Edward J. Grabowski

Dr. Edward Grabowski retired in 2004 as Vice President of Chemistry (Process Research) at the Merck Research Laboratories, a Division of Merck & Company, Inc., in Rahway, NJ, after almost thirty-nine years of service. He graduated with a B.Sc. in Chemistry from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology in 1961, and received his Ph.D. in Organic Chemistry from the University of Rochester in 1965. He then joined the Process Research Department at the Merck Research Labs where he spent his entire career.

Post-retirement, he served as a consultant to the pharmaceutical industry in chemical development and related areas. In 2005, he completed an eight-year term as a member of the *Organic Syntheses* Editorial Board and was Editor for Volume 82 of *Organic Syntheses*. He also served as a member of the ACS's Petroleum Research Fund's (PRF) Advisory Board from 1994-2000 on the committee responsible for reviewing proposals in physical organic chemistry, biochemistry and chemical biology. From 2002-2008, he assumed the position of Chair of the PRF's Advisory Board.

Dr. Grabowski is a co-author on approximately 100 chemical research papers and reviews, a co-inventor on more than 50 US patents, and has presented over 150 invited lectures at symposia and universities. He has also presented courses on Process Research and Chemical Development at the University of Wisconsin, the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, the Catholic University of Louvain, the University of Illinois, the University of Toronto, the Scripps Research Institute, Dr. Reddy's Labs in India and WuXi Pharma Tech in China. He also taught an ACS short course in Chemical Development after his retirement. In 2001, he received the Award for Lifetime Scientific Achievement from the North Jersey Section of the American Chemical Society and was the Devon W. Meek Lecturer in Chemistry at the Ohio State University. In 2005, he was the Lambert Lecturer at Boston University and the Organic Syntheses Lecturer at the University of

Illinois, and he received the Distinguished Scholar Award from the University of Rochester in May of 2005.

His research interests were program-driven and focused on the design and development of practical syntheses of MRL's drug candidates and products. They have encompassed contributions in synthetic and physical organic chemistry to such diverse areas as: heterocyclic chemistry (pyrazines, imidazoles, 5,11-diazaditwistanes, condensed heterocyclic systems); carbapenem antibiotics (thienamycin, MRSA carbapenems); amino acid chemistry; catalytic enantioselective phase transfer alkylation reactions; silylation-mediated quinone oxidation reactions and oxidations in general; enzyme-mediated syntheses; natural product chemistry; oxazaborolidine reactions; resolution methods in lieu of enantioselective syntheses; enantioselective acetylide additions mediated by asymmetric aminoalkoxides, enantioselective syntheses and methods in general with a recent focus on asymmetric hydrogenation; photochemistry and reaction mechanisms. His chemical contributions are reflected in the manufacturing processes for the following Merck drugs: AGGRASTAT®, CLINORIL®, FOSAMAX®, PRIMAXIN®, PROSCAR®, STOCRIN®, and SITIGLIPTIN®.

His non-chemistry pursuits included a serious and life-long interest in classical music, particularly the string quartets of Beethoven. This interest resulted from the fortuitous fact that his undergraduate and graduate studies were done at schools and in cities rich in classical music. He was also an avid philatelist known for his work in the area of the French Colonies. Late in life he began developing a new area in philately which is called Philately & International Mail Order Fraud. Herein, he studied the lives of four early 20th-century American fraudsters as revealed through philately. He published more than 100 papers in philately and was a frequent lecturer. He was elected to membership in the Académie de la Philatélie in France in July of 1999. His Guadeloupe Postal History exhibit won the Grand Prix d'Honeur at the Washington 2006 Show, the highest international award in philately for that year.

In 1961, he married Lenore Rampino, who he met in junior-year high school English class, wherein he and Lenore read the characters of George and Emily in a class reading of Thornton Wilder's 'Our Town'. Their son David was born in 1972 and showed no interest in chemistry, music or philately, but maintains a serious passion for computers and skydiving.