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The enterprise of drug discovery from an academic perspective: From design to practice

Monumental achievements in drug development within the pharmaceutical industry worldwide have benefitted humankind by improving quality of life and providing life-saving medicines over decades of dedicated work. Academic research has also been instrumental in making fundamental contributions at the interface between the chemical, physical and biological sciences, and especially in the training of future scientists who eventually contribute to the invention of new medicines. Indeed, some of the most important insights into our understanding of basic chemical and biological processes at the molecular level continue to come from academic groups. The lecture will cover various aspects of our research projects in the area of natural products and structure-based organic synthesis toward novel drug prototypes emphasizing a biology-inspired, chemistry driven approach and highlighting examples of highly successful collaborative projects with a plethora of research groups in various pharmaceutical companies without compromising the sanctity of basic research principles and the noble objective of coworker training in an academic setting.

Biography

Stephen Hanessian holds the Isis Pharmaceutical Research Chair at the Université de Montréal. He is also in the faculty of the Department of Pharmaceutical Sciences, University of California, Irvine as the Director of the Medicinal Chemistry and Pharmacology Graduate Program. His research interests are in organic, bioorganic and medicinal chemistry with nearly 550 original publications and several patents to his credit. His recent book *Design and Strategy in Organic Synthesis* Wiley_VCH, 2013 is widely acclaimed.

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