Novartis Scientist Awards Ceremony

November 28, 2007
4:00 pm
Cambridge, Massachusetts

250 Massachusetts Avenue
Novartis Institutes for BioMedical Research
Auditorium

NOVARTIS

VIVA 2007

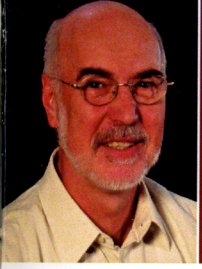
The Novartis VIVA awards program aims to support the career development of Novartis R&D scientists worldwide by recognizing outstanding scientific contributions and rewarding innovation.

2007 Novartis Distinguished Scientist

Dr. Gottfried Sedelmeier

2007 Novartis Leading Scientists

Dr. Dirksen Bussiere
Dr. Steven Charlton
Dr. Bernard Cuenoud
Dr. Peter Finan
Dr. Wilfried Frieauff
Dr. Susanne Glowienke
Dr. Shoufeng Li
Dr. Philip Lowe
Dr. Paul W. Manley
Mr. Kurt Paulus
Dr. Carsten Spanka



Mr. Kurt Paulus

Kurt Paulus is Head of the Analytical Imaging laboratory for the Technical Research and Development (TRD) function of Pharma Development, based in Basel.

Mr. Paulus established Analytical Imaging as a center of excellence at TRD. Before Analytical Imaging was available, distribution of active drug substance was a black box that could only be approached by trial and error. Mr. Paulus and his team fused technologies ranging from microscopy and spectroscopy into an integrated platform, allowing for the first time to visualize local distribution of drug substance and excipients within pharmaceutical formulations. That information represents a key competitive advantage for Novartis – and helps to accelerate development and improve quality of new medicines.

In addition to providing a better understanding of innovative drug delivery systems faster than in the past, data from Analytical Imaging has other important applications – from responding to questions from regulatory agencies to clarifying patent issues. In short, Analytical Imaging techniques exemplify the type of new tools required to realize the Project DELPhI vision of fast-track development.

Mr. Paulus has also developed state-of-the-art safety tools for colleagues at TRD. The weigh-in safety box he designed minimizes risks for colleagues working with compounds whose safety profile has not yet been fully determined. The "Paulus safety boxes" have been widely used in Novartis labs globally since 2000 – and are also sold to external firms today.

Applying many of the tools he helped develop, Mr. Paulus supported the team that analyzed suspected anthrax samples discovered by associates at Novartis sites in Basel following the September 11, 2001 terrorist attacks in the US. His lab also has assisted in testing asbestos samples collected from buildings on the Basel campus.

A 23-year veteran of Novartis and predecessor companies, Mr. Paulus has a flair for scientific exhibitions devoted to the history of science and has established a virtual museum of science on the Internet (www.amuseum.de).

Mr. Paulus acknowledges fruitful scientific contributions with Danielle Giron, Berthold Schenkel, Ernst Kuesters, Dierk Wieckhusen, and his new colleague Thomas Haefele. In addition, he thanks Pong Mak and Michael Saegebarth for providing instruments, and Holger Petersen and Gesine Winzenburg for delivery of samples used in Proof-of-Concept studies. Klaus Anton has been a mentor and Dirk Maertin has provided technical support. Mr. Paulus also wishes to acknowledge his wife Helge Rixner-Paulus as well as his children and grandchildren.

Acknowledgements

We would like to thank the 2007 VIVA Awards nominating committee and also Dr. Robert Weinberg, Keynote Speaker for the evening's ceremony.

Note About the VIVA Sculptures' Designs

The traditional sculpture for the Novartis Distinguished Scientist Award was designed and realized specifically for this purpose by the Swiss Artist René Küng, born in 1934 in Allschwil, BL, near Basel. In a previous VIVA Awards ceremony, Michael Plüss, Head of Novartis Switzerland, said: "Küng is not an artist trying to separate a finished work from the condition of its making. . . people looking at Réne Küng's Moon Ladder will not only follow the upward direction of the ladder, but also they will see where it comes from. So the VIVA sculpture is a ladder, too, with all its symbolic value to a scientist's life." Please visit www.carzaniga.ch/html/07_kuenstler for more information on this artist.

The Novartis Leading Scientist sculpture design, which is the first of its kind presented as a VIVA Award this year, was designed by Benjamin S. Cariens, a Boston-based artist. His work consists primarily of mixed media constructions and installations. In these works, he brings together not only his more traditional training in figurestudy but also his religion and literature studies. Mr. Cariens' design merges the motif of the flame of inspiration with the double helix structure so fundamental to the modern understanding of our biochemical world.