

PRESS RELEASE JANUARY 19TH 2017

Scheele Award 2017 to professor Charles L Sawyers



Professor Charles L Sawyers, professor at Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center has been named the recipient of the 2017 year Scheele Award with the following motivation: "For his outstanding contribution in life science. Professor Sawyers's work has led to insights into the molecular mechanisms that cause tumor resistance to cancer drugs which have paved the way for the development of new, effective treatments have led to increased survival for many patients. "

The award consists of a cash prize of 200 000 and a medal. In conjunction with the award ceremony in November 2017, a symposium with the theme related to the award winner's research.

Pioneer in oncology

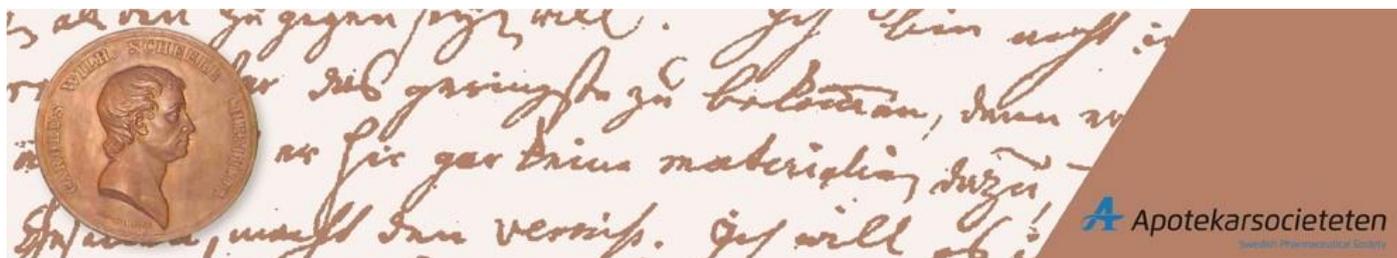
Professor Sawyers is one of the pioneers of modern medicines to treat cancer. His efforts to identify the mechanisms causing tumor resistance to cancer drugs is the basis for not less than three different drugs which have revolutionized the treatment of primary chronic myeloid leukemia (CML) and prostate cancer. Through his research, Professor Sawyers was one involved in the first studies that showed that the compound Imatinib was active against CML. Imatinib/Gleevec was the first approved targeted medicine in oncology. Based on Imatinib was Professor Sawyers helped develop substances Dasatinib (against CML) and Enzalutamide (for prostate cancer). Today we know that several different types of cancer have mutations / changes with other kinases that are based on the same mechanisms which have led to the development of multi-kinase inhibitor targeting drugs in oncology. Through the research and development of drugs that have emerged thanks to his research, the development of new drug treatments for several types of cancer could be made which led to increased survival for many patients. Professor Sawyers is one of the experts in President Obama's commitment to cancer research, Cancer Moonshot, which was launched a year ago.

- "It is a huge honor to be Recognized for nearly 20 years of drug development into leukemia and prostate cancers. I am Particularly pleased That the selection committee was willing to recognize the role That basic research plays in understanding how diseases work, as this lays the groundwork for Developing the best way of treatment "said Professor Sawyers who look forward to coming to Stockholm in November and receive the prize.

- It was pleasing to note that a large number of nominations for this year's Scheele Award, which shows that our greatest scientific price is important in drug discovery. It required extensive work of the nomination committee that, among so many top international researchers finally appoint Professor Sawyers's 2017 winner. Professor Sawyers is a very distinguished scientists and we are happy that his research is already used in the treatment of several cancers. We look forward to an interesting Scheele Symposium November 16 where Professor Sawyers's research will be addressed, says Karin Meyer, Managing Director of Pharmaceutical and Pharmaceutical chairman of the nominating committee for Scheele Award.

Apotekarsocieteten | BESÖKSADRESS Wallingatan 26 A, Stockholm | UTDELNINGSDRESS Box 1136, 111 81 Stockholm | www.apotekarsocieteten.se

TELEFON 08-723 50 00 | FAX 08-20 55 11 | E-POST info@apotekarsocieteten.se | BANKGIRO 728-8129 | ORGANISATIONSNUMMER 802000-1577



For further information

Karin Meyer, CEO

karin.meyer@apotekarsocieteten.se, 08-723 50 61

Birgitta Karpesjö, communications manager

birgitta.karpesjo@apotekarsocieteten.se, 08-723 50 42

Scheele Award

In honor of the world-renowned Swedish chemist and pharmacist Carl Wilhelm Scheele, the Swedish Academy of Pharmaceutical Sciences has since 1961 bestowed the Scheele Award on prominent scientists in the field of drug research or related disciplines. In 2017 shared it out for the 48th time. The prize has been awarded since 1961 and prize winners have on three occasions later awarded the Nobel Prize in Chemistry and Physiology or Medicine. The most recent was Luc Montagnier, who in 2008 received the Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine for his discovery of the HIV virus. Montagnier had Scheele prize for the same thing in 1986. Scheele prize includes a prize money of 200 000 SEK and a medal as well as a symposium held in conjunction with the award ceremony. See previous winners here

Apotekarsocieteten (Swedish Pharmaceutical Society)

The Swedish Pharmaceutical Society is a non-profit organization for people engaged in the field of medicinal drugs. The aim of the Organization is to further developments in pharmaceutical research and to promote high, professional standards.

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Carl Wilhelm Scheele

Carl Wilhelm Scheele (1742-1786) was born in Stralsund which at the time belonged to Sweden, and was active in Sweden as a pharmacist and chemist from 1757 until his death in 1786. Scheele was one of Europe's most prominent chemists and performed a great variety of experiments and discovered a number of new substances. His discovery of the substance that would later be called oxygen, 1772-1773, published in 1777 in his dissertation *Chemische Abhandlung von der Luft und dem Feuer*. Scheele discovered several other elements, such as barium, chlorine, manganese, molybdenum and tungsten, and many important organic acids.