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PRESS RELEASE...

For Immediate Release

2004 UNICO National Marconi Science Award Announced

(Fairfield, NJ) Valentino J. Stella, Ph.D. of the University of Kansas, Distinguished Professor, Pharmaceutical Chemistry, will be awarded the ninth annual UNICO National Marconi Science Award at the organization's Board of Directors meeting this Saturday, March 13, 2004 at the JS Marriott in Phoenix, AZ.

Dr. Valentino began his career as a pharmacist and upon attaining his Ph.D became a university professor. He loves to teach but also describes himself as a problem solver who through the mentoring of the late Professor Takeru Higuchi became an inventor and entrepreneur.

Dr. Valentino is the inventor, or co-inventor, of two drugs: fosphenytoin (Cerebyx®) for the treatment of epilepsy, Viread® for the treatment of AIDs, and a new solubilizing agent, Captisol®, used to dissolve intractable drugs such as Vfend® (antifungal) and Geodon® (antischizophrenic) for injectable use. Both drugs are Pfizer products. Dr. Valentino also has a new anesthetic drug, Aguavan® in PhaseII/III clinical trials. In addition, he has 33 patents and many publications and awards.

In his spare time he has founded three new companies, CyDex®, Crititech® and ProQuest® Pharmaceuticals; all in the Lawrence/Kansas City area.

Says Dr. Valentino, "What am I most proud of? I love to teach and mentor young people. I am most proud of the likes of George Mooney (Pfizer), Bill Charman (Professor extraordinaire – Monash University), and Serena Tongiani (Urbino), etc. They and my children are my lasting legacy."

UNICO's Marconi Science Award is presented to a full-time resident and citizen of the U.S. of Italian descent who is involved in the physical sciences, such as electronics, physics, chemistry, etc. The Award was established in 1995 to recognize a living scientist who exemplifies Marconi's vast scientific and creative accomplishments through their own life achievements.

UNICO Marconi Award Chair Andre DiMino stated, "This was an exceptional year for judging. We had many outstanding candidates and Dr. Stella stood out with an impressive and voluminous resume of work. He brings honor to this award and we are pleased to count him among its list of impressive recipients."

UNICO National, the largest Italian-American service organization in the U.S. was founded in Waterbury, Connecticut by Dr. Anthony P. Vastola in 1922. Members work to support charitable, educational, scientific and literary projects while promoting Italian heritage and combating negative stereotyping.

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