



Chris H. Senanayake

Dr. Chris H. Senanayake was born in Sri Lanka and received a BS degree (First Class) in Sri Lanka. After coming to the United States, he completed his MS at Bowling Green State University with Professor Thomas Kinstle in synthetic chemistry. He obtained his Ph.D. under the guidance of Professor James H. Rigby at Wayne State University in 1987 where he worked on the total synthesis of complex natural products such as, ophiobolanes, and completed the first total synthesis of grosshemin in the guaianolide family. He then undertook a postdoctoral fellow with Professor Carl R. Johnson and worked on the total synthesis of polyol systems such as amphotericin B and compactin analogues, and the synthesis of C-nucleoside precursors.

In 1989, he joined the Department of Process Development at Dow Chemical Co. In 1990, he joined the Merck Process Research Group. After 6 years at Merck, he accepted a position at Sepracor, Inc., in 1996 where he was promoted to Executive Director of Chemical Process Research. In 2002, he joined Boehringer Ingelheim Pharmaceuticals where he was the Vice President of Chemical Development. In 2019 he moved to AstaTech Biopharmaceutical Corp. where he is the Chief Executive Officer.

Dr. Senanayake's research interests focus on the development of new asymmetric methods for the synthesis of bioactive molecules and heterocycles and on catalytic, enzymatic, and mechanistic studies. He has published and lectured in the area of practical asymmetric synthesis and many disciplines of organic chemistry how to develop drugs on an economical, greener and practical manner in large-scale operation for rapid development of drugs. He is the co-author of over 400 papers, patents, book chapters and review articles in many areas of synthetic organic chemistry, drug development and design of improved chemical entities.

Senanayake demonstrates the ability to define and optimize chemical research and development strategies and tactics. He is able to "connect the dots" between the purely scientific and commercial perspectives and set up creative and effective strategies for new and proprietary products in ways that build value for the organization and create a competitive advantage.

He is an Editorial Advisory Board member of the Organic Process Research & Development Journal. In 2008, he was the chairperson of Stereochemistry Gordon Conference. In 2010, he received the prestigious Siegfried gold medal award for development of practical processes for APIs and Process Chemistry. In 2011, he was appointed as an Editorial Board member of *Advanced Synthesis and Catalysis*. In 2012, he was appointed as an Advisory Board member of the *Asian Journal of Organic Chemistry*. In 2013, he was appointed to the Board of Editors of *Organic Syntheses*.