

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

ASCPT Announces 2018 Gary Neil Prize Recipient

Alexandria, Va. (November 27, 2017) — Richard Pazdur, M.D., is the 2018 recipient of the American Society for Clinical Pharmacology and Therapeutics (ASCPT) Gary Neil Prize for Innovation in Drug Development.

Dr. Pazdur is Director of the Food and Drug Administration's (FDA) Oncology Center of Excellence (OCE), where regulatory scientists and reviewers work together to accelerate the development of new cancer drugs, biologics, and devices. He oversees coordination of oncology activities across FDA centers and facilitates collaboration between the FDA, the National Cancer Institute (NCI), and other cancer-focused organizations. He is also Acting Director of the Office of Hematology and Oncology Products in the Center for Drug Evaluation and Research (CDER), where he has worked for 18 years.



Dr. Richard Pazdur

The Gary Neil Prize was established in 2004 for Gary Neil, Ph.D., former Executive Vice President of Worldwide Research and Development at Wyeth–Ayerst. Every year, the award recognizes one extraordinary scientist who is bringing innovation and change to clinical drug development.

“I am honored to receive the Gary Neil Prize for Innovation in Drug Development, joining several current and former FDA colleagues who have received this award in years past,” Dr. Pazdur said. “ASCPT and the FDA share the goal of advancing science and medicine for the benefit of patients. This award is an important recognition of the FDA’s leadership role in developing innovative approaches to drug development that help bring safe and effective therapies to patients, many of whom might not have other treatment options. This is what we have strived to accomplish with oncology drug approvals at the FDA.”

As OCE Director, Dr. Pazdur has streamlined the review process for powerful cancer drugs, significantly reducing the decision time for many life-saving therapies. Under his leadership, the FDA has incorporated novel approaches for oncology trials, partnering with stakeholders across government and industry to give patients more access to promising drugs. For example, FDA may grant accelerated approval to a drug for the treatment of serious conditions to fill an unmet medical need using clinical trial data that is thought to predict a clinical benefit for patients. Further clinical trials are then required to confirm the benefit once the drug is approved. In other cases, patients with serious or life-threatening disease may be able to receive investigational drugs, still being studied in clinical trials, to treat serious and life-threatening illnesses for which there are no satisfactory alternative treatments.

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Dr. Pazdur earned his M.D. from Loyola Stritch School of Medicine in 1976. He completed his internship and residency at Foster G. McGaw Hospital. From 1979 to 1982, he completed oncology fellowships at Rush–Presbyterian St. Luke’s Medical Center and its affiliate, the University of Chicago Medical Center.

From 1988 to 1999, Dr. Pazdur held various positions at the University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center, including Professor of Medicine, Assistant Vice President for Academic Affairs, Associate Director of Clinical Trials Administration, and Director of Educational Programs. He taught oncology at the Johns Hopkins School of Medicine from 2002 to 2007.

Throughout his career, Dr. Pazdur has been recognized with prestigious awards. In 2015, *Fortune* magazine named him one of the “World’s Greatest Leaders.” That same year, he received the Distinguished Public Service Award from the American Association for Cancer Research, the Public Service Leadership Award from the National Coalition for Cancer Survivorship, and the Face of Hope Award from the LUNgevity Foundation. Dr. Pazdur made the 2016 “One Hundred” list published by the Massachusetts General Hospital Cancer Center. He has also won numerous awards from the FDA and CDER for his revolutionary approach to approving cancer drugs.

Dr. Pazdur has served on many hospital committees for MD Anderson. He is an ex officio member of NCI’s National Cancer Advisory Board and an ex officio member of the organization’s Clinical Trials Advisory Committee. He has published more than 600 articles, books, book chapters, and abstracts and participated on the editorial boards of *Investigational New Drugs*, *The Oncologist*, and the *Journal of Supportive Oncology*.

About ASCPT

ASCPT is the leading forum for the discussion, development, and integration of clinical pharmacology, translational medicine, and therapeutics. Headquartered in Alexandria, Va., ASCPT was established in 1900. Today, more than 2,300 ASCPT members are committed to advancing the science and practice of translational medicine.

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