

LSU MEDICAL CENTER



Neuroscience Center of Excellence on the occasion of the opening of the new Research Laboratories

ACADEMIC LECTURE

March 17, 1998

10:30 a.m.

1st Floor, Medical Education Building, Lecture Room B

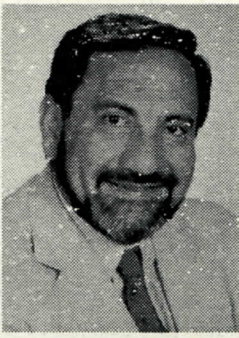
OPEN HOUSE AND RECEPTION

March 17, 1998

12:00 p.m.

8th Floor, LSU-Lions Clinic

New Orleans, Louisiana



In 1988, I was honored with the responsibility of building a comprehensive Neuroscience Center at the LSU Medical Center in New Orleans. It thrills my colleagues and me to tell you about the opening of the research laboratories that serve the people of Louisiana and beyond. Our new research laboratories will contribute to the enhancement of academic excellence at the LSU Medical Center, strengthen fundamental neurosciences and facilitate the transfer of major breakthroughs into the clinical arena. It will be the site of several educational and community outreach activities.

Our research teams are guided by a quest for knowledge and a common desire to help end the suffering caused by Alzheimer's Disease, blinding eye diseases, stroke, Parkinson's Disease, mental depression and other diseases of the brain and nervous system. These scientists are smartly pursuing intensive research that is key to unlocking the mystery of how and why these diseases occur.

The Neuroscience Center of Excellence is the state's only interdisciplinary program that incorporates behavioral, clinical and basic neurosciences. This synergy in science is leading to the development of a new drug that may help prevent the death of brain cells. It has also led to the development of a new analgesic drug that can eliminate pain without masking potentially dangerous postsurgical fever. These are just a few of our exciting research breakthroughs.

The most important component of research institutions is the people: our powerful and imaginative team continues to break new ground in understanding the nervous system. Our most recent additions to the team are Dr. Rene Anand (from the University of Pennsylvania), Dr. Jeffrey Erickson (from the National Institutes of Health), and Dr. Jeffrey Magee (from the Baylor College of Medicine).

With our solid academic programs serving as the foundation, the Center has established a preeminent reputation as a center of learning and discovery. Our interdisciplinary Ph.D. Program is shaping the future of the neurosciences by ensuring that new generations of scientists and clinicians have the depth and breadth of knowledge necessary to advance medical science. Other activities include annual scientific retreats, cooperative research initiatives, effective and extensive faculty development, incentive grant awards and a Seminar Series for faculty, fellows, residents and students at the LSU Medical Center. As a global resource for other scientists and physicians, this collaborative environment fosters the exchange of information and ideas that is essential to scientific progress. Outreach is also a critical part of our mission to help the community-at-large understand neurological and psychiatric diseases.

As we approach the new millennium, and as I look back and reflect upon our efforts to combat some of the most devastating diseases known to humankind, I am pleased with the progress we have made. But we cannot rest on our laurels. Although we have made great strides in our efforts to understand the most challenging frontier in medical science - the human brain - much remains to be done!

Support for the Neuroscience Center came from many sources. Monies from the Department of Defense and the State of Louisiana were particularly important for the construction of this facility. But everyone in our community should take great pride in the creation of the LSU Neuroscience Center of Excellence. Medical science progresses because people dedicate themselves to finding new solutions to complex conditions and because they are afforded the resources necessary to carry out their research. You shared our vision. You lent your mind, your voice and your support. You made this happen.

The opening of the Neuroscience Center of Excellence Research Laboratories is a promise of renewed persistence, dedication and hard work toward the understanding of how the brain functions, how diseases affect the brain and for advancing the discovery of new treatments for neurological and psychiatric diseases.

Thank you for offering assistance and hope to those suffering from these devastating diseases. And thank you for helping us remain at the forefront as we enter into our next century of discovery.

Sincerely,

Nicolas G. Bazan, M.D., Ph.D.

Ernest C. and Yvette C. Villere Professor, Boyd Professor
Director, LSU Neuroscience Center of Excellence

Program

MASTER OF CEREMONIES
Mervin L. Trail, M.D.
Chancellor
LSU Medical Center

10:30 a.m.

ACADEMIC LECTURE

1st Floor, Medical Education Building, Lecture Room B

Sir John Vane, FRS,
Nobel Laureate in Medicine or Physiology
The Mechanism of Action of Anti-Inflammatory Drugs

12:00 p.m.

