



Emeriti Association
OHIO
UNIVERSITY

February
2022

[Emeriti
Association
Website](#)

== Luncheon meeting ==

The Emeriti Association has scheduled an in person meeting for February

Location: Ohio University Inn

Date & Time: Thursday, February 17, 11:30 AM

Luncheon Menu: TBA, Food will be served for you at your table

Cost: \$18 per person. Please have exact dollar amount at the door or a check made payable to the *OU Emeriti Association*

Reservations: Reservation deadline is noon on Monday, February 14, Valentine's Day. Send an email to Tom Franz <franz@ohio.edu> If a vegetarian plate is requested, please let Tom know that when making your reservation.

Vice President Scott Moody announced that the speaker for February will be **Debbie Phillips**, Chief Executive Officer of Rural Action <<http://ruralaction.org>> .

Phillips returned to Rural Action in 2017, as Development Director, and in 2018 was named its CEO. She served as the area's Representative to the Ohio House for 8 years immediately prior to returning to Rural Action. As a House member, she served on the House Finance Committee, House Education Committee, House Agriculture & Rural Development Committee, the Joint Legislative Ethics Commission and the Joint Committee on Agency Rule Review. She also previously served as a member of Athens City Council. Phillips will be describing the perspectives and future for Rural Action. You can check out some of the news reports from Rural Action at <<https://ruralaction.org/news/>>



January 20 Emeriti Meeting Highlights

[Dr. John Kopchick](#) described his groundbreaking work in the field of growth hormone, finding a growth receptor antagonist through "serendipity", the reverse of what he and his graduate students had expected in studying the effects of a specific amino acid sequence on laboratory mice. While patenting the antagonist substance was relatively easy, Kopchick described further "serendipity" in the history of the people connections for funding the very expensive path to acceptance by the FDA as a new drug to treat acromegaly. The drug, known as Somavert, has been used worldwide and has to date brought \$120 million back to Ohio University. Kopchick also described the work with "Compound G", successfully treating cancer tumors in mice models and now under further study with clinical trials in the future.



Growth Hormone, Mini-Mice, Football, Dirty Shorts, and a New Drug

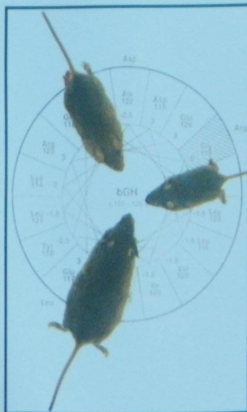
- The Impact of Intellectual Property
- The 'Fun and Excitement' of Science

The Importance of Serendipity

MOLECULAR ENDOCRINOLOGY

Volume 5, Number 12

December 1991



One amino acid change, namely, Arg for Gly in the third α -helix, results in a GH Receptor Antagonist

Serendipity!!!

Relatively easy to patent – never expected a small mouse!

PUBLISHED MONTHLY BY WILLIAMS & WILKINS FOR THE ENDOCRINE SOCIETY

Clinical uses of a Growth Hormone Antagonist Proposed in early 1990s

- Acromegaly
 - Diabetes
 - Cancer
- Need \$\$\$\$\$\$ for production, pre-clinical & human clinical trials!!!!

A lot of \$\$\$\$\$\$\$\$\$\$\$\$\$\$

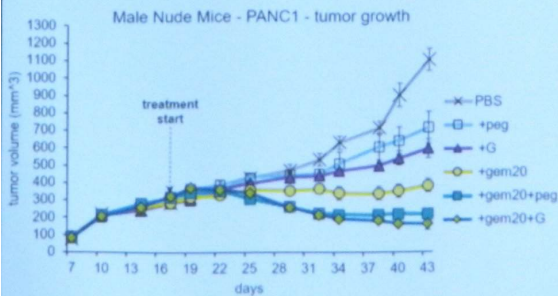
For our discovery of GH receptor antagonists, no pharmaceutical companies were interested!!

- Now What??
- Depression!!
- One needs a definite 'champion' who steadfastly believes in the 'project'.

So, what's happened to date??

- Sale of Somavert is ~\$220 M/year; worldwide
- ~\$120M has come back to OU
- I've been invited around the world to talk about the discovery
- OU get's a lot of 'press' for IP, Royalties, tech transfer, inventions
 - 4th University in the US for royalty income

Compound-G → Pancreatic cancer



Compound-G → Pancreatic cancer

MALE mice pancreatic cancer tumors

