

November 24, 2004

Dear Unitherians,

By now many of you may have learned of the passing of the Chairman of our Scientific Advisory Board, Sir John Vane.

While obituaries are covering his more public accomplishments, such as those referenced in his Nobel Prize, I thought you might like to know how essential he was to the success of United Therapeutics.

When our company was formed in 1996, we had no intellectual property. The company was a bet on the prospect that Glaxo Wellcome (now GlaxoSmithKline and then Burroughs-Wellcome) would license to us its prostacyclin-like molecule we now call Remodulin (then called 15AU81). Glaxo was not eager to do this. They had to be persuaded, cajoled and urged. As I sometimes say, big drug companies are like the famous advertisement for the Roach Motel --intellectual property comes in, but does not go out.

Shortly after our company was formed, Sir John Vane agreed to join us as Chairman of a yet-to-be-constituted Scientific Advisory Board. This was a great coup for the nascent company because, when he was previously head of research at Wellcome, he had received the Nobel Prize for discovering prostacyclin, and he oversaw the efforts that led to the creation of medicinal versions of the natural prostacyclin molecule --including the prostacyclin-like medicine we call Remodulin today.

He agreed to join us because he felt that we had a good chance of enabling many more people to benefit from his discoveries as compared to having the intellectual property collect dust on the shelves of Glaxo Wellcome. He also appreciated the entrepreneurial spirit of UT and was proud to be associated with the company.

The executives at Glaxo were amazed when they heard that the famous Sir John Vane had joined our tiny company's Scientific Advisory Board. This went a long way in persuading them to license to us what is now called Remodulin. With Sir John ultimately in charge of the company's science and pharmacological development, they felt that the drug they licensed to us would be responsibly developed via clinical trials.

History proved them right.

I last spoke with Sir John three weeks ago. He was thrilled with our i.v. route of delivery, excited about the prospect of an implantable pump to dispense Remodulin and hopeful that our oral prostacyclin program would succeed.

Sir John was a person who always went out of his way to help other scientists and drug-developers succeed with their careers. He loved to put people in touch with other people who could help them. He was a great networker. He was also a bon vivant.

The success of United Therapeutics was one of his fondest accomplishments. All of us made him proud.

May the spirit of Sir John continue to dwell within all of us, inspiring us to help others, to think creatively and to enjoy life.

Have a great Thanksgiving Weekend,

Martine Rothblatt Chairman & CEO