



A newsletter from the Ohio University Emeriti Association

June 16, 2011

RESEARCH SUCCESS AND WHAT HAPPENS AFTER**John Kopchick****Goll Ohio Eminent Scholar Professor of Molecular & Cellular Biology***(Presented by John Howell)*

John J. Kopchick is an internationally recognized leader in the growth hormone (GH) field. Since 1987, he has held the Milton and Lawrence H. Goll Eminent Scholar Professorship in Molecular and Cellular Biology and directs the Growth/Obesity/Diabetes Section of the Edison Biotechnology Institute at Ohio University. He also is professor in the Biomedical Sciences Department in OU's College of Osteopathic Medicine.

In 1989, Dr. Kopchick and his group were the first to discover and characterize the molecular aspects of GH receptor antagonists, an accomplishment for which he and Ohio University were awarded several U.S. and European patents. He was instrumental in founding a company, Sensus, which applied his laboratory discovery to development of a drug that has been evaluated in clinical trials for acromegaly, a chronic disease caused by excessive secretion of GH by pituitary adenomas. The drug, Somavert, which is being marketed by Pfizer, has been approved for use in the USA, Europe, Japan and 12 other countries. Somavert also is expected to be useful in treating diabetic retinopathy and nephropathy as well as breast and other types of cancer.

Dr. Kopchick has been involved in the start-up of two additional biotechnology companies. The latest, DiAthen, focuses on the discovery of diagnostics, therapeutics, and therapeutic targets in the obesity and diabetes field.

Dr. Kopchick received both his bachelor's degree in biology and master's degree in biology and chemistry from Indiana University of Pennsylvania. In 1975, he enrolled in the Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences, University of Texas System Cancer Center in Houston, Texas, and began research under the supervision of Dr. Arlinghaus, professor and chairman of M. D. Anderson's Department of Molecular Pathology, where he was a Rosalie B. Hite scholarship that supported his studies.

After completing his Ph.D., Dr. Kopchick continued research training as a postdoctoral fellow at the Roche Institute of Molecular Biology in Nutley, New Jersey where he received a National Cancer Institute Postdoctoral Fellowship award to support his work. It was here that he learned the 'nuts and bolts' of gene cloning and subsequent methods for detection of gene expression. He then spent almost five years at Merck Sharp & Dohme Research Laboratories, where he became director and developed a system built around cloning and expression of GH genes, which he continues to study as a part of his work at the Edison Biotechnology Institute.

Dr. Kopchick has published more than 290 scientific articles and 310 abstracts. Twelve patents have been granted, and more are pending. He serves on the editorial boards of several scientific journals and is president-elect of the Growth Hormone Research Society. His work also has been recognized through numerous awards and honorary degrees.

**BALLROOM****EMERITI LUNCHEON****Thursday, June 16, 2011
11:30 AM - 1:30 PM****\$14.00****Menu**

*Fresh Garden Salad with Assorted Dressings
Spinach Salad
Coleslaw
Grilled Peppered Flank Steak
Turkey Casserole
Rice with Pine Nuts
Medley of Carrots, Broccoli & Cauliflower
Rolls & Butter
Assorted Desserts, including Fresh-Cut Fruit
Beverages*

RESERVATIONS must be made to attend the luncheon. You **MUST** call Ruth Nostrant at 593-5194 by Friday, **June 10**. You may pay by cash or by check made payable to OU Emeriti. You can add your name(s) to the Regular Attendees List and not have to call each month unless you cannot attend.



A Message From The President - GEORGE WECKMAN

Despite a modest number of people who could attend on that busy weekend, Emeriti Day was a great success. We enjoyed a session on “How the University Has Changed in the Past Forty Years” in the Friends of the Library Room of Alden Library. How delightful to share so much laughter about the old days, along with poignant memories and twists of fate recalled! Thanks to our panelists: Allen Geiger, Jo Prisley, Guido Stempel, and Rich Vedder. They represented various roles and experiences in the university but supplemented one another and the audience in their comments and recollections.

It’s hard to report on such a wide-ranging discussion but I perceived some persistent themes. First: the informality of old arrangements, casual budgeting, paperless decisions. Of course, laws and procedures for accountability were instituted and legislated, and computers enabled more and more documentation during these forty years. (Did anyone ever believe that computers would save paper?!) A sense of trust and collegiality was weakened in that process, however – courts and lawyers seem ever more involved in academia.

The distress of the late 1960s anti-war demonstrations and the university’s shrinkage in the 1970s were large in the discussion. These years were painful, but they also gave those of us who survived a feeling of common purpose and dedication to one another and the school. That generation is retired now, and we would not wish such turmoil on our successors, but we are strangely thankful we went through it.

It was good to recall the university presidents we have had during these decades, all recalled with a warmth and gratitude they did not always get when in office. We could not speak of these years without remembering Charles Ping, whose long presidency dominated this period and whose wisdom was much appreciated in our reminiscence. Following the panel discussion many were able to share more thoughts at the Konneker Alumni Center reception.

We will gather for a wine and cheese reception after the Concert on the Green on Wednesday, July 6. Please plan to join us. There has been a change in venue for this Emeriti social. The new location will be announced at our June Emeriti luncheon.

George

NOTES FROM THE MAY LUNCHEON PRESENTATION BY PRESIDENT MCDAVIS

In spite of a continuing reduction in state support for higher education (in 2002 40% of OU’s budget came from the state, in 2011 it is 25%) with a corresponding need to reduce spending, Ohio University continues to do well. Among the highlights of our success are:

The College of Medicine is ranked eleventh in the nation in creating primary care physicians.

Our Speaking Bobcats won six state titles and are fifth in the nation.

Our students have earned more than 67 nationally competitive awards.

