

2008 DEPARTMENT OF CHEMISTRY DISTINGUISHED ALUMNI AWARDEES



Susan Wilson Graham (PhD, 1981) joined St. Louis, MO based ELANTAS PDG, Inc. (EPDG) in December 2003 as President and CEO. EPDG is a wholly owned subsidiary of ALTANA AG in Wesel, Germany. EPDG services the electrical motor and generator industries with chemical resins used for insulation. Under Sue's leadership, EPDG has developed into a respected leader within the ALTANA organization, known for upholding their leadership position as a premier supplier of electrical insulation resins.

Sue was born in Tampa where her father was stationed with the Air Force, later moving to her parents' hometown of Pittsburgh. Sue earned a B.S. degree in Chemistry from Franklin and Marshall College in Lancaster, PA and her Ph.D. in Analytical Chemistry from Pitt.

She started her career working in the surface analysis labs for American Cyanamid (now Cytec) and Ashland Chemical. Sue later joined National Starch & Chemical Company as Business Manager for a new biodegradable packing peanut called "ECO-FOAM®". She went on to join Reichhold as the Vice President of an adhesives business team. Further broadening her business acumen, she joined Rohm & Haas where she managed mergers and acquisitions in the Adhesives Division.

Sue accepted her current position at EPDG because she likes a challenge. As the first non-family member to run the business, she faces new challenges every day. These range from the installation of new equipment for processes that are over 90 years old, to managing the introduction of a new enterprise management system (SAP), to managing health care costs for her nearly 200 employees, to writing a vision statement for the company.

Sue has been on the Board of the Adhesives and Sealants Council and is active with the North American Electrical Manufacturers Association (NEMA). She has served as a mentor with Ohio Women in Science Exemplars and has spoken to many schools and organizations about careers in the field of Chemistry.



Abul Hussam (PhD, 1982) Born in Bangladesh (1952), Abul Hussam is now a Professor in the department of Chemistry and Biochemistry at George Mason University, Virginia, (since 1985).

Dr. Hussam finished his early education from Kushtia, Bangladesh (1970). He graduated in Chemistry (B.Sc. Honours 1975 and M.Sc. 1976) from the University of Dhaka and earned his Ph.D. in Analytical Chemistry from University of Pittsburgh, (1982). He then obtained his postdoctoral training at the Chemistry Department of the University of Minnesota and he was a visiting research fellow at Georgetown University and Case Western Reserve University. His research areas involve electroanalytical chemistry, environmental chemistry, and chemistry in organized media. His early scientific work was centered on electrochemistry in non-aqueous media, spectroscopic (NMR and FTIR) characterization of hydrogen bonded water, and the diffusion behavior of micelles and microemulsions. Dr. Hussam later developed computer controlled instruments such as an electrochemical analyzer, automated titration system, and a high precision headspace gas chromatograph for the study of fluid phase chemistry in complex media including the study of the environment. This later research allowed him to develop measurement and mitigation techniques for toxic arsenic species in groundwater. The arsenic filter resulting from his research is now used by thousands of people in the affected areas of Bangladesh. In collaboration with his brothers, Dr. Abul K. M. Munir and Prof. Abul Barkat, he has established an initiative for environmental research in Bangladesh and actively engaged in educating public on the nature of present and future environmental problems. Dr. Hussam was awarded the prestigious Grainger Challenge Prize for Sustainability (2007) from the US National Academy of Engineering for the development and deployment of a novel water filter to remove toxic arsenic species from groundwater.

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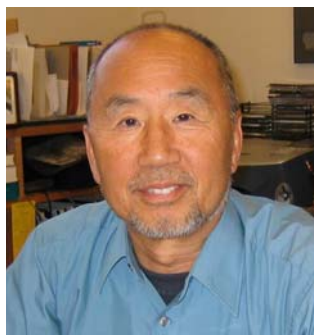


Dr. Michael Grever (BS, 1967), a Pittsburgh native, entered the University of Pittsburgh in 1963. During his undergraduate studies, he pursued chemistry as a major with the intention of applying to medical school. Dr. Grever graduated from the School of Medicine at Pitt in 1971. His medical training in Internal Medicine was completed at Presbyterian University Hospital in Pittsburgh.

In 1974, Dr. Grever was inducted into the US Navy and assigned to the National Naval Medical Center in Bethesda. He completed post-doctoral training at The Ohio State University, where he joined the Faculty as an Assistant Professor. Over the subsequent eleven years, he was promoted to tenured Professor of Medicine and led a national research effort in leukemia research involving more than thirty universities. In addition, he was the principal investigator on the National Cancer Institute's Phase I Program at Ohio State.

Dr. Grever is an international leader in experimental therapy for leukemia. For the past 30 years, he dedicated his research career to developing safe, effective therapy for patients with incurable diseases. In 1989, he joined the staff at the National Cancer Institute as the Deputy-Director for the Division of Cancer Treatment, and directed the entire pre-clinical drug discovery and development program for cancer from 1990 through 1994. During his leadership period at the NCI, he directed drug discovery and development for cancer and AIDS, and introduced 19 new therapies from laboratory to patients.

Dr. Grever continues his research as a funded investigator from the National Cancer Institute, and serves on various advisory committees for the federal government involving the discovery and development of novel chemical agents to treat fatal diseases. He is currently Chairman and Professor of Medicine with an additional appointment as Professor of Pharmacology at Ohio State University.



Sung-Hou Kim (PhD, 1966) is a professor in the Department of Chemistry, University of California, Berkeley and a Senior Faculty Scientist at Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory, Berkeley, CA. He currently serves as the Director of the Berkeley Structural Genomics Center, LBNL, and the Head of the Structural Biology Department, Physical Biosciences Division, LBNL.

Professor Kim obtained his B. S. and M. S. in Chemistry at Seoul National University, Seoul, Korea, in 1960 and 1962, respectively, and Ph.D. at the University of Pittsburgh, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania in 1966. After holding a position as a postdoctoral fellow and then as a Senior Research Scientist in the Biology Department at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, he was appointed as a member of the faculty in the Department of Biochemistry at Duke University School of Medicine, first as an Assistant Professor in 1972, and then as an Associate Professor in 1974. Since 1978, he has been at the University of California, Berkeley, as a Professor in the Department of Chemistry with a joint appointment as a Senior Faculty Scientist at LBNL.

He was a Fulbright Fellow (1962), a Guggenheim Fellow (1985-1986), and a Visiting Professor at Beijing University (1982) and at the University of Paris (1986). In 1994 he was elected as a member of the U. S. National Academy of Sciences, and a fellow of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences. On a more practical side, he has been active in applying his expertise to improve human health and well-being. He co-founded a drug discovery company, Plexxikon, Inc., Berkeley, CA, which has developed two drug candidates that are, at present, in clinical trials.