2015 David Chu Lectureship
Department of Pharmaceutical Sciences

Hank F. Kung, PhD

Professor, University of Pennsylvania

"Development of Imaging Agents for Diagnosis of Alzheimer's Diseases"

Tuesday
March 3, 2015
190 Kapoor Hall
4:00 – 5:30 PM

Past Recipients:

C. Lipinski
Ph.D. - 2012

W. Sadee
Ph.D. - 2013

A.D. Kinghorn
Ph.D. - 2014

Hank F. Kung, PhD, did his undergraduate work in chemistry at the Cheng Kung University of Taiwan. In 1976, he received his PhD in medicinal chemistry from the UB School of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences under the mentorship of Professor Thomas Bardos. After postdoctoral training under Dr. Monte Blau at Roswell Park Memorial Institute, Dr. Kung joined the Department of Nuclear Medicine at UB first as an Assistant Professor, and later as Associate Professor of Nuclear Medicine. He became Professor of Radiology and Pharmacology at the University of Pennsylvania (UPenn) in 1993.

Dr. Kung has a highly regarded reputation for his work in radiopharmaceutical development for neuroreceptor imaging utilizing single photon emission computed tomography (SPECT) and positron emission tomography (PET). One of Dr. Kung's most well-known achievements is the development of Florbetapir ^{18}F (trade name Amyvid, Eli Lilly), an imaging compound specific for mapping b-amyloid plaques in the brain, which allow for the in-vivo diagnosis of Alzheimer's disease. He also developed novel PET imaging agents for targeting vesicular monoamine transporters in the brain, useful in the diagnosis and treatment assessment of patients with Parkinson's disease. This drug is also under commercial development by Lilly (AV-133). Additional work includes mapping insulin secreting beta cells in the pancreas, and ^{11}C and ^{18}F labeled glutamines, intended to target tumor metabolism.

Dr. Kung serves on several editorial boards including the Journal of Medicinal Chemistry. He has published over 310 peer-reviewed scientific papers and has received more than 40 US patents. His awards include the Jacob Javits Award for Neuroscience by the NIH; the 1997 Springer Award for the Best Paper in Basic Science; the Paul C. Aebersold Award by the Society of Nuclear Medicine in 2004; the Academy of Radiology Research's Distinguished Investigator Award in 2012; and the Kuhl-Lassen Award by the Society of Nuclear Medicine in 2013. Dr. Kung is also working as an Investigator on the Pancreatic Cancer Dream Team with the Stand up to Cancer (SU2C) initiative.

David C. K. Chu, PhD is currently Distinguished Research Professor, Emeritus, of Pharmaceutical and Biomedical Sciences at the College of Pharmacy, University of Georgia. He obtained his PhD in Medicinal Chemistry from the University at Buffalo in 1975 under the mentorship of Professor Thomas Bardos. Dr. Chu has published over 300 drug discovery related scientific papers and over 50 US patents have been awarded to him. Several of his invented compounds are undergoing clinical trials in the therapeutic areas of cancer, hepatitis B virus, HIV and shingles. An elected member of American Association of Advancement of Science, Dr. Chu received a MERIT Award from the NIH in 2001, and the UGA Inventor of the Year Award in 2002. The David Chu Lectureship was established at UB in 2011 by David and Jane Chu.

David C. K. Chu, PhD

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