The ACT scores of our entering freshman class continue to rise.

We have raised more than \$340 million in the current capital gifts campaign (the goal is \$450 million by June 2015). The College of Medicine just received a gift of \$105 million from the Ohio Osteopathic Heritage Foundation.

Senator Voinovich will be working with the school that bears his name.

Many faculty have received regional, national, and international recognition.

The new Vision for Ohio University identifies four goals and four plans/structures:

Goals: Inspired teaching and research
Innovative academic programs
Exemplary student services
Integrated co-curricular activities

Plans: A comprehensive enrollment plan
Increased financial strength
An effective compensation plan for faculty and staff
A successful capital campaign.

Ed Baum



Emeriti Day, May 21, included a panel discussion in the Friends of the Library room with distinguished Emeriti and friends who provided lively conversation and recollections of their time at Ohio University from 1960s to today. (left to right) moderator George Weckman with panelists Guido Stempel, Jo Priskey, Alan Geiger and Richard Vedder.

Distinguished Service Awards Announced


Richard and Ruth Nostrant and Ted Foster were recognized at the May luncheon with the Emeriti Association's Distinguished Service Award. The Nostrants were especially cited for their work as a couple performing the duties of the treasurer for two decades. Foster's wife Sue received his posthumous award for his work as chair of the Benefits Committee, representation to both OCHER and ORTA, and faithful grooming of the Emeriti Park.

Note from Art Woolley reflecting the May 17th meeting of the Ohio Council of Higher Education Retirees:

STRS staff are concerned that the current method of providing a monthly pension of a fixed amount, a method called "defined benefits," would be replaced legislatively by one called "defined contributions." No plan for the latter has been specified yet, but the idea is to imitate 401k plans. In that case, the state would not guarantee any specified monthly income; accounts and financial risks, based on contributions from employer and employee, would presumably be managed by either the individual retiree or a private firm with attendant fees. If you are concerned that the public employees of our state, including teachers, should be provided with a reliable pension system, such as STRS, then you could familiarize yourself with the issue of "defined benefits" vs. "defined contributions" and let your Ohio legislators and governor know your wishes. Google the terms and, more pertinently, check out the STRS website with its "Special Pension Plan Reform Coverage" and, under that, "Frequently Asked Questions" with a link to Q&A (<https://www.strsoh.org/legislation/FAQs.html#Taxpayers>).

A further concern for pension stability raised by STRS staff at the OCHER meeting is the governor's budget proposal to reduce the contribution of employer institutions from 14% to 12% and to raise the contribution of employees from 10% to 12% in the new fiscal year. Such a formula would not meet the statutory requirement for long-term financial security of pension funding that the plan proposed by STRS would (i.e., institutional contributions to remain at 14% and individual contributions to rise 1% annually to go from 10% to 13%).

The "defined benefits" system used by our current STRS system monitors its income and liabilities carefully and is historically independent of state tax income and legislative manipulation. It uses economies of scale to be more financially efficient (spending \$0.24 per \$100 of assets instead of \$1 per \$100 of assets for defined contributions plans). STRS senior staff, who seem genuinely concerned for the financial security of teachers through the STRS system, maintain that "defined contributions" has been and will be far more costly for retirees and has historically impoverished many individuals who may lack investment competence or clout. They also maintain that taxpayers have funded very little of the current system because lifetime contributions and STRS's professional investment of contributed capital provide the funds for pensions. The current system, with its adjustments throughout the years as found necessary by regular actuarial analyses, provides personal security and, through steady pensions and local and state taxes thereon, contributes significantly to local social, economic and governmental structures.

| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|---|--|---------|--|---|---------------------------------------|--|
| 5 JUNE | 6 | 7 | 8 Emeriti Volunteer <i>Kennedy Museum Emeriti Park (9-10 AM)</i> | 9 | 10 Commencement <i>Graduate</i> | 11 Commencement <i>Undergraduate</i> |
| 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 Emeriti Volunteer <i>Kennedy Museum Emeriti Park (9-10 AM)</i> | 16 Emeriti Board Meeting EMERITI LUNCH OU Inn | 17 | 18 |
| 19 | 20 | 21 | 22 Emeriti Volunteer <i>Kennedy Museum Emeriti Park (9-10 AM)</i> | 23 OVST | 24 OVST | 25 OVST |
| 26 OVST | 27 | 28 | 29 Emeriti Volunteer <i>Kennedy Museum Emeriti Park (9-10 AM)</i> OVST | 30 OVST | 1 JULY OVST | 2 OVST |
| 3 | 4  | 5 | 6 Emeriti Volunteer <i>Kennedy Museum Emeriti Park (9-10 AM)</i> | 7 | 8 | 9 |
| EMERITI SOCIAL Wine & Cheese Reception | | | | | | |


SPECIAL EVENT
Wednesday, July 6, 2011

Emeriti Social - Wine & Cheese Reception
Following Concert on the Green
Place to be announced at June Emeriti luncheon)

Thinking About Next Year

Would you like to help plan the programs for our 2011-12 academic year, or do you have an idea to share about a program you think would be well received? Fresh ideas are always welcome. Slips on which people could sign up for the committee or simply contribute ideas were passed around at the May luncheon. If you would like to join the committee (which meets only once or twice but may be consulted during the year), or send an idea for a program, let Dru Riley Evarts, vice president and program chair know – 592-1231 or evarts@ohio.edu.

IN MEMORIAM



ALEX O. THIO, 73, retired professor of sociology, died May 27, 2011. Born in Indonesia and raised in Malaysia, he immigrated to the U.S. in 1957. He was educated at Central Methodist College in St. Louis, and the University of Akron. After receiving his PhD from the University of Buffalo, he began teaching at Ohio University in 1969.

EMERITI BOARD 2010-2011

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