



Erminio Murano



Vincent Aroulmoji

Announcement

Professor Erminio Murano and Professor Vincent Aroulmoji 2017 Recipient of the “Gerald Blunden Award”

Congratulations to Prof. Erminio Murano and Prof. Vincent Aroulmoji who are the winner of the 2017 “Gerald Blunden Award”, sponsored by the journal, *Natural Product Communications*.

Prof. Erminio Murano and Prof. Vincent Aroulmoji won the award with their article "Molecular Insights of Hyaluronic Acid as Potential Source of Polymer-Drug Conjugate in the Target-Mediated Treatment of Cancer" *Natural Product Communications*, **12** (6) 813-819 (2017), which is co-authored by Gnanendra Shanmugam, Rajesh Salem Varadharajan, Desika Prabakar, Syed Mohammed and Sathiyapriya Renganathan. The use of drugs conjugated with macromolecules was shown to improve the drug pharmacokinetic profile. In this context, the authors put forward the naturally occurring polysaccharide hyaluronic acid (HA) as a potential choice for the development of drug conjugates. The docking study suggests that the usage of methotrexate properly conjugated to HA might serve as a potential drug to effectively treat some cancer diseases.

Erminio Murano is an internationally renowned researcher and expert in the fields of chemistry and biochemistry of polysaccharides with more than three decades of scientific research experience. Dr. Erminio Murano received his Master degrees in Biological Sciences from the University of Trieste (Italy), and his Ph.D. in Pharmacy and Biomedical Sciences from the University of Portsmouth (U.K.), under the supervision of Professor Gerald Blunden.

Dr. Erminio Murano was co-founder and head of department of the enterprise POLY-tech and head of research and development in the Polymer Conjugation department of the international pharmaceutical company EURAND. Dr. Murano is co-founder, chairman of the board of directors and chief scientific officer of the NEALYS pharmaceutical company and managing director and chief scientific officer of PROTOS Research Institute. Throughout his career, Dr. Erminio Murano has published more than 100 scientific papers, both refereed and non-refereed, filed 9 patents, and supervised or examined thesis for more than 20 Master and Ph.D. students. Dr. Murano has been Professor of drug development, experimental biochemistry and clinical enzymology at the University of Trieste (Italy). Dr. Murano has been an editorial advisory board member of the *Natural Product Communications* and is an editorial member of the *International Journal of Advanced Science and Engineering*. He is referee for several scientific journals.

Vincent Aroulmoji is an experienced scientist with great expertise in the field of academic research and application development. He was awarded Doctoral Degree in Physics from Pondicherry Central University, India and Diplôme de Docteur in Industrial Chemistry from the University of Reims Champagne - Ardennes, France. He rendered remarkable service in several international organization in France, UK and Italy under various titles as Post-Doctoral researcher (University of Rennes I, University of Paris V, Institut National Agronomique Paris-Grignon), Senior Research Scientist (University of Reims) and Facility manager (Eurand spa, Trieste, Italy).

His contribution to the development of anticancer polymer-drug conjugates and nanostructure drug carriers is highly commendable. He has co-authored over 100 peer-reviewed research articles. Currently he serves as Director of Research and Development, Mahendra Educational Institutions, Salem and Namakkal District, India and also as Editor-in-Chief of *International Journal of Advanced Science and Engineering (IJASE)*.