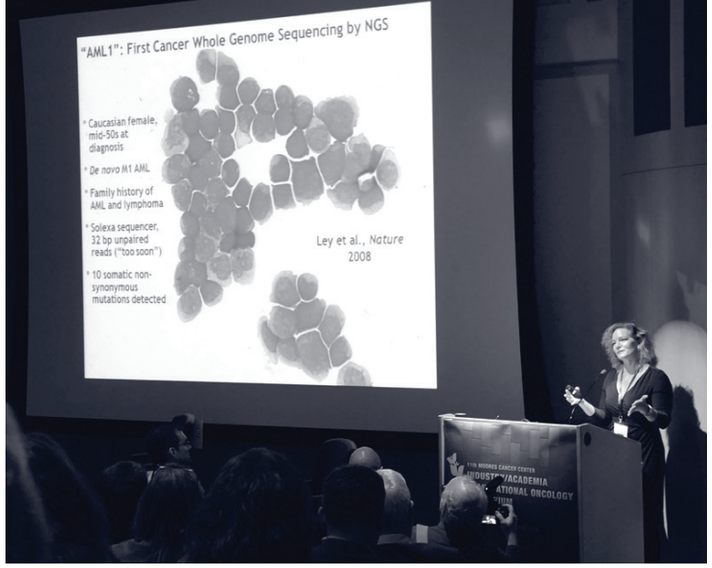
Duane Roth Achievement Award

Presented at the UC San Diego Moores Cancer Center Industry/Academia Symposium

UC San Diego
Moores Cancer Center

Table of Contents



About the Duane Roth Achievement Award

The Duane Roth Achievement Award recognizes and honors patient-focused leaders in health care whose work has overcome scientific, financial, institutional, political and cultural challenges to create new paradigms in research and treatment. Named after Duane Roth, an esteemed leader in the biotech industry who died tragically following a bicycle accident in 2013, the award is given to those who demonstrate his deep commitment to innovation and patients.

Past recipients include: Laura Esserman, M.D., MBA, UCSF Helen Diller Family Comprehensive Cancer Center; Brian Druker, M.D., Knight Cancer Institute at Oregon Health and Science University; Dennis Slamon, M.D., Ph.D., UCLA Jonsson Comprehensive Cancer Center; Sandra Horning, M.D., Executive Vice President, Global Development and Chief Medical Officer, Genentech; and Carl June, M.D., University of Pennsylvania School of Medicine. Biographies of past winners and their accomplishments are within this booklet, along with our 2019 Recipient. The Duane Roth Achievement Award Committee is composed of all past recipients of the Award. This body is tasked with selecting the awardee annually.

The UC San Diego Moores Cancer Center Industry/Academia Symposium

Since 2005, UC San Diego Moores Cancer Center's Office of Industry Relations annually organizes the Industry/Academia Translational Oncology Symposium – a unique forum where distinguished investigators, scientists, and clinicians join top industry decision-makers to discuss the latest breakthroughs in translational oncology research. Presentation subjects include personalized medicine, targeted therapy discoveries, collaborative clinical trials and case studies of successful collaborative projects. An interactive panel session composed of industry and academia panelists and the concluding networking reception allow for further dialogue of ideas and the fostering of collaborative relationships.

The Duane Roth Achievement Award has been proudly presented as part of the Symposium since 2014.

Duane Roth

Engaged Mentor & Business Visionary

It is difficult to describe the essence of Duane Roth in a few words, but some that come to mind are caring, passionate, genuine, selfless and dedicated. When he believed in an idea or project, he would pursue it with incredible determination and effort, and motivate others to follow.

Duane always loved his work. Starting as a restaurateur, then a building products salesman and on to hospital sales and product development roles with major pharmaceutical companies led him to his 20 years as CEO of a startup drug development company.

All of these experiences prepared Duane for his eight years as CEO of Connect, a nonprofit organization that promotes innovation in the San Diego region. He was captivated by the possibilities that innovation provides in improving the world in which we live.

