



Dr. Ellestad was honored for his distinguished work in leading a group of scientists in pioneering discoveries about the potent cancer-fighting compound calicheamicin. Allen Reitz, Ph.D., who submitted the ACS award nomination, referred to the "stunning achievement" of Dr. Ellestad's group to unravel the bioreductive activation and DNA cleavage chemistry of calicheamicin which helped pave the way for the development of the first antibody-targeted chemotherapy. For this work Dr. Ellestad and his colleagues received the prestigious Discoverers Award from the Pharmaceutical Research and Manufacturers of America in 2003, as well as the Heroes of Chemistry Award from the American Chemical Society in 2004. In the late 1980's, Dr. Ellestad was engaged in coordinating the initial stages of the tetracycline project, which led the team to studying the mechanisms of resistance to the tetracycline antibiotics. This project, in collaboration with molecular biologists and x-ray crystallographers in Germany, contributed fundamental knowledge to the understanding of bacterial resistance to tetracyclines. This insight was further expanded by the medicinal chemistry team as part of the strategy which led to the discovery of Tygacil(R) (tigecycline), the first in a new class of intravenous antibiotics, glycylcyclines.

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