

CHEMICAL HERITAGE FOUNDATION

PAUL S. ANDERSON

Transcript of an Interview
Conducted by

James G. Traynham

at

Bristol-Myers Squibb
Wilmington, Delaware

on

28 October 2002

(With Subsequent Corrections and Additions)

CHEMICAL HERITAGE FOUNDATION
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PAUL S. ANDERSON

1938 Born in Concord, Vermont on 3 February

Education

1959 B.S., chemistry, University of Vermont
1963 Ph.D., chemistry, University of New Hampshire

Professional Experience

MSDRL [Merck Sharp & Dohme Research Laboratories], West Point,
Pennsylvania

1964-1969 Senior Research Chemist, Medicinal Chemistry Department
1969-1973 Research Fellow, Medicinal Chemistry Department
1973-1975 Senior Research Fellow, Medicinal Chemistry Department
1975-1979 Associate Director, Medicinal Chemistry Department
1979-1980 Senior Director, Medicinal Chemistry Department
1980-1988 Executive Director, Medicinal Chemistry Department
1988-1994 Vice President for Chemistry, West Point

1994-1998 DuPont-Merck Pharmaceutical Company, Wilmington, Delaware
1998-2001 DuPont Pharmaceutical Company, Wilmington, Delaware
Senior Vice President for Chemical and Physical Sciences

2001-2002 Bristol-Meyers Squibb Company, Wilmington, Delaware
Vice President, Drug Discovery

Honors

1992 Philadelphia Section of the American Chemical Society Award
1995 E.B. Herschberg Award for Important Discoveries in Medicinally
Active Substances (ACS)

1998 D.Sc. (*Honoris causa*), University of Vermont
1998 D.Sc. (*Honoris causa*), University of Montpelier
1998 Lord Company Lecturer at Allegheny College
1999 Regents Lecturer-University of California-Los Angeles, Department of
Chemistry
1999 Lambda Upsilon Award Lectureship, University of Nebraska,
Department of Chemistry

- 1999 Commencement Speaker, College of Chemistry, University of
California at Berkeley
- 2000 Robbins Lecturer at Pomona College
- 2001 Hurd Lecturer at Northwestern University
- 2001 American Chemical Society Award in Industrial Chemistry
- 2001 Doctor of Chemistry (*Honoris causa*), University of New
Hampshire
- 2002 Perkin Medal, Society of Chemical Industry
- 2002 Edward Smisman Lecturer at the University of Kansas

ABSTRACT

Paul S. Anderson begins the interview with a discussion of his family and his childhood in Vermont. Though he was born in Concord, Vermont, in 1938, his father became the superintendent of Swanton, Vermont, schools soon after his son's birth, and so Anderson's family moved there. Paul Anderson attended Highgate High School, and went on to attend the University of Vermont for his undergraduate studies in chemistry. After receiving his B.S. in chemistry in 1959, Anderson attended the University of New Hampshire, where he earned his Ph.D. in chemistry in 1963. Following a brief post-doctoral fellowship with Jerrold Meinwald at Cornell University, Anderson accepted a senior research position at the Merck, Sharp & Dohme Research Laboratories. Over the next thirty years, Anderson advanced through the ranks of Merck leadership, eventually becoming the vice president for chemistry at their West Point facilities. In 1994, DuPont and Merck formed a joint-venture company, for which Anderson served as the vice president for the chemical and physical sciences. Then, in 1998, DuPont bought out Merck's half of the joint venture and made Anderson the senior vice president of his department for the newly formed DuPont Pharmaceuticals. When Bristol-Meyers Squibb bought DuPont Pharmaceuticals in 2001, Anderson continued with the company as the vice president of drug discovery. Anderson concludes his interview with his feelings about winning the Perkin Medal and the significance of federal funding for scientific research.

INTERVIEWER

James G. Traynham is a Professor of Chemistry at Louisiana State University, Baton Rouge. He holds a Ph.D. in organic chemistry from Northwestern University. He joined Louisiana State University in 1963 and served as chemistry department chairperson from 1968 to 1973. He was chairman of the American Chemical Society's Division of the History of Chemistry in 1988 and is currently councilor of the Baton Rouge section of the American Chemical Society. He was a member of the American Chemical Society's Joint-Board Council on Chemistry and Public Affairs, as well as a member of the Society's Committees on Science, Chemical Education, and Organic Chemistry Nomenclature. He has written over ninety publications, including a book on organic nomenclature and a book on the history of organic chemistry.

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