Duane was involved in numerous charitable, political, business, educational and scientific research organizations and he was intimately engaged in many fundraising events and projects. In addition to supporting organizations, Duane was always available to talk to people individually, particularly young people, learning of their passions and goals, and giving advice on how to accomplish those goals.

"Duane Roth had a reputation for always finding ways to overcome obstacles, and this award serves as a way to honor his memory by recognizing leaders in the oncology space who share this spirit."

Ida Deichaite, Ph.D.
UC San Diego Moores Cancer Center

Duane was a controlled dreamer and envisioned big ideas. He had a remarkable ability to recognize and articulate a path toward resolution of diverse issues in a reasoned and intelligent manner. Duane was the consummate collaborator, always seeking the best outcome without regard to ego or personal gain.

His spirit lives on in each recipient of the Duane Roth Achievement Award, as those individuals embody Duane's passion and commitment to innovation and the people they serve.

2019

Susan Band Horwitz, Ph.D.

Albert Einstein College of Medicine

Susan Band Horwitz, Ph.D. attended Bryn Mawr College, then received her Ph.D. in Biochemistry from Brandeis University. She was a postdoctoral fellow in the Departments of Pharmacology at Tufts Medical School, Emory Medical School and the Albert Einstein College of Medicine. She joined the faculty at Albert Einstein in 1970 and is presently a Distinguished Professor and the Rose C. Falkenstein Professor of Cancer Research.

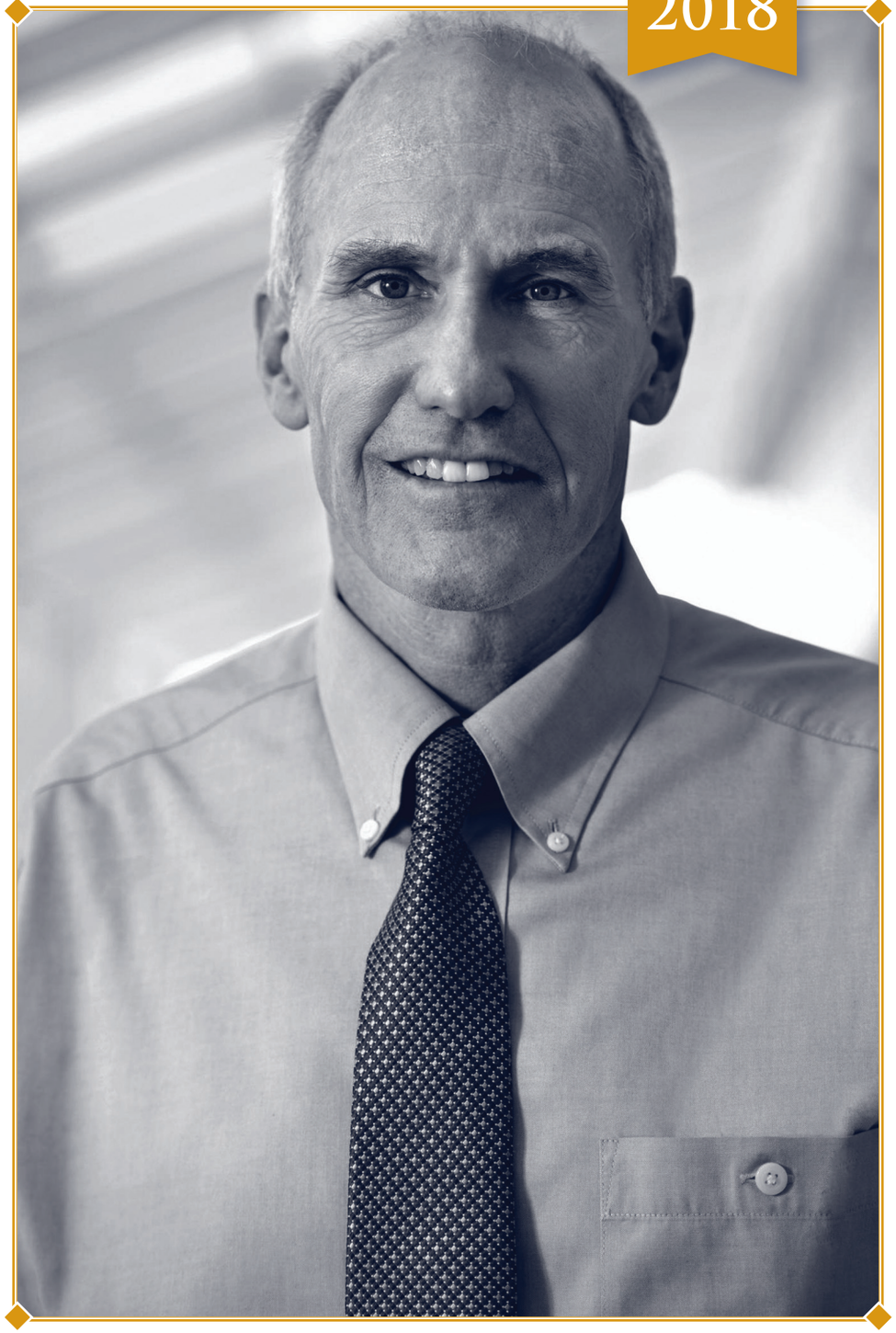
Dr. Horwitz has a continuing interest in natural products as a source of new drugs. Her contributions span several decades of research and encompass agents which have served as prototypes for some of our most important drugs. Dr. Horwitz' most seminal research contribution has been in the development of Taxol®, a drug isolated from the yew tree, Taxus brevifolia. Although no one was interested in Taxol® when she began her studies, today it is an important antitumor drug that has been given to over a million patients. Dr. Horwitz, her students and postdoctoral fellows made the discovery that Taxol® had a unique mechanism of action and suggested that it was a prototype for a new class of antitumor drugs.

