A TRIBUTE TO THE LIFE AND ACHIEVEMENTS OF BARNETT ROSENBERG

Dr. Barnett Rosenberg, co-discoverer (with Loretta Van Camp) and developer of the unique anti-cancer drug, Cisplatin, died on August 8, 2009, following a protracted and debilitating illness. Dr. Rosenberg was a former Professor of Biophysics at Michigan State University (1961-1983) and, subsequently, a member of the Chemistry Department until his retirement from MSU on January 1, 1997.

The serendipitous discovery of Cisplatin1 was Dr. Rosenberg’s greatest achievement, which led to the world-wide use of one of the most important anticancer drugs in the history of cancer chemotherapy. The clinical success of Cisplatin, the first metal-based anticancer drug approved by the FDA (1978), inspired a renaissance in the field of Contemporary Bioinorganic Chemistry, focused world-wide recognition on MSU, and brought in $300 MM in royalties to MSU to enhance the endowment and support new research and educational programs.

In 1982, Dr. Rosenberg founded the non-profit Barros Research Institute in Holt, MI, where he directed research on a diverse set of topics (non-platinum related), the most notable of which is the serendipitous discovery of Barrogen, an 18kD protein produced by a protozoan resident in the small intestine of vertebrates.

This talk will pay tribute to the life and achievements of a truly brilliant researcher including the retelling of the discovery story and the impact that this discovery has made in science and medicine.

1Discovery Publications:

