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April 23, 2013

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University of Minnesota Educator and Scientist Honored for Research Excellence

Volwiler Award recipient is a leader in translating basic science discoveries into useful therapeutic agents.

Alexandria, Va.—The [American Association of Colleges of Pharmacy](#) will honor Gunda I. Georg, Ph.D., full professor and head of the Department of Medicinal Chemistry at the [University of Minnesota College of Pharmacy](#), for her outstanding research and contributions to the field of **synthetic medicinal chemistry**.

Georg is director of the Institute for Therapeutics Discovery and Development at the University of Minnesota and holds the Robert Vince Endowed Chair in Medicinal Chemistry and the McKnight Presidential Chair. She will receive the prestigious [Volwiler Research Achievement Award](#) on Monday, July 15, during the Science Plenary at the **AACP Annual Meeting, [Pharmacy Education 2013](#)**, in Chicago, Illinois.

"I am deeply honored to be selected by my peers to receive the AACP Volwiler Award," said Georg. "It is the belief that diseases can be cured and conditions improved that continues to drive me and my research team."

Highly regarded for her research on discovering and developing potential drugs to treat cancer, Alzheimer's disease, and the development of male contraceptive agents, Georg's research focuses on analyzing chemical compounds to find drugs that could potentially be useful for treatment. She is one of only a few academic medicinal chemists who currently have therapeutically useful drugs on the market. Luserda™, of which she is a co-inventor, is a prodrug of the general anesthetic propofol. Minnelide is an anti-cancer agent that is moving toward clinical trials at the University of Minnesota and shows strong anti-tumor activity, including activity in some pancreatic cancer models.

"Dr. Georg is truly an inspiring and highly productive scientist, chemist and academician who is having a transformative impact on human health by translating basic science discoveries into useful therapeutic agents," said Marilyn K. Speedie, Ph.D., dean of the University of Minnesota College of Pharmacy.

After receiving her B.S. in pharmacy in 1975 and her Ph.D. in 1980 from the University of Marburg in Germany, she spent one year as a post-doctoral scientist at the University of Marburg and two years at the University of Ottawa. She then joined the University of Kansas in 1984 and succeeded in obtaining NIH funding and making significant contributions to research, service and undergraduate and graduate teaching, resulting in a rapid rise through the faculty ranks. Upon her arrival at the University of Minnesota in 2007, she quickly moved to establish the Institute for Therapeutics Discovery and Development, which is devoted to moving the many discovery stage projects in the university through further drug development stages up to Phase I clinical trials.

Georg is a world-renowned scientist and an equally talented educator. Her research has been funded by many NIH grants, both to her as a PI and to projects in which she has participated, as well as by other sources of funding. Her work has resulted in more than 170 publications and innumerable presentations in the United States and at international meetings. Georg has made a major impact in the education and training of graduate students, as well as post-doctoral research associates and visiting scientists. She has mentored over 110 graduate students and post-doctoral fellows in the field of medicinal chemistry and synthetic organic chemistry.

"Dr. Georg is an outstanding example of the very best scientists in pharmacy education and the field of translational research," explained Lucinda L. Maine, Ph.D., R.Ph., AACP executive vice president and CEO.

“Her contributions touch the lives of millions of patients and family members who seek progress in some of the most challenging conditions, including pancreatic cancer and Alzheimer’s disease.”

The Volwiler Research Achievement Award consists of a gold medal and a monetary prize and was established in honor of the late Ernest H. Volwiler, former president and research director of Abbott Laboratories.

The [2013 AACP Annual Meeting](#) will be held July 13-17 at the Hyatt Regency Chicago. The conference offers educational programming, exhibits, networking events and award presentations. *Registration fees are waived for credentialed journalists. Visit the [AACP Web site](#) or contact our media relations representative for more information.*

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About AACP

Founded in 1900, the American Association of Colleges of Pharmacy is the national organization representing the interests of pharmacy education. AACP comprises 129 accredited colleges and schools of pharmacy, including more than 6,500 faculty, approximately 60,000 students enrolled in professional programs and 5,100 individuals pursuing graduate study. To learn more about AACP, visit www.aacp.org.