

GORDON M. CRAGG

BRIEF CURRICULUM VITAE

Gordon Cragg completed high school at Kingswood College, Grahamstown, South Africa, obtained his undergraduate training in chemistry at Rhodes University, Grahamstown, and his D. Phil. (organic chemistry) from Oxford University in 1963. After two years of postdoctoral research at the University of California, Los Angeles, he returned to S. Africa to join the Council for Scientific and Industrial Research. In 1966, he joined Chemistry Department at the University of South Africa, and transferred to the University of Cape Town in 1972. In 1979, he returned to the US to join the Cancer Research Institute at Arizona State University working with Professor G. R. Pettit. In 1985, he moved to the National Cancer Institute (NCI), National Institutes of Health (NIH) in Bethesda, Maryland, and was appointed Chief of the NCI Natural Products Branch in 1989. He retired in December, 2004, and is currently serving as an NIH Special Volunteer. His major interests lie in the discovery of novel natural product agents for the treatment of cancer and AIDS, with an emphasis on multidisciplinary and international collaboration. He has given well over 100 invited talks at conferences and universities in many countries worldwide, and has been awarded NIH Merit Awards for his contributions to the development of the anticancer drug, Taxol® (1991), inspirational leadership in establishing international collaborative research in biodiversity and natural products drug discovery (2004), contributions to developing and teaching NIH technology transfer courses (2004), and dedicated service to the NCI in developing and maintaining evidence-based PDQ cancer information summaries for health professionals and the public (2010). In 1998-1999 he was President of the American Society of Pharmacognosy and was elected to Honorary Membership of the Society in 2003; he was named as a Fellow of the Society in 2008. In April, 2006 he was awarded the Medalha Reitor Martins Filho by the Federal University of Ceara, Fortaleza, Brazil, in recognition of contributions to the development of natural products anticancer drug discovery at the University, and in November, 2006, he was awarded the “William L. Brown Award for Contributions to Genetic Resources Conservation and Use” by Missouri Botanical Garden which also named a recently discovered Madagascar plant in his honor, *Ludia craggiana*. In April, 2010, he was awarded an Honorary Doctorate of Science by his South African alma mater, Rhodes University, and in March, 2012, a special issue of the Journal of Natural Products was published in his honor. In February, 2014, he was recognized by the American Botanical Council as the recipient of the Norman R. Farnsworth Excellence in Botanical Research Award for 2013. He has established collaborations between the NCI and organizations in many countries promoting drug discovery from natural resources. He has published over 170 chapters and papers related to these interests.