MEMORIAL RESOLUTION OF THE FACULTY OF THE UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-MADISON

ON THE DEATH OF PROFESSOR EMERITUS C. RICHARD HUTCHINSON

C. Richard "Dick"/"Hutch" Hutchinson, Ph.D., Edward Leete Professor Emeritus of Medicinal Chemistry, and professor emeritus of bacteriology, died January 5, 2010, at age 66 after a courageous three-month fight against cancer.

Professor Hutchinson's early training and independent work were in chemistry, where he made many important contributions to alkaloid biosynthesis. Even to this day, his studies on camptothecin represent most of what we know about the biosynthesis of this important clinical compound. To later generations of natural products practitioners, Professor Hutchinson is better known as one of the world leaders who elegantly blended the art and science of chemistry, biochemistry, and molecular biology to understand secondary metabolite biosynthesis in actinomycetes, in particular the biosynthesis of polyketide and deoxysugar natural products. He was one of the very first chemists to master and combine these fields.

Dick Hutchinson was born on October 10, 1943, in Dayton, Ohio, the younger of two children. He attended Ohio State University (BS, 1966) and the University of Minnesota (PhD, 1970). Following postdoctoral work at Cambridge University, England (1971), he was an assistant professor of pharmacognosy (1971-74), University of Connecticut, and assistant professor (1974-77), associate professor (1977-82), professor (1982-2000), Edward Leete Professor (1995-2000) of Medicinal Chemistry and professor of bacteriology (1986-2000), all at University of Wisconsin-Madison. He retired from University of Wisconsin-Madison in 2000 to join Kosan Biosciences where he served as vice president new technologies until 2006. He co-founded Centrose LLC in Madison in 2007 and served as its president and chief scientific officer. In 2004, he returned part-time to the University of Wisconsin-Madison and served as an ad hoc teaching and research adviser for many groups until his untimely death.

Professor Hutchinson published over 240 papers, held numerous federal and industrial research grants, served on the editorial boards of many peer-reviewed journals, and received many prestigious awards, including the Guggenheim and Fulbright Fellowships, the Charles Thom Research Achievement Award of the Society for Industrial Microbiology, the AACP Paul Dawson Biotechnology Award, the Research Achievement Award of the American Society for Pharmacognosy and a distinguished alumni award from Ohio State University.

During a distinguished career that spanned nearly four decades at the University of Wisconsin-Madison, Kosan Biosciences, and Centrose LLC, Professor Hutchinson made major advances in understanding the biosynthesis of naturally occurring drugs through studies of the molecular genetics and biochemistry of antibiotic production in microorganisms and worked tirelessly and enthusiastically through creative entrepreneurship to translate laboratory findings into clinical products.

Professor Hutchinson was an extraordinary mentor who taught and trained a generation of young scientists in chemistry, biochemistry, and molecular biology of secondary metabolite biosynthesis. Many of these people are now successful scientists at both academic and industrial institutions nationally and internationally. Through the impact of their discoveries on natural products biosynthesis and drug discovery, Professor Hutchinson's legacy of scientific rigor, progressivism, and standard of excellence will be continued.

(continued)

Professor Hutchinson will be remembered for his strength of spirit, zeal for life and new experiences, and his boundless intellectual curiosity. He was a voracious reader, loved movies, flowers, food, ran every day, hated buckthorn and systematically cleared a couple acres of it by hand from his land, and loved to travel. And he found time to support the research efforts of colleagues, especially when it came to obtaining research grants for expensive shared equipment. On several occasions, he volunteered to organize and write the necessary research proposals and training grants and had great success in this collegial activity. He has left an indelible mark, not only on our field of science, but more so on the lives of those lucky enough to have known him and who considered him a friend and a role model. For that, we are forever grateful.

Dick Hutchinson is survived by two daughters, Jill (Joe) Bollettieri and Erin Hutchinson (Dave Holsinger), a son, John (Betty Tzeng); and three beloved grandchildren. His wife, Gayetta Ann "Gaye" Hutchinson, died March 17, 2010, from complications of Alzheimer's disease. The major reason Dick returned to Madison in 2004 was to support and care for Gaye as the disease progressed, and he did that patiently and gracefully.

A private memorial celebration was held in January and was followed by a scientific symposium held in his honor at the School of Pharmacy at the University of Wisconsin in February, and at Kosan in California in June. A special issue of the *Journal of Antibiotics* will be published in his honor in December 2010.

MEMORIAL COMMITTEE
Jerald C. Ensign
Daniel H. Rich, Chair
Ben Shen
Michael Thomas
Jon Thorson