

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

ON THE DEATH OF PROFESSOR EMERITUS ULFERT HORNEMANN

Professor Emeritus Ulfert Hornemann was born in Dresden, Germany on April 22, 1939 and died in Madison on December 16, 2010. He received the equivalent of a bachelor of science degree in chemistry from the Technical University of Hannover, Germany, in 1961 and the Dr.rer.nat. in organic/biochemistry from the Technical University of Munich, Germany, in 1967. He continued his postdoctoral studies at the Purdue University School of Pharmacy with Professor Heinz Floss and was appointed to the faculty there in 1969. From 1976 to 1977 he spent a sabbatical year at the Department of Genetics at the John Innes Institute, Norwich, England, studying *Streptomyces* genetics with Professor D.A. Hopwood. Ulf and his family moved to Madison in 1981, where he worked as a professor of pharmaceutical biochemistry at the University of Wisconsin School of Pharmacy. During 1990-91 he served as a visiting scientist at the Pasteur Institute, Paris, France, studying protein expression patterns in *Streptomyces* with Professor Julian Davies.

Ulf began his career at Purdue University dedicated to research in the areas of alkaloid and antibiotic biosynthesis, mode of action of antibiotics and enzymology, and *Streptomyces* DNA amplification. In his earlier years at Wisconsin, work in his laboratory centered on the application of principles and techniques of organic chemistry and of molecular genetics to gain a better understanding of the biosynthesis of natural products and to exploit nature's chemical capabilities to generate new molecules with properties useful to man. Most of his research efforts were devoted to the study of the mitomycins. He was the first to recognize the existence of a new pathway for the formation of a common key precursor to mitomycin and other important anticancer drugs such as rifamycin and ansamycin. His biosynthetic studies not only demonstrated the diversity and versatility of the nature's synthetic capabilities but also allowed one to further exploit the biosynthetic machinery of microorganisms for the preparation of new anticancer drugs with improved therapeutic properties. After 1994 his research concentrated on RNA-related topics. He sought molecular modeling confirmation for his hypothesis on the evolution of a primordial genetic apparatus and for his theory to explain the mechanism of present-day protein biosynthesis.

Ulf retired in 2006 from the School of Pharmacy, but he continued to engage in research and to present posters at meetings about topics of interest to him. He was an avid bicyclist, one of few faculty to commute by bicycle to campus throughout the winter, and served multiple terms on the Bicycle-Pedestrian Subcommittee of the Campus Transportation Committee. In retirement he enjoyed cycle tours throughout the United States and Europe.

Ulf was a quiet, honest, private person with strong convictions. He not only carried out his teaching and committee assignments dutifully, but also contributed significantly in the early stages to the development of the pharmaceutical biochemistry division in the School of Pharmacy, particularly in the creation of a course in pharmaceutical biotechnology. The school and the university owe Professor Hornemann a debt of gratitude for his valuable contributions. We will miss him as a colleague and friend.

Ulf is survived by his wife, Kathleen, sons Charles, David, Peter, and Michael, and one grandchild, Torsten.

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