

## **RAVE REVIEWS**

### **R. Bryan Miller Memorial Symposium 2007**

This is a selection of responses from an evaluation survey passed out at the end of the symposium on March 9, 2007.

#### **DID YOU ENJOY THE SYMPOSIUM?**

*I REALLY enjoyed it...It's very rewarding as a student to actually listen to real-world professionals talk about the same stuff you learn in class. Congratulations on a TERRIFIC Miller symposium. (undergraduate student)*

*Yes! The ARC was a great venue and the food and speakers were wonderful. (graduate student)*

#### **DID YOU HAVE A FAVORITE PRESENTATION?**

(comments by undergraduate students in Chemistry 130A—Principles of Pharmaceutical Chemistry)

*I greatly enjoyed Dr. [Ronald] Breslow's talk on SAHA, his new anti-cancer drug that targets histone deacetylase genes. The drug contains the hydroxamic acid functional group, which was new to me, and it appears to bind to a zinc-enzyme which promotes differentiation of cancer cells and starts them down the pathway to apoptosis.*

*Dr. [Cheryl] Grice of Johnson and Johnson described how she addressed problems with hERG inhibition in the development of a new anti-inflammatory drug. Her presentation made it very clear how expensive drug development can be. She demonstrated how the costs are analyzed and how the process can be made more efficient.*

*I enjoyed learning how the pharmaceutical industry has been making drugs to treat hypertension in the lecture given by Dr. Dinesh Patel of Arête Therapeutics. He described three important classes: renin inhibitors, ACE inhibitors, and ARB antagonists. A renin inhibitor just came on the market that was previously used as a lead for an HIV protease inhibitor.*

*The presentation by Dr. Xi Chen was really excellent. Sialic acids are carbohydrates found on the termini of many receptors. They interact with glycoproteins and lipoproteins to facilitate inflammation, apoptosis, and other processes. They play a key part in the action of the influenza protein neuramidase, which is involved in transporting viral nucleic acids into a host cell. Dr. Chen described how her group uses enzymatic methods to synthesize sialic acids with very high structural specificity.*

*I was surprised to learn from Arthur Wellman about the differences between patent law in the United States and Europe: in Europe the law is "first to file," while in the U.S. it is "first to discover." It was interesting to hear how these laws may be changing in the future.*

#### **DID YOU ENJOY THE FOOD?**

*Yes! The sandwiches were delicious, and it was great to have fresh fruits, too. (graduate student)*

*Yes, the food was great. Wide selection and good quantity. (undergraduate student)*

*Good Food. Great Snacks. (graduate student)*

#### **ANY OTHER COMMENTS YOU WOULD LIKE TO SHARE?**

*Very well organized. (postdoc)*

*There was a lot of interesting material presented. It gave us students a chance to see application of our education. (undergraduate student)*

*Great opportunity – gives wonderful perspective (graduate student)*

*Thank you for remembering the students. (undergraduate student)*

*I really enjoyed the presentations. Good science + good business (undergraduate student)*