



American Chemical Society
Division of Medicinal Chemistry
Hall of Fame



Nicholas Bodor, Ph.D.

Dr. Nicholas Bodor is a Graduate Research Professor Emeritus (active) at the University of Florida College of Pharmacy, Gainesville. He joined the university in 1979 as Professor and Chairman of the Medicinal Chemistry Department, and was promoted to Graduate Research Professor in 1983. He is the Executive Director of the college's Center for Drug Discovery, founded by him in 1986. During his tenure at the University of Florida, Dr. Bodor has supervised the training of more than 50 doctoral students and over 100 postdoctoral level research associates and fellows. In February 2000, he took a leave of absence from his academic posts at the University of Florida in order to accept a position as Senior Vice President of Basic Research and Drug Discovery at the IVAX Corporation. Dr. Bodor then served as Chief Scientific Officer of the IVAX Corporation, Managing Director of the IVAX Drug Research Institute, Budapest, Hungary, as well as President of the IVAX Research Institute until October 2005.

Dr. Bodor's main research interests include design of drugs with improved therapeutic index, design of new chemical delivery systems, computer-assisted drug design, drug transport and metabolism, and theoretical and mechanistic organic chemistry. He has published more than 520 research articles, has over 200 patents, and is on the editorial boards of several international scientific journals. An internationally recognized leader in drug discovery, design and delivery, he has introduced revolutionary, general, comprehensive drug design and drug targeting concepts known as retrometabolic drug design approaches. These concepts strategically combine chemical and enzymatic (metabolic) processes to achieve drug targeting and to produce safe drugs and safe environmental chemicals. The two major classes of the retrometabolic drug design concepts contain "chemical drug targeting systems" (CDS) and the "soft drugs" (SD). Each of these large classes contains various subclasses, based on the different design rules. The design concepts incorporated in the soft drug approaches were used by Dr. Bodor to develop a general and comprehensive program, including a computerized expert system which can be used to design all potential and possible metabolites and the corresponding safe active soft drugs or chemical delivery systems. The soft steroid Loteprednol Etabonate, designed by Dr. Bodor, is on the market in the U.S.

and other countries. Other drugs designed by him using the retrometabolic concepts are in advanced clinical development. The progress in these various related fields is reviewed biennially at an international series of symposia Dr. Bodor has founded and organizes entitled, The Retrometabolism Based Drug Design and Targeting Conference. The ninth meeting of this series is scheduled for May 2013 in Orlando; in addition to Florida, venues of the previous eight conferences have included Japan, Hungary and Austria.

Dr. Bodor received his B.S./M.S. degree in Organic Chemistry in 1959 at Bolyai University in Transylvania, and his Ph.D. degree in 1965 from the University of Babes-Bolyai, Cluj and the Romanian National Academy of Sciences. He was a Group Leader at the Pharmacochemical Research Institute in Romania until 1968, when he was offered an R. A. Welch Fellowship at the University of Texas in Austin, where he worked in the field of theoretical organic chemistry with Dr. Michael J. S. Dewar, the first Robert A. Welch Research Chair. In 1972 he became a Senior Research Scientist at ALZA Laboratories in Lawrence, Kansas, which later became INTERx Research Corporation, where he was Director of Research, as well as an Adjunct Professor at the University of Kansas until 1978.

Among his many honors, Dr. Bodor is an elected Fellow of the Academy of Pharmaceutical Sciences, American Association of Pharmaceutical Scientists, American Association for the Advancement of Science, and American College of Clinical Pharmacology. He is also an Honorary Member of the Hungarian Chemical Society and the Panhellenic Society of Pharmacists. Among other honors, Dr. Bodor has been named "The 1984 Florida Scientist of the Year" and received the first AAPS Research Achievement Award in Medicinal and Natural Product Chemistry in 1988, as well as the APhA Research Achievement Award in Pharmaceutical and Medicinal Chemistry in 1989. In 1994 he was named the first recipient of the Nagai Foundation Tokyo International Fellowship. He was named by the American Chemical Society as the 1996 recipient of the Leo Friend Award in recognition of his article entitled, "Design of Biologically Safer Chemicals," published in Chemtech, October 1995. He is the first College of Pharmacy faculty member to receive a Professorial Excellence Award, given by the University of Florida in 1996. The AACP selected Dr. Bodor as the recipient of the 1997 Volwiler Research Achievement Award. In April 2000, Dr. Bodor was named the V. Ravi Chandran Professor in Drug Design and Targeting of the UF College of Pharmacy, the first recipient of this endowed professorship. In February 2002, he was elected a Fellow of the World Innovation Foundation. An honorary Doctor of Science degree was conferred upon Dr. Bodor by the University of Florida in 2005. In 2007, the American Association of Pharmaceutical Scientists awarded Dr. Bodor with the Distinguished Pharmaceutical Scientist Award.

In addition to the awards above, Dr. Bodor has received the highest levels of recognition from his home country of Hungary

for his scientific achievements and leadership of the Budapest-based Institute for Drug Research. In 1989 he received an honorary Doctor of Science degree from the Technical University of Budapest, and then was awarded the Doctor Honoris Causa degree from the Medical University of Debrecen in 1990. In 1995 he was elected to the Hungarian National Academy of Sciences. Ferenc Madl, President of Hungary, awarded Dr. Bodor the Gold Cross of Merit of the Hungarian Republic in 2004. In 2010 he received the prestigious Fabinyi Prize of the Hungarian Chemical Society, which is given to scientists living outside Hungary whose outstanding scientific accomplishment have contributed to the reputation of the HCS. In August 2010 at the national celebration of Hungary's over 1000 years statehood and its canonized first king, St. Stephen, Dr. Bodor was awarded at the Hungarian Parliament, the Commander's Cross of the Order of Merit of the Hungarian Republic, a prestigious award of civil merit.

Dr. Bodor and his wife Sheryl call Miami their primary residence. He founded Bodor Laboratories, Inc. in 2006, and works there with his son Erik and daughter Nicole (who hold PhD/MBA and PhD degrees, respectively, in the relevant fields) to further develop his drug design strategies to the marketplace. His oldest son Miklós (an MD, PhD) is Chairman of the Clinical Pharmacology Department at the Medical University in Debrecen, Hungary.

In 2012 he was named to the ACS Division of Medicinal Chemistry Hall of Fame.



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BODOR MIKLÓS (NICHOLAS BODOR)

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