March 14, 2012

Symposium on Pharmaceutical Development Scheduled

Nine international leaders in the field of pharmaceutical development are key speakers at the first Symposium on Pharmaceutical Development, to be sponsored by the University of Georgia College of Pharmacy; the day-long event is scheduled for April 19 at the Classic Center in Athens, beginning with an 8 a.m. registration.

This unique symposium provides an opportunity for scientists involved in the pharmaceutical sciences, life sciences, biotechnology and translational medicine to discuss the ever-increasing challenges and opportunities found in the development of modern therapeutic agents. The program is intended for members of industry, government and academia, along with students and post-doctoral researchers who want to gain valuable perspective in the translational nature of modern drug development.

Key speakers include Jack Henion of Advion BioSciences, Peter Bryan of Celgene Corporation, Karthick Vishwanathan of AstraZeneca, H. Thomas Karnes of Virginia Commonwealth University School of Pharmacy, Karthik Srinivasan of Ferring Pharmaceuticals, Charles Craig of Georgia Bio, Christopher McCurdy of University of Mississippi School of Pharmacy, Nirdosh Jagota of Genentech, Inc., and PingPing Wang of Johnson & Johnson.

The symposium is dedicated to Professor Emeritus James T. Stewart, who joined the faculty of the College of Pharmacy in 1967, as an analytical chemistry expert. Through collaboration with the late Professor Irwin Honigberg and more recently with Professor Michael Bartlett, Stewart led the development of an internationally recognized research program in pharmaceutical and bioanalytical chemistry before his retirement in 2002.

Stewart is widely known for his pioneering work in the field of high-performance liquid chromatography for pharmaceutical analysis. He was heavily involved in the Crystal City Meetings where leaders from industry, academia and government met to produce the original United States Food and Drug Administration guidance for validation of bioanalytical methods. He also served for more than 20 years on the United States Pharmacopeia Council of Experts and was the Science Advisor for the District IV Office of the United States Food and Drug Administration from 1985-1990.

Among his many accomplishments, Stewart was the 1990 recipient of the Research Achievement Award in Analysis and Pharmaceutical Quality from the American Association for Pharmaceutical Scientists where he is also a Fellow. He also received the 1993 Justin L. Powers Research Achievement Award in Pharmaceutical Analysis from the American Pharmacists Association. Stewart’s retirement left behind a legacy that includes having graduated 39 MS and Ph.D. students, having directed 10 post-doctoral research associates and having published 300 peer-reviewed manuscripts.

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