



## Foreword

# Alexander (Sandy) T. Florence: A birthday tribute

This issue of the journal celebrates both the 65th birthday of Alexander (Sandy) Florence and his unique contribution to pharmaceutics during his distinguished academic career. A symposium in his honour is to be held at the School of Pharmacy, University of London on his birthday, the 9th September 2005.

Professor Florence graduated as a pharmacist at what is now the University of Strathclyde and completed his Ph.D. at this university under the inspirational guidance of the late Peter Elworthy on the physicochemical properties of non-ionic surfactants, which was then a rapidly expanding and fertile area of research. After a sabbatical year in the USA with another influential leader in the surfactant field, Karol Mysels, Sandy spent the early part of his academic career at the University of Strathclyde, first as a lecturer in Department of Pharmacy and finally as Professor of Pharmaceutics and Head of the Department of Pharmaceutics. He was appointed as Dean of the School of Pharmacy, University of London in 1989, a post which he currently holds. Throughout his Deanship he has maintained a keen interest in research, despite the demands on his time that accompany this post, and is active in the School's Centre for Drug Delivery Research.

Sandy's contribution to Pharmacy has been recognised by the international pharmaceutical community throughout his career; he was awarded the Harrison Memorial Medal of the Royal Pharmaceutical Society of Great Britain in 1986, the Scheele Prize of the Swedish Academy of Sciences in 1993, the Høst-Madsen award from FIP in 1997, the

GlaxoSmithKline International Achievement Award in 2001, and most recently, the Journal of Drug Targeting Life Time Research Achievement Award in 2005.

He has always had a keen interest in the profession of pharmacy and in particular in the teaching of pharmacy in our Schools of Pharmacy in the UK and is a strong advocate of the maintenance of a sound underlying science base to the subject. He was the inspiration behind our textbook, *Physicochemical Principles of Pharmacy*, soon to be published in a 4th edition, in which we attempt to provide the physicochemical basis for the understanding of pharmaceutical formulation. Our shared interest in the field of the pharmaceutical applications of surfactants led to the publication in 1983 of the research text *Surfactant Systems: their Chemistry, Pharmacy and Biology*, which is derived from his earlier influential book published in 1968, *Solubilization by Surface Active Agents* co-authored with Calum Macfarlane and Peter Elworthy. He is editor-in-chief (Europe) of the *International Journal of Pharmaceutics* and was founding co-editor with Vincent Lee of the *Journal of Drug Targeting*.

He is the author of more than 300 papers, reviews and chapters in books covering a wide range of topics in the general area of drug delivery. From his early work on non-ionic surfactants he expanded his interests in surfactant systems to encompass amphiphilic drugs, non-ionic surfactant vesicles (niosomes), multiple emulsions, non-aqueous emulsions and organogels. His current interests include an exploration of the potential applications of dendrimers as drug and gene

carriers, the factors affecting nanoparticulate uptake from the GI tract, and responsive and pulsatile delivery systems.

These are just some of his many academic achievements and awards; many of his friends know him to be a multi-talented person whose interests and skills extend well beyond pharmacy into the realms of music, poetry and painting. His many friends and colleagues, and I am sure the many postgraduate and postdoctoral assistants who have benefited from his guidance and advice, wish him well on his 65th birthday.

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