PRESS CONFERENCE AND MEDIA TOUR
8th Floor, LSU-Lions Clinic

Mervin L. Trail, M.D.
Chancellor
LSU Medical Center

Sir John Vane, FRS,
Nobel Laureate in Medicine or Physiology

Timothy P. Ryan, Ph.D.,
Dean
College of Business Administration
University of New Orleans

Nicolas G. Bazan, M.D., Ph.D.
Ernest C. and Yvette C. Villere Professor
Boyd Professor
Director, Neuroscience Center of Excellence

Reception immediately following

Sir John Vane has had a distinguished career in both academia and industry. After receiving his bachelor's and doctorate in pharmacology from Oxford, he pursued academic research at Oxford and Yale University. He received the Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine in 1982, which he shared with Sune K. Bergstrom and Bengt Samuelsson, for his work in prostaglandins and for discovering the mode of action of aspirin. He is highly regarded for his continuing research in the areas of cardiovascular disease and chronic inflammation.



He spent eighteen years as a research scientist at the Royal College of Surgeons of England, the last seven of which were as Professor of Experimental Pharmacology. As a consultant to Squibb, he was the father of the company's angiotensin converting enzyme programme which led to the blockbuster drug, Captopril. During his twelve years as Group research and Development Director at the Wellcome Foundation Ltd., he oversaw the development of a number of innovative drugs including Tracrium, Flolan, Zovirax and Lamictal.

In 1986, Sir John moved to St. Bartholomew's Hospital Medical School to found an Institute of Cardiovascular Research. In 1990, the Institute was awarded charity status. It is now amongst the top twenty medical charities in the UK and distributes more than £2M per annum mostly to the medical college. Through its scientific publications and presentations at meetings, the Institute has established itself as an internationally recognized center of excellence in science, especially in pharmacology. Over the last twelve years, it has trained many students, including more than 40 doctorates awarded and 33 more Ph.D.'s in training.

In 1991, Sir John, with his colleague, Professor Anggard, incorporated a new pharmaceutical company which they called Vanguard Medica Ltd. Its purpose is to develop compounds which the pharmaceutical industry have put on one side, not because of toxicity but because of changes in the Company's direction or in priorities. There were six founding directors, all long-standing friends of Sir John and all ex-R&D directors from the drug industry. Under the direction of a CEO, Mr. Robert Mansfield, the company flourished and was successfully floated on the London Stock Exchange in May 1996 with a paper capital value of £150 million.

He now acts as a consultant to several pharmaceutical and biopharmaceutical companies and is a board member of some. Sir John became a Fellow of the Royal Society in 1974, was knighted in 1984 and has received many other honorary fellowships and doctorates.

Sir John Vane has published numerous review articles and over 750 papers on pharmacology and related topics. His other scientific activities include membership of the British Pharmacological Society, the Physiological Society, the Society for Drug Research, and the Royal Society.

1961-1984	Fulfilled various offices for the British Pharmacological Society
1985-1987	Member of Council and Vice-President, the Royal Society
1985-1992	Member of Council of the Imperial Cancer Research Fund
1994-	Member of Council of the Imperial Cancer Research Fund
1987-	Non-executive Chairman of the Technology Transfer Company of the Imperial Cancer Research Fund
1987-1993	Member of Scientific Advisory Committee for the Osaka Biosciences Institute, Japan
1993-	Chairman of the Biomedical Research Educational Trust

Sir John Vane has had a distinguished career in both academia and industry. After receiving his bachelor's and doctorate in pharmacology from Oxford, he pursued academic research at Oxford and Yale University. He received the Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine in 1982, which he shared with Sune K. Bergstrom and Bengt Samuelsson, for his work in prostaglandins and for discovering the mode of action of aspirin. He is highly regarded for his continuing research in the areas of cardiovascular disease and chronic inflammation.



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1993-	Chairman of the Biomedical Research Educational Trust

Allen A. Copping, D.D.S.
President
LSU System

Mervin L. Trail, M.D.
Chancellor
LSU Medical Center

Robert L. Marier, M.D., M.H.A.
Dean
LSU School of Medicine

Nicolas G. Bazan, M.D., Ph.D.
Ernest C. and Yvette C. Villere Professor,
Boyd Professor
Director, Neuroscience Center of Excellence

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University of New Orleans

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Movement Disorders Center
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Professor of Neuroscience

Cheryl Weill, PhD
Professor of Neurology

* All of these faculty members are jointly appointed in the Neuroscience Center

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