

Robert Young

Robert Young earned a B.Sc. from the University of Victoria (1967) and Ph.D. from the University of British Columbia (1971). Postdoctoral studies (1971-76) at Imperial College (London), University of Adelaide (Australia) and at UBC (Vancouver). Research Associate at the Institut de Chimie des Substances Naturelles in Gif-sur-Yvette, France (1976-7) and from 1977 until 2006 worked in various capacities with Merck Frosst Canada & Co. including Vice-President and Head of the Medicinal Chemistry Department. Acting site head at the Merck Frosst Centre for Therapeutic Research (Montreal) and at MSD, Terlings Park Neurosciences Centre in the UK before taking early retirement in 2006. Dr. Young's industrial career focused on the design and synthesis of novel drugs for asthma, inflammation, osteoporosis and he is most noted for his part in the discovery of the asthma drug, Singulair™ and of the anti-inflammatory drug Arcoxia™.

Since 2007, Professor of Chemistry and Merck Frosst-B.C. Leadership Chair in Pharmaceutical Genomics, Bioinformatics and Drug Discovery in the Chemistry Department, Simon Fraser University. Current research is focused on the design and synthesis of novel pharmacological probes and proof-of-concept molecules for the discovery of new drug targets. Active research programs include, discovery of novel modulators of the androgen receptor (for treatment of prostate cancer), inhibitors of cellular "autophagy" (as anticancer therapy), molecular probes to define the mechanism of cystic fibrosis drugs and projects directed to improving bone health and treating osteoporosis. Author of more than 200 publications, review articles and patents.

Selected Honours: Order of Canada (MC), Fellow of the Royal Society of Canada, the Chemical Institute of Canada and the Canadian Society of Pharmaceutical Sciences (CSPS), Prix Galien, "Heroes of Chemistry" Award (American Chemical Society), Genome BC Leadership Award and Health Research Institute Medal of Honour. President of the CSPS (2012-2014).