Although no one was interested in Taxol® when Dr. Horwitz began her studies, today it is an important antitumor drug that has been given to over a million patients.

Dr. Horwitz has received numerous honors and awards including the C. Chester Stock Award from Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center, the Warren Alpert Foundation Prize from Harvard Medical School, The Bristol-Myers Squibb Award for Distinguished Achievement in Cancer Research, The American Cancer Society's Medal of Honor and the AACR Lifetime Achievement Award in Cancer Research.

From 2002-2003, Dr. Horwitz served as president of the American Association of Cancer Research. She is a member of the National Academy of Sciences, the National Academy of Medicine, the American Academy of Arts and Sciences and the American Philosophical Society.

2018



Carl June, M.D.

University of Pennsylvania School of Medicine

Carl June, M.D., was the 2018 recipient of the Duane Roth Achievement Award. He is a leading pioneer of T-cell treatments, and his accomplishments have ushered in a new era in immunotherapy that transformed the field as a whole.

In 2011, Dr. June's research team published findings detailing a new therapy in which patients with refractory and relapsed chronic lymphocytic leukemia were treated with genetically engineered versions of their own T cells – giving the patient's own immune system the lasting ability to fight cancer. In 2012, Novartis and the University of Pennsylvania entered an agreement to further develop this therapy, eventually leading to the first FDA approval of a therapy based on gene transfer, Kymriah, in 2017. In addition, his foundational work has sparked a new field of research around these "CAR-T cell therapies" that has transformed the landscape in immuno-oncology. Amidst his success in delivering unique treatment options to the patient, Dr. June believes that there is much more work to be done in the immunotherapy space.

Dr. June is a leading pioneer of T-cell treatments, and his accomplishments have ushered in a new era in immunotherapy that transformed the field as a whole.

