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UGA College of Pharmacy's David Chu Receives Holý Award

Athens, Ga. – C.K. “David” Chu, a distinguished researcher professor and professor emeritus at the University of Georgia College of Pharmacy, was presented the Antonín Holý Memorial Lecture Award, which recognizes significant contributions in medicinal chemistry, at the annual meeting of the International Society of Antiviral Research held recently in Atlanta.

Antonín Holý was a medicinal chemist whose discovery of antiviral drugs led to the treatment of millions of patients worldwide infected with AIDs and Hepatitis B.

Chu has spent a majority of his 40-year career in medicinal chemistry, which has led to the discovery of numerous anticancer and antiviral agents. During his academic career, he discovered a number of clinical candidates for cancer and viral diseases, and he is listed as inventor on 60 U.S. patents. He has published more than 300 peer-reviewed articles in organic, biochemical and medicinal chemistry, edited four textbooks, and trained more than 130 graduate students and postdoctoral fellows. As a co-founder of Pharmasset and ATEA Pharmaceuticals, Chu has maintained an active research program in drug design and synthesis since his retirement in 2008. His work in drug discovery has been recognized nationally and internationally.

Chu obtained a B.S. degree in pharmacy from Seoul National University, and after serving as an officer in the Korean Navy, he came to the U.S., receiving a M.S. degree from Idaho State University in 1968 and a Ph.D. in medicinal chemistry from the State University of New York at Buffalo in 1975. After working as a postdoctoral fellow in drug discovery at the Memorial Sloan-Kettering Institute of Cancer Research in New York, he stayed on as a research associate for another five years before joining the UGA College of Pharmacy in 1982.

Among his many honors, Chu has held an endowed professorship of the UGA Research Foundation, received the Creative Research Medal from UGA and an NIH Merit Award. He was elected a fellow of the National Academy of Inventors in 2015 and received the Willis Gregory Award from the School of Pharmacy of the SUNY Buffalo this year. He also was presented the highest honor from his alma mater, Seoul National University, the Alumnus of the Year in 2015.

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