David H. Koch Professor of Biology at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT; Cambridge, MA, USA) and an Investigator of the Howard Hughes Medical Institute (Chevy Chase, MD, USA). After graduating, he studied for his PhD under the guidance of James Watson and Walter Gilbert at Harvard University (Harvard, MA, USA) before joining Sydney Brenner at the Medical Research Council Laboratory of Molecular Biology (Cambridge, UK) where he began his studies of *C. elegans*.

Horvitz's achievements have led him to many accolades including election to the membership of the US National Academy of Sciences in 1991, Charles A. Dana Award for Pioneering Achievements in Health (1995), Gairdner Foundation International Award (1999), March of Dimes Prize in Developmental Biology (2000), and the Paul Ehrlich and Ludwig Darmstaedter Prize (2000).

Mark Whittaker moves to Evotec OAI

Evotec OAI (Hamburg, Germany) has announced that Mark Whittaker has taken up the position of Director of Drug Discovery. Whittaker joins the company from British Biotech Pharmaceuticals where he was Director of Chemistry. Previously, he held the position of Director of Medicinal Chemistry at British Biotech. These positions have given him 14 years' experience of the biotechnology industry including global responsibility for chemistry discovery and chemistry development activities, reorganization and integration of R&D activities, and the establishment of research collaborations with several biotechnology and pharmaceutical companies.

New President and Director of Yamanouchi America

Yamanouchi Pharmaceutical Co. (Tokyo, Japan) has named Akihiko Matsubara as the new President and Director of Yamanouchi America, replacing Nicholas L. Teti who resigned to pursue other professional activities. Matsubara was previously Senior Vice-President of Yamanouchi America and has 20 years of management experience in the company.

Toichi Takenaka, President and CEO of Yamanouchi Pharmaceutical Co. said, 'Akihiko has been instrumental in the creation and corporate planning strategies of our US growth expansion process. He brings the highest level of business development expertise and leadership experience to our team.'

New Chairman for AHA's Pharmaceutical Roundtable

The American Heart Association's Pharmaceutical Roundtable has recently elected James M. Fattu, Senior Vice-President of Clinical Research at Wyeth-Ayerst Pharmaceuticals, as their Chairman for 2001–2002. The Roundtable consists of members from eight pharmaceutical companies, namely, Bristol-Myers Squibb, Wyeth-Ayerst Pharmaceuticals, AstraZeneca, GlaxoSmithKline, Merck & Co., Novartis Pharmaceuticals, Pfizer and

Takeda Pharmaceuticals North America. The aim of the roundtable, which was founded in 1988, is to provide a forum for the American Heart Association and members of the pharmaceutical industry to identify and pursue common objectives to improve cardiovascular health in the US. The group has so far contributed US\$40 million to fund cardiovascular research and education programmes.

Key changes at Renovis

Renovis (South San Francisco, CA, USA) has appointed Corey S. Goodman to the position of President and CEO and a member of its Board of Directors. Goodman, currently Evan Rauch Professor of Neuroscience and Director of the Wills Neuroscience Institute at the University of California, Berkeley (CA, USA), is a co-founder of Renovis. Goodman is also currently an Investigator with the Howard Hughes Medical Institute (Chevy Chase, MD, USA), a position from which he will resign when he takes up his new position at Renovis. Goodman is a member of the National Academy of Sciences and has received many awards including the Alan T. Waterman Award (1983), the Gairdner Award (1997) and the March of Dimes Prize in Developmental Biology (2001). Goodman also co-founded Exelixis in 1994.

The company has also announced several other appointments. Lynne Zydowsky, co-founder of Renovis and Acting President and Chief Operating Officer, will become Senior Vice-President, Business Development. She has previously held the position of Vice-President of Pharmaceutical Business Development at Exelixis. Meanwhile, Tito Serafini, a co-founder of Renovis, will become Chief Discovery Scientist and Vice-President of Genomic Research, moving from the position of Assistant Professor of Cell and Developmental Biology and Neurobiology at the University of California, Berkeley. Finally, Andrew Shyjan is taking up the position of President, Molecular Biology. His previous positions include being Senior Director, Cancer Research at Incyte Genomics and Director of Oncology at Millennium Pharmaceuticals.

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