

Prof. Jean G. Riess

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First trained as a chemical engineer, Jean Riess received his Doctorat ès-Sciences degree from the University of Strasbourg, France, his mentor being Professor Guy Ourisson. He then spent two years as a post-doc with Prof. John Van Wazer at Monsanto's Central Research Department in Saint-Louis, MO, learning some phosphorus and transition metal chemistry. In 1968, he became a Professor at the University of Nice, where he founded, directed, and eventually became the honorary director of the Unité de Chimie Moléculaire (associated with the Centre National de la Recherche Scientifique, CNRS). Subsequently, Prof. Riess joined a Californian start-up, Alliance Pharmaceutical Corp., as a VP of Research and Development, and eventually retired in France as a consultant. His research successively involved organic and inorganic phosphorus chemistry, transition metal chemistry, organometallics, and eventually perfluorochemicals. In the latter field, his interests were in fluorocarbons, fluorinated amphiphiles, their colloidal chemistry and biomedical uses, including emulsions for in vivo oxygen delivery (the so-called "blood substitutes"), fluorocarbon-based contrast agents, fluorinated vesicles and other self-assemblies, drug delivery systems, and lately environmental issues. Prof. Riess has published about 380 papers and filed some 25 patents. He has served on numerous councils and committees, and has chaired or co-chaired international conferences on phosphorus chemistry and blood substitutes. He also worked with the Stockholm Peace Research Institute and the Pugwash Conferences on chemical weapon control. He won awards from the French Academy of Sciences, French Chemical Society, Alexander von Humboldt Stiftung, City of Nice, Controlled Release Society, as well as Alliance's first Distinguished Contribution Award. Lately he received a Grand Prix from the Académie des Sciences. He also