Tribute to David A. Goodwin and Claude F. Meares, Recipients of the Immunomedics Science Award

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The Immunomedics Science Award was established to recognize scientists who have made noteworthy contributions to cancer diagnosis and therapy with targeted agents consistent with the purposes of the biannual meeting on Radioimmunodetection and Radioimmunotherapy of Cancer. The breadth of consideration for the award was reflected by the selection of Ralph A. Reisfeld, Ph.D., in 1996 because of his basic and clinical contributions to immunotherapy. Including Dr. Reisfeld, a committee of eight members with international representation was assembled to make the selection for the Immunomedics Science Award to be provided on the occasion of the Seventh Conference on Radioimmunodetection and Radioimmunotherapy of Cancer in 1998. A strong panel of nominees was generated, despite the elimination of members of the committee by virtue of their position. Although any one of the nominees would have continued the honor brought to the award by Dr. Reisfeld, two individuals, David A. Goodwin, M.D., and Claude F. Meares, Ph.D., consistently led the ballots and were often identified jointly because of their intertwined careers. These individuals were selected for the award because of their joint seminal work on: (a) covalent attachment of bifunctional chelates to biomolecules and their use as probes in biological systems; and (b) pretargeting strategies for cancer diagnosis and therapy (Fig. 1).

David Goodwin received an M.D. degree from the University of Manitoba Medical College and an M.S. degree in investigative medicine from McGill University. During a fellowship in Nuclear Medicine at the Johns Hopkins Hospital, he generated a variety of pharmaceuticals for imaging based on radioindium chemistry. In 1967, he joined the faculty of the Stanford University School of Medicine, where he is currently Professor of Radiology. During his tenure at Stanford University, Dr. Goodwin was acknowledged for his contributions by a number of Ph.D. candidates, the first of whom was Claude Meares. This was the beginning of a mutually productive scientific and personal relationship. In 1972, Claude Meares received a Ph.D. in chemistry from Stanford University. In 1972, Dr. Meares joined the faculty of the Department of Chemistry at the University of California, Davis, where he later became Professor and, most recently, chairperson. Despite the geographical distance, Drs. Goodwin and Meares continued their collaborations with a stream of publications on bifunctional metal chelate radio-pharmaceuticals that began with an article in Nature in 1974 (1) and continued with a particularly important one in the Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences of the United States of America in 1976 (2). In 1988 (after abstract presentation in 1986), Drs. Goodwin and Meares published a paper on pretargeted immunoscintigraphy with 111In-labeled bifunctional hapten in the Journal of Nuclear Medicine (3). They continue this work developing novel, pretargeting strategies for imaging and therapy. In collaboration with Sally J. DeNardo, M.D., Dr. Meares conceived and generated macrocyclic chelators to tightly bind radiometals, such as 67Cu and 90Y, intended for therapy (4, 5). At about this time, efforts to generate a biodegradable linker between the chelated radionuclide and the targeting agent to promote release of the chelated radionuclide from cells of normal tissues began. These efforts led to a tetrameric peptide that was ultimately shown to be effective in mice (6) and in patients (7), the first demonstrations of success in mammalian systems for a linker of this nature.

Interestingly, Drs. Goodwin and Meares have been the recipients of various major awards, sometimes jointly, as in the case of the George von Hevesy Prize for Nuclear Medicine that they shared in 1974, and sometimes independently, as in the case of the Distinguished Scientist Award of the Western Regional Society of Nuclear Medicine that Dr. Goodwin received in 1988 and Dr. Meares received in 1994. Additionally, Dr. Goodwin received the Walton Medal of the Irish Nuclear Medicine Association presented in 1992 by Nobel Laureate Ernest Walton. Dr. Meares is also Editor of Bioconjugate Chemistry, a journal of the American Chemical Society.

It has been my pleasure to have had both personal and professional interactions with Drs. Goodwin and Meares during the evolution of their careers and accomplishments. Although quite different in personality, their respect for each other has been clearly evident. Each, in his own way, is remarkably energetic and stimulating. Both have been creative leaders in their fields, and each would have been successful on his own, but the collaboration of a “physician-chemist” and a strong basic chemist interested in translational research has proven rewarding for these individuals, as well as for science and medicine.

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Fig. 1 Dr. Claude Meares and Dr. David Goodwin, co-recipients of the second Immuno- medics Science Award, are shown with their plaques after the award ceremony at the recent Seventh Conference on Radioimmunodetection and Radioimmunotherapy of Cancer, held in Princeton, New Jersey. From the left: Dr. David Goldberg, Conference Chairman; Dr. Claude Meares; Dr. David Goodwin; and Dr. Gerald DeNardo, Conference Co-Chairman.

References


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