Dr. June is the director of translational research and a professor of pathology and laboratory medicine in University of Pennsylvania's Abramson Cancer Center and Perelman School of Medicine. He maintains a research laboratory at the university. The June Lab studies various mechanisms of lymphocyte activation that relate to immune tolerance and adoptive immunotherapy for cancer and chronic infection.

2017

Sandra Horning, M.D.

Executive Vice President, Global Development and Chief Medical Officer, Genentech

Sandra Horning, M.D., Chief Medical Officer and Executive Vice President of Global Development for Genentech, was named the 2017 recipient of the Duane Roth Achievement Award. She is a champion of personalized therapies and she led the development and launch of multiple cancer therapies.

Dr. Horning, a cancer survivor, has focused much of her work on developing new treatments for lymphoma, a cancer that affects the immune system, including leading clinical trials that eventually resulted in new, approved drug treatments for patients. In addition to bringing new treatments forward, she is a champion for the importance of an individual being mindful of his or her family and anticipating survivorship issues, such as fertility, secondary malignancies, cardiopulmonary and endocrine side-effects.

Dr. Horning, a cancer survivor, has focused much of her work on developing new treatments for lymphoma, a cancer that affects the immune system, including leading clinical trials that eventually resulted in new, approved drug treatments for patients.

Dr. Horning has had a distinguished career in cancer treatment and research, first as a practicing oncologist, investigator and professor at Stanford University for 25 years, then at the San Francisco-based biotech company, Genentech, where multiple cancer therapies were approved under her leadership. Dr. Horning also served as the American Society of Clinical Oncology (ASCO) president from 2005 to 2006.

2016

Dennis Slamon, M.D., Ph.D.

UCLA Jonsson Comprehensive Cancer Center

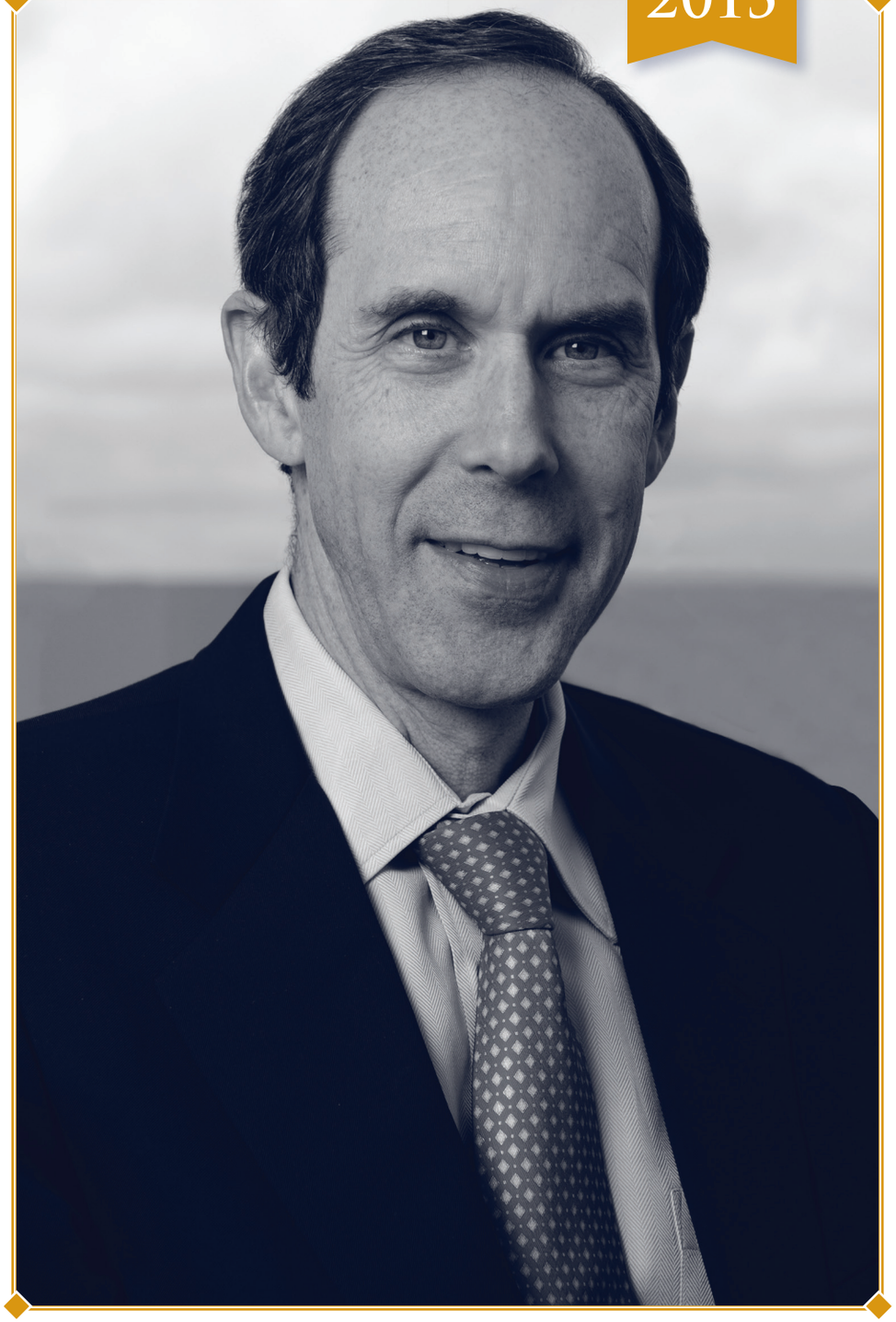
Dennis Slamon, M.D., Ph.D., was named the 2016 recipient of the Duane Roth Achievement Award. Dr. Slamon stood at the forefront of targeted therapy at a time when the technology was not supported by his peers. Despite facing much resistance, Dr. Slamon and his team at UCLA played an integral role in the development of HERCEPTIN (trastuzumab) – the first molecularly targeted therapy for breast cancer. It was approved by the FDA in 1998.

