

People

Key industry directors and companies pick up awards

The Global Pharmaceutical Awards, run by IBC and Informa, recently took place in London and are designed to honour the most prestigious companies, organizations and people and to celebrate their achievements. Key winners included Rolf Stable of Shire Pharmaceuticals for CEO of the Year, Stuart Walker of CMR International who received the Life-time Achievement Award and Frank Douglas of Aventis who picked up the award for R&D Director of the Year.

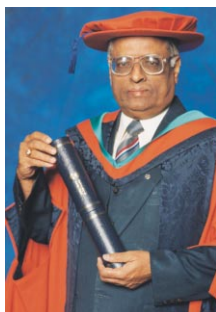
Pfizer picked up three awards including Award for the Advancement in the Cause of Worldwide Health for the Trachoma initiative, and Community Involvement and Corporate Responsibility Award for the Brooklyn redevelopment. Pharmacia also picked up three awards: Prescription drug launch of the year for Celebrex, Pharmaceutical M&A of the Year for their merger with Monsanto Company with J.D. Searle Unit, and Finance Director of the Year with Christopher Coughlin. Other winners included Lion Bioscience for the Best Biotech Initial Public Offering Deal, and Eisai US Saicho Matsuno for the Marketing Achievement of the Year Award. The judging panel consisted of William Steere, Jr (Chairman and CEO, Pfizer), Jo Walton (Pharmaceutical Analyst, Lehman Brothers), Mak Kawadekar (Assistant Director, Pharmaceutical Life Sciences Division, Pfizer Global R&D), John Ansell (Pharmaceutical Consultant), Stephen Greenhalgh (founder and Managing Director, BIBA Medical Ltd), Daniel Camus (CFO, Aventis Pharma), Margot James (Chief Executive, The Shire Hall Group), Mark Chataway (Founder, interSCIENCE Europe), the Rt Hon. Kenneth Clarke, QC, MP and Viren Mehta (Managing Director, Mehta Partners).

Peter Doyle and Alan Rosenthal join Avidex Board

Peter Doyle and Alan Rosenthal have recently joined the Board of Avidex Ltd (Oxford, UK) as non-executive Directors. Doyle is currently Chairman of the Biotechnology and Biosciences Research Council and a non-executive Director of

Syngenta and Oxagen, as well as a trustee of the Nuffield Foundation and the AstraZeneca Science Teaching Trust. He was previously a member of the Medical Research Council, The Royal Commission on Environmental Protection, the Central Research and Development Committee of the Department of Health and the Prime Minister's Advisory Committee on Science and Technology. Doyle has also previously held positions of Director of ICI and of Zeneca and retired from AstraZeneca in June 1999. He is a Fellow of the Royal Society of Edinburgh and holds honorary degrees from the universities of Glasgow, Sussex, Nottingham and Dundee.

Rosenthal has previously held positions of Vice-President of Pharmaceutical Discovery and Scientific Affairs at Abbott Laboratories (1993–1999), Senior Vice-President for R&D, USA and Canada for Boehringer Ingelheim (1987–1993) and Vice-President of Immunology and Inflammation Research at Merck (1978–1986). Rosenthal currently sits on the advisory board of the Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine Corporate Advisory Council, the Visiting Board of Biological Sciences Division, the University of Chicago and the Vanderbilt–Ingram NIH-sponsored national cancer centre.



Honorary Doctorate of Science for world-renowned chemist

The University of Sunderland (UK) recently paid tribute to the world-renowned chemist,

Shivayogi Hiremath, at a special honorary award ceremony. Hiremath inspired and encouraged a new generation of scientists in his native India through his campaigns on science education, social welfare, women's rights, family planning and health promotion. He is also well known as an academic who has worked to develop new drugs for a variety of diseases including leprosy, filaria and malaria. In recognition of his dedication and commitment to medicinal chemistry, the university that he collaborated with on several projects over

the past 25 years (University of Sunderland) awarded him an Honorary Doctorate of Science.

During his collaboration with the University of Sunderland, Hiremath worked with the medicinal chemist, Malcolm Hooper, and together received funding for research into anti-leprosy drugs. Hiremath says: 'We found two compounds which are much more active than current drugs and could be turned into very effective medicines.' The two chemists then applied for another exchange programme from the British Council for work on filaria and are currently working together on finding anti-fertility drugs from natural plants. Hiremath says, 'We are investigating compounds derived from the Indian system of natural medicine which could be of great benefit.' Hiremath has also been Vice-Chancellor of Kuvempu University in India for the past two years.

He says that the long-standing collaboration with the University of Sunderland has also helped change policies in chemistry schools across India, enabling the development of new courses, curricula and a BSc in pharmaceutical chemistry.

Obituary

Immune research pioneer dies

The immune research pioneer, Bernhard Cinader, has died of a heart attack at the age of 81. He achieved international recognition for his research on the human immune system, cancer and aging and also for his work in promoting First Nations culture. He was a Professor Emeritus from the University of Toronto and was the driving force behind the establishment of the Canadian Society for Immunology in 1966, serving as its founding president until 1969. He also helped form the International Union of Immunology Societies and was its first chairperson, and founded the Institute of Immunology at the University of Toronto in 1971. In 1985, he was named an officer of the Order of Canada.

Michelle Letarte, a Professor of Immunology at the University of Toronto said he had helped set up the necessary structure in places such as Africa to organize massive immunizations against infectious diseases. His interests also included African art and he arranged many exhibitions and was author of articles and catalogues on Canadian Indian art.