

Malcolm F.G. Stevens is Awarded the First IUPAC-Richter Prize

The newly established IUPAC-Richter Prize in Medicinal Chemistry has been awarded in 2006 for the first time. The recipient is Prof. Malcolm F.G. Stevens, Ph.D., D.Sc., OBE, of Nottingham University, U.K.

Dr. Stevens received this award in recognition of his leadership and contributions to the discovery of anti-cancer drugs. His work has resulted in the discovery of six novel small molecule agents that have progressed

into clinical trials. Two of these are now registered drugs. Among them is Temozolomide (Temodal™), used to treat glioblastoma multiforme (a deadly brain cancer), which is licensed to the Schering-Plough Corporation and has been marketed worldwide since 1999. Another product, Phortress, is in early-stage clinical trial against breast tumors; other products from his current research, exploiting other mechanisms for anticancer agents, are also expected to enter development.

The IUPAC-Richter Prize—a plaque and a check for USD 10 000—will be presented on 29 August 2006 at the XIXth

International Symposium of Medicinal Chemistry in Istanbul, Turkey. The plaque is signed by Prof. Bryan Henry, president of IUPAC, and Erik Bogsch, chief executive officer of Gedeon Richter Limited.

Dr. Stevens studied pharmacy at the University of Nottingham, England, and obtained his Ph.D. in 1963, also at Nottingham. He was subsequently awarded a D.Sc. in 1979 for his published research on the novel synthesis of heterocyclic compounds. He pursued an academic career, spending seven years as a lecturer in medicinal chemistry at Heriot-Watt University in Edinburgh, Scotland, and then as a reader (i.e., an associate professor) in medicinal chemistry at Aston University in Birmingham, England. He was appointed professor of experimental cancer chemotherapy at Aston in 1979, and starting in 1983, spent six years as head of the Department of Pharmaceutical Sciences. In 1992 he returned to Nottingham University as

Cancer Research UK professor of experimental cancer chemotherapy and director of the Centre for Biomolecular Sciences, the position that he holds today. In addition, he is also chief scientific officer of Pharminox, a spin-off of Oxford University focused on the discovery and development of novel small molecule drugs for the treatment of cancer.

Dr. Stevens has received other forms of recognition from learned societies during his career: the UK Royal Society of Chemistry (RSC) Interdisciplinary Award (1991), the Royal Pharmaceutical Society of Great Britain Harrison Memorial Medal (1994), the RSC George and Christine Sosnovsky Award for chemical contributions to cancer research (2002), and the American Association for Cancer Research Bruce F. Cain Memorial Award (2003) for translational cancer research.



www.iupac.org/news/archives/2006/Richter_prize.html



Malcolm F.G. Stevens, winner of the first IUPAC-Richter Prize in Medicinal Chemistry

Capacity Building in Science

The Committee on Scientific Planning and Review (CSPR) of the International Council for Science (ICSU) recently appointed a panel to conduct a priority area assessment (PAA) of capacity building in science. This is ICSU's third PAA; the other two dealt with "Environment and its Relation to Sustainable Development" and "Scientific Data and Information." These assessments have been carried out as part of ICSU's defining a strategy for 2006–2011.

In its report, *Priority Area Assessment of Capacity Building in Science*, the ICSU panel calls attention to three crucial challenges to building scientific capacity.

The first challenge, a development problem, is the widening gap between advances in scientific knowledge and technology and society's ability to capture and use them. This is not just a question of the digital divide, although the use of knowledge does lag behind in developing countries; it is more the fact that having *information* does not necessarily translate into having *knowledge*. In addition, introducing science and technology to a world with diverse experiences presents a significant barrier. Finding ways to better communicate information about science to the public can help transcend this barrier and begin a constructive dialogue about scientific discoveries and new technologies. Developing national strategies for science and