Temple University Professor Magid Abou-Gharbia Wins Grand Hamdan International Award

PHILADELPHIA—December 12, 2014 - Laura H. Carnell Professor of Medicinal Chemistry, Associate Dean for Research and Director of the Moulder Center for Drug Discovery Research in Temple’s School of Pharmacy Magid Abou-Gharbia has won the prestigious Grand Hamdan International Award in Drug Discovery. Dr. Abou-Gharbia won the award in recognition for his outstanding contributions and pioneering work in medicinal chemistry and the discovery of several drugs, including the anti-cancer drug Torisel®, as well as the antidepressants Effexor® and Pristiq®.

His Highness Sheikh Hamdan Bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Deputy Ruler of Dubai and Minister of Finance, will present the award at the Dubai International Conference for Medical Sciences, which is part of an Emirati initiative that calls upon health institutes worldwide to promote plans for specific research and scientific study to improve lives. Dr. Abou-Gharbia will deliver the keynote lecture on the discovery of innovative small molecules therapeutics on Dec. 15, 2014.

“Dr. Gharbia is a highly esteemed and internationally renowned scientist whose many outstanding contributions in research and innovations in drug discovery are changing the world,” said Temple University Provost Hai-Lung Dai. “This award is a great honor and a significant milestone, befitting the stature of Magid Abou-Gharbia.”

During his nearly 30 years at Wyeth Laboratories, Dr. Abou-Gharbia had a remarkable career underscored by numerous scientific achievements. His novel approach to drug discovery and new modes of therapy enabled him to identify new drugs to treat diseases and save lives. His marketed drug discoveries include Mylotarg, Torisel, and Bosulif for the treatment of cancer, and drugs for other important diseases such as osteoporosis (Conbriza), depression (Effexor, Pristique), insomnia (Sonata), and bacterial infections (Tygacil).

As the Director of the Moulder Center for Drug Discovery Research at the Temple University School of Pharmacy since 2008, Professor Abou-Gharbia has continued his pursuit of new discoveries with a strong focus on medicinal chemistry. His multi-disciplinary team is dedicated to discovery and development of novel therapies that improve the health of patients and extend lives. Dr. Abou-Gharbia manages several labs and collaborative relationships with other universities and corporations. Since joining Temple, the Center has seen a tremendous growth in research collaboration and discovery. It currently has 14 patent applications, over a dozen research papers, millions of dollars in grants, and collaborative agreements with organizations that give the Moulder Center access to state-of-the-art-technology.

A prolific inventor who holds nearly 450 patents, Dr. Abou-Gharbia has documented his extensive discoveries and research in nearly 175 prestigious journals, publications and invited talks. Recognized worldwide for treating and curing several diseases, he has received many honors and accolades. Most
recently he was named Educator/Researcher of the Year by Philadelphia Business Journal for his leadership in healthcare and life sciences. Other awards include the American Chemical Society’s 2014 Heroes of Chemistry award, Alfred Burger Award in Medicinal Chemistry, Procter Medal from the Philadelphia Drug Exchange for distinguished service in the alleviation of human suffering and advancing public health, and New Jersey Inventors Hall of Fame Award for Extraordinary Contributions to the advancement of knowledge and human welfare in the state of New Jersey.