



European Federation for Medicinal Chemistry

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UCB Award for Excellence in Medicinal Chemistry

The "UCB Award for Excellence in Medicinal Chemistry" was established by UCB S.A. to acknowledge and recognize outstanding research in the field of Medicinal Chemistry in its broadest sense accomplished by a scientist aged 45 or less. The 2006 recipient is Dr. Bernd Riedl from Bayer AG for his outstanding scientific work leading to the discovery of the raf-kinase inhibitor Sorafenib (Bay-43-9006, Nexavar).

The discovery of the raf-kinase inhibitor Sorafenib (Bay-43-9006, Nexavar) by Dr. Riedl is the first example of the discovery of a new medicine which combines classical rationale drug discovery approach with the use of new technologies. Sorafenib, a drug with a novel mechanism of action, was discovered by means of combinatorial chemistry, at that time a novel approach in the drug discovery process. Sorafenib was approved in US for the treatment of advanced renal cell carcinoma. When Dr. Riedl took over this project it was not clear whether the research was leading in a fruitful direction; however, his scientific leadership led to an anti-cancer drug that is now on the market and giving patients benefit worldwide in what is a challenging area scientifically. Few medicinal chemists can claim such an achievement, especially over such a short time-scale, and Dr. Riedl is a worthy winner of the 2006 UCB-EFMC Award.

The prize which consists of a diploma and a cheque for 7500 Euros will be presented on 29th August 2006 at the XIXth International Symposium of Medicinal Chemistry in Istanbul, Turkey.

Dr Riedl obtained a Vordiplom in Chemistry in 1985 followed by a Diplomchemiker with Professor Schmidt on the chemistry of phosphinic, thiophosphinic and thiophosphonic acids at the University of Stuttgart. He was granted a PhD in 1991 for his work on the synthesis of didemnins and acyltetrahydropyridazines and then undertook postdoctoral research on the synthesis of antrimycin D, both with Professor Schmidt.

Dr Riedl joined Bayer AG as laboratory head in 1992 working in the field of antibacterial and antiviral agents. He was appointed project leader for the Raf-kinase project in 1996 and has since held positions of increasing responsibility including Director responsible for Combinatorial Chemistry. He is currently a Director at BayerHealthCare AG in Wuppertal responsible for the Chemistry in the area of Thrombosis research and chemistry activities in product related research.

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