Association News and Announcements

AAPS' FIRST RESEARCH ACHIEVEMENT AWARDS PRESENTED

Research Achievement Awards were presented to five outstanding pharmaceutical scientists during the Third Annual Meeting of the American Association of Pharmaceutical Scientists (AAPS) in Orlando, Florida, on November 2, 1988.

These awards constitute the organization's highest honors, and are intended to recognize an especially noteworthy and productive research career. The five awards encompass the major subdisciplines reflected in the overall AAPS membership.

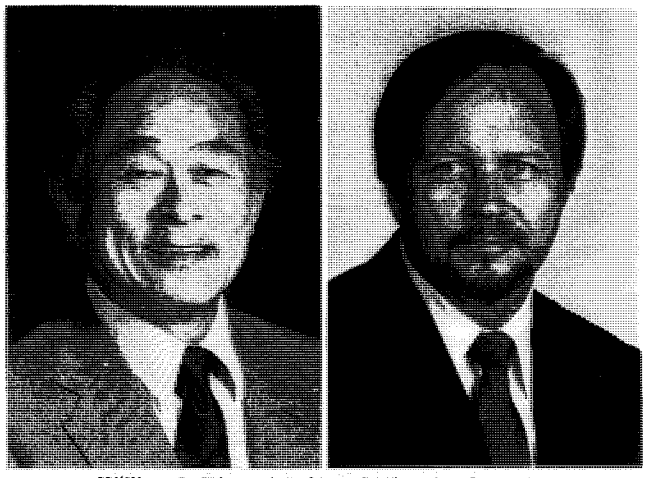
John Cymerman Craig, Professor of Chemistry and Pharmaceutical Chemistry, School of Pharmacy, University of California, San Francisco, was presented the Research Achievement Award in *Analysis and Pharmaceutical Quality,* sponsored by Lederle Laboratories. Professor Craig was recognized for his numerous contributions to the field of pharmaceutical analysis which, in particular, enable the determination and accurate quantification of extremely minute (subnanogram) amounts of substances of pharmaceutical, medicinal, or biological importance. These new and enhanced procedures permit analytical determinations critical to research in drug metabolism, placental transfer, enzyme deficiencies, drug absorption, disease etiology, and skin permeation by chemicals. Dr. Craig's new technique of trace analysis by sinusoidal sweep system is highly specific and accurate in picogram and femtogram ranges in systems of interest in pharmaceutical analysis.

The Research Achievement Award in *Medicinal and Natural Products Chemistry,* sponsored by Burroughs Wellcome Co., was conferred on **Nicholas S. Bodor,** Graduate Research Professor and Director of the Center for Drug Design and Delivery, University of Florida. Dr. Bodor was honored for his research efforts that resulted in novel concepts concerning the design of predictable, safe metabolism and site-specificity regarding the drug synthesis process. He has developed a variety of new prodrugs and brain-specific chemical delivery systems; several of these are now undergoing clinical trials and could represent major new potential therapies. In addition to reducing to practice the concept of chemical delivery systems for the transfer of therapeutic agents to the brain, Professor Bodor has explored the basic chemistry of these systems at the molecular level via the use of computational methods.

Patrick P. DeLuca, Professor of Pharmacy and Acting Director of the Center for Pharmaceutical Science and Technology, University of Kentucky, was awarded the Research Achievement Award in *Pharmaceutical Technology,* sponsored by Smith Kline & French Laboratories. Professor DeLuca has enjoyed a broad and productive career in the field of pharmaceutical technology, his most recent contributions coming in the area of developing and evaluating microparticulate polymeric systems to target drugs to specific organs and cells via parenteral and inhalation administration. Previously, his research efforts have been directed at assessing the clinical hazards of particulate matter in intravenously administered drugs, evaluating potential solubilizing agents for poorly soluble drugs, investigating the factors which influence the release of drugs from sustained action dosage forms, and determining the ultimate disposition of particles in the body when they are present as particulate matter in injectable drug dosage forms.

John Cymerman Craig (left) and Patrick P. DeLuca

The Research Achievement Award in *Pharmaceutics and Drug Delivery,* sponsored by G. D. Searle & Co., was presented to **William I. Higuchi,** Distinguished Professor and Chairman of the Department of Pharmaceutics, University of Utah. Professor Higuchi pioneered the use of quantitative



William I. Higuchi (left) and Nicholas S. Bodor

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physical models to explain the behavior of complex systems governed by various conceptually simple phenomena. His physical (diffusion) and biophysical (diffusion + metabolism and diffusion + flow + metabolism) modeling have been fundamental contributions in the field of drug delivery systems. Dr. Higuchi's research initiatives have ranged from crystal growth, to particle-particle aggregation, to dissolution kinetics, to rheometry; they have also included liposomes, polymer coprecipitates, mass transport processes, micelles, biological membranes transfer, percutaneous absorption, and transdermal drug delivery. The numerous basic principles he has elucidated provide the foundation on which much current research in drug biotransport and delivery is being conducted in various pharmaceutical research laboratories throughout the world.

Ho-Leung Fung, Professor and Chairman of the Department of Pharmaceutics, School of Pharmacy, State University of New York at Buffalo, was the recipient of the Research Achievement Award in *Pharmacokinetics, Pharmacodynamics and Drug Metabolism,* sponsored by The Upjohn Company. Professor Fung is recognized as an international authority on the pharmaceutical and therapeutic aspects of the organic nitrates. His research on this important class of cardiovascular agents has contributed significantly to current medical understanding of their biochemistry, pharmacology, and metabolism. Dr. Fung integrated various phenomena in organic nitrate metabolism, pharmacokinetics, and pharmacodynamcis—both in animals and humans—to provide a cohesive and unifying picture for this major class of drugs. One of the particularly unique discoveries to come out of his research was that organic nitrates are metabolized by blood vessel walls rather than the liver or other usual organs.

Ho-Leung Fung

This year (1988) marked the first presentation of the AAPS Research Achievement Awards. James T. Doluisio, Ph.D., AAPS President, remarked that "The unusually high credentials of these five recipients serve to establish an extraordinary standard in selecting future awardees. Congratulations to each of them!"

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For additional information, contact: AAPS, 601 King Street, Alexandria, VA 22314-3105. Telephone: (703) 548-3000.