

## **Roger O. McClellan Receives ATS 2014 Mildred S. Christian Career Achievement Award**



Dr. Roger O. McClellan, DVM, received the Mildred S. Christian Career Achievement Award from the Academy of Toxicological Sciences at the ATS Annual Reception on March 26, 2014. The annual ATS reception is held during the Annual Meeting of the Society of Toxicology.

ATS established the Mildred S. Christian Career Achievement Award to honor the memory of Dr. Christian.

Millie was one of the founders of ATS, one of its early presidents, and secretary-treasurer for many years. She devoted a significant amount of passion and hard work to establish ATS as a scientifically recognized organization. The Award is conferred to an ATS Fellow in good standing who has clearly demonstrated a lasting impact on toxicological sciences and extraordinary scientific achievement through publications, professional activities, and/or leadership that have enhanced the practice of toxicology.

Roger McClellan's monumental achievements and leadership in toxicology for over a half-century most certainly reflect the attributes of the award. His distinguished career began in the 1950's during the height of the Cold War at Hanford Research Laboratories, Richland, Washington, when, as a high school and then undergraduate student, he worked alongside senior scientists studying the biological fate and health effects of radioactive materials in plants and animals. In the years following his DVM at Washington State University in 1960, he advanced to the position of senior scientist at Hanford, where he studied the dose-related effects of radiostrontium in producing bone cancer and leukemia.

Roger was recruited to Lovelace Inhalation Toxicology Research Institute (ITRI) in New Mexico in 1966. Over the next two and a half decades under his leadership, Lovelace grew to international esteem for its research on the health effects of airborne radioactive materials and other airborne toxicants, such as diesel exhaust. Roger insisted on two key principles for experimental studies: 1) that aerosol materials be characterized with meticulous detail that enabled robust reproducibility, and 2) that animal exposures range from exposures for which no effects were observed to levels with clear evidence of toxicity. The resulting scientifically-sound database proved valuable in addressing health risks and actions following such nuclear facility accidents, such as Chernobyl (Ukraine) and Fukushima (Japan).

In 1989, Roger was recruited to serve as the third President of the Chemical Industry Institute of Toxicology in North Carolina. Over the next decade, Roger grew the reputation of CIIT, recruited a world-class scientific team, and maintained and recruited a cadre of 30 chemical companies to fund the work of institute. CIIT was known for its contributions to improving the scientific basis for understanding and assessing human health risks from exposure to chemicals. Since stepping down as CIIT president, Roger has continued to be active in toxicology and risk assessment, advising private and public organizations on inhalation toxicology and human health risk analysis issues. His efforts in research and risk assessment have led to authoring or co-authoring over 400 peer-reviewed articles or special reports, as well as numerous book chapters.

In addition to building world-class toxicology research organizations, Roger committed these organizations to training future toxicologists. He initiated programs for interns, post-doctoral fellows, and graduate students that ultimately included 500 participants at ITRI and 200 at CIIT.



Leadership by example is one of Roger's traits. He was the first Lovelace scientist to be certified as a Diplomate of the American Board of Toxicology and of the American Board of Veterinary Toxicology, and first Lovelace scientist elected to the National Council of Radiation Protection and Measurements, where he served five terms and is now a Distinguished Emeritus Member. As an institute director, he continued to get into the laboratory, often helping with necropsies. He also demonstrated leadership through service to numerous organizations. Five pages of his CV list his participation in a host of public and private advisory committees and boards. Notably, he served on five National Academy of Science-NRC Committees and guided the Committee on Toxicology as chairperson for seven years. He served as the 26th President (1986–1987) of the Society of Toxicology and was the founding chairperson of the SOT's Endowment Board.

Roger has been recognized for his achievements throughout his career. He was elected to the Institute of Medicine of the National Academy of Sciences in 1990 and a Fellow of the AAAS. His accomplishments have been honored by the Society of Toxicology with multiple recognitions—Arnold J. Lehman Award (1992), Merit Award (2005), and Founders Award (2009). More recently, he received the Regents' Distinguished Alumnus Award (2008) from Washington State University; the David Sinclair Award (2012), the American Association for Aerosol Research; and the Outstanding Career Achievement Award (2012), International Dose-Response Society.

For his distinguished achievements in scholarly research and promoting that the best science is used in human health risk assessment, for untiring leadership and service to multiple scientific organizations and advisory panels, and for contributions to improve the health of our nation and world, the ATS is honored to bestow the 2014 Mildred Christian Career Achievement Award to Dr. Roger O. McClellan.