Dr. Slamon dedicated much of his career to the creation of targeted therapies, despite opposition faced around the concept in its earliest days. His latest success involves the development of IBRANCE (palbociclib), granted FDA approval in 2017 for use in combination with letrozole for the treatment of postmenopausal women with estrogen receptor (ER)-positive, human epidermal growth factor receptor 2 (HER2)-negative advanced breast cancer as initial endocrine-based therapy for their metastatic disease. The Pfizer study was conducted in collaboration with the Jonsson Comprehensive Cancer Center's Revlon/UCLA Women's Cancer Research Program, led by Dr. Slamon.

Despite facing much resistance, Dr. Slamon and his team at UCLA played an integral role in the development of HERCEPTIN – the first molecularly targeted therapy for breast cancer. It was approved by the FDA in 1998.

Dr. Slamon serves as director of Clinical/Translational Research and director of the Revlon/UCLA Women's Cancer Research Program at the UCLA Jonsson Comprehensive Cancer Center. He is a professor of medicine, chief of the Division of Hematology/Oncology and executive vice chair for research for UCLA's Department of Medicine. Dr. Slamon has spent his career working on therapies targeting various genes and ensuring that advanced breast cancer patients across the globe can access them.

2015



Brian Druker, M.D.

OHSU Knight Cancer Institute

Brian Druker, M.D., was named the 2015 recipient of the Duane Roth Achievement Award. Dr. Druker's research focuses on activated tyrosine kinases with an emphasis on signal transduction, cellular transformation and the application of this knowledge to cancer therapies.

Early in his career, tyrosine kinases were not considered proper therapeutic targets and he received tremendous backlash for pursuing these targets for cancer drug development. Dr. Druker's tenacity was instrumental in developing imatinib, a specific inhibitor of the ABL protein, tyrosine kinase, that has proven to be an effective therapeutic agent in chronic myeloid leukemia (CML). After completing a series of preclinical studies, Dr. Druker spearheaded the highly successful clinical trials of imatinib for CML. Imatinib is currently FDA approved for CML and gastrointestinal stromal tumors (GIST). Dr. Druker's role in the development of imatinib and its application in the clinic has impacted countless cancer patients.

Dr. Druker's tenacity was instrumental in developing imatinib, a specific inhibitor of the ABL protein, tyrosine kinase, that has proven to be an effective therapeutic agent in chronic myeloid leukemia.

Dr. Druker is director of the Oregon Health & Science University (OHSU) Knight Cancer Institute, JELD-WEN chair of leukemia research at OHSU and an investigator of the Howard Hughes Medical Institute.

2014

Laura Esserman, M.D., MBA

UCSF Helen Diller Family Comprehensive Cancer Center

Laura Esserman, M.D., MBA, was named the inaugural recipient of the Duane Roth Achievement Award in 2014. Dr. Esserman is widely recognized for envisioning and implementing new clinical trial design in oncology that forced a shift in the industry. Through her lobbying efforts and ability to secure support from key industry members, she was able to successfully combat rigid trial design – thus allowing new treatment options to reach patients much faster.

Dr. Esserman's various research experience is vast. Her role as a principal investigator of the Biomarker Discovery Laboratory for the Early Detection Research Network (EDRN) led to the development of the ATHENA Breast Health Network, an integrated network across the University of California campuses and the Sanford Medical Center. The project followed 150,000 women through biopsy, diagnosis, treatment and follow-up in an effort to create an engine that provides and improves breast cancer prevention services for patients.

Dr. Esserman is widely recognized for envisioning and implementing new clinical trial design in oncology that forced a shift in the industry.

Dr. Esserman is a surgeon and breast cancer oncology specialist practicing at the UCSF Carol Franc Buck Breast Care Center where she has also held the position of director since 1996. She co-leads the Breast Oncology Program, the largest of the UCSF Helen Diller Comprehensive Cancer Center's multidisciplinary programs. She is a professor of surgery and radiology at UCSF and faculty at the UCSF Helen Diller Family Comprehensive Cancer Center where she founded the program in Translational Informatics. As part of this program, her research has focused on bioinformatics, medical and clinical informatics, systems integration, and clinical care delivery.

The Duane Roth Achievement Award is made possible by:

Bill Comer

Ida Deichaite

Richard Heyman

The Duane Roth Legacy Foundation

Renee Roth

Ted Roth

Bernard Siegel

Seragon Pharmaceuticals

Wilson Sonsini Goodrich & Rosati

UC San Diego Moores Cancer Center

Contributions are Welcome

If you are interested in supporting the Duane Roth Achievement Award, please contact mccsymposium@ucsd.edu for more information.

Special recognition and gratitude...

to Ida Deichaite and Leisa Sutton of the UC San Diego Moores Cancer Center's Office of Industry Relations for their tireless efforts in championing the Duane Roth Achievement Award.

The Duane Roth Achievement Award Logo Symbolism

The Duane Roth Achievement Award logo visually represents the characteristics and qualities of each and every recipient of this prestigious award. As a whole, the award logo conveys a spirit of hope, and the continual growth in the combined disciplines of medicine, science and innovation, while highlighting individually the most important characteristics of each award winner – perseverance, passion and commitment.


MOORES CANCER CENTER
INDUSTRY/ACADEMIA
TRANSLATIONAL ONCOLOGY
SYMPOSIUM


UC San Diego
Moores Cancer Center
Duane Roth
Award Lecture
Award for Excellence in
Translational Oncology
Honors and recognizes
Sandra Horning, M.D.
for her leadership in cancer treatment
and research
UC SAN DIEGO MOORES CANCER CENTER
13th INDUSTRY/ACADEMIA
TRANSLATIONAL ONCOLOGY SYMPOSIUM