

## Dr. Richard Roland Baker, Recipient of the 2006 Tobacco Science Research Conference Lifetime Achievement Award



I am honored to introduce this year's TSRC Lifetime Achievement Award recipient, Dr. Richard Roland Baker.

Richard Baker received his B. Sc. in Chemistry with First class honours, from the University of Hull, United Kingdom in 1966. He continued his studies in chemistry at the Uni-

versity of Hull and earned his Ph. D. in Physical Chemistry in 1970. His thesis was on "The addition of hydrocarbons to slowly reacting mixtures of hydrogen and oxygen". From 1969 through 1971 he was a Research/Teaching Fellow at the Department of Chemistry at McGill University in Montreal, Canada. In 1971, Dr. Baker joined British American Tobacco Company at their Research Centre at Southampton, U.K., as Research Scientist. From 1979–1983 he was Group Leader of the Combustion Research Section. In 1983, he became Group Leader of the Smoke Science Section. Dr. Baker was named Manager of Research in 1985 and became the Head of the Fundamental Research Centre in 1990. From 1992 until 1995 he was the Manager of R&D Planning. In 1995, Dr. Baker was promoted to Head of Corporate Research and in 1999 through 2002, he was Manager of Scientific Administration, Planning and Physical Sciences for British American Tobacco. In 2002 Dr. Baker was named Senior Principal Scientist.

I will attempt to summarize Dr. Baker's sterling qualifications soon, but as every tobacco scientist worth his or her "salt" knows Richard's achievements encompass more than numbers of awards that he has rightly received, more than the numerous publications he has authored, and more than the number of patents he has been awarded. Yes, for certain he is an eminent scientist, a "scientist's scientist" as it were. Dr. Richard R. Baker's research has included such topics as the temperatures within the burning cigarette, the generation of carbon oxides and other gases during smoking, the gas velocities within the smoked cigarette, the kinetics of tobacco combustion, the diffusion of gases from the cigarette, the effect of paper porosity and other ventilation

criteria on smoke generation, the generation of sidestream and environmental tobacco smoke, and extensive research on the toxicological aspects of tobacco and tobacco ingredients, and human smoking behavior and sensory responses.

But Richard Baker is more than a brilliant scientist. Many of you know Richard as a friend, as I do. Richard is a humble man, a good father, a wonderful husband, one who loves to be with people, to have fun, and always willing to lend a hand or a shoulder to help us succeed. I've known Richard for nearly 20 years. We have never worked together on an official project but he has helped me understand the difficulties and nuances associated with the science we love, numerous times. I have never hesitated to call him on the phone or e-mail him about a question or two. It is uncanny that each time I called him he somehow had an answer for me. Granted, sometimes the answers took a while longer than anticipated and often the answers were not as I expected. Nonetheless, he is a virtual encyclopedia of information, much like the other Lifetime Award winners. Most times we would meet only at scientific meeting but you know you have a true friend when you can pick up a conversation (scientific or personal) as if you had seen each other the day before. I mentioned that Richard is a humble man and I'm sure that my introduction is now making him feel uncomfortable perhaps even embarrassed to some extent. Tonight we are here to celebrate with our friend, Richard Baker. And so, as promised, I will provide these good people with your many accomplishments.

Since 1973, Dr. Richard R. Baker has published over 80 papers in peer-review journals, he has been granted four U.S. patents and numerous foreign patents, written chapters in books, lectured at universities and numerous international symposia. He is currently a member of the Editorial Board of *Beiträge zur Tabakforschung International* and was a guest editor of a special edition of Food and Chemical Toxicology on tobacco ingredients. Dr. Baker is a Fellow of Royal Society of Chemistry, a Chartered Chemist, a member of British Combustion Institute, and a member of the R&D Society of the United Kingdom.

Dr. Baker has worked extensively with CORESTA. He was a Member of CORESTA's Scientific Commission (1996–2000); President of Technology Group (1992–1994); President of Scientific Commission (1994–1996); President of Smoke Group (1998–2000); Chairman of Smoking Behavior Committee/Sub Group (1996–2004); Chairman of Organizing Committee for Smoke and Technology Groups

Meeting in Bournemouth, U.K. (1986–1987), and Chairman of Organizing Committee for CORESTA Congress in Brighton, U.K. (1997–1998). He has also been a member of several Task Forces (Cigarette ignition propensity, Side-stream and environmental tobacco smoke, Review of methods for reducing factory emissions). Dr. Baker showed tremendous leadership during his many years with CORESTA.

Dr. Baker has received many awards. In 1987 he received a D.Sc. degree from University of Hull, U.K. (his alma mater) for “substantial, sustained and original research” on the physical and chemical processes occurring in tobacco combustion. Dr. Baker was awarded the CORESTA Prize for “distinguished scientific achievements and outstanding contributions to tobacco science” in 1992. He has also received the CORESTA Bronze Medal (1992), Silver Medal (1996), and Gold Medal (2000) for services to the work of CORESTA.

Because of his significant contributions to our knowledge of 1) the function of the cigarette and the effect of that function on smoke delivery and composition, 2) his publications on the oft asserted deleterious effects of tobacco additives on the chemical and biological properties of cigarette mainstream smoke, and 3) his distinguished service to CORESTA and to tobacco scientists in general, Dr. Baker is being honored as the 2006 Tobacco Science Research Conference Lifetime Achievement Award recipient. Please help me congratulate Dr. Richard Roland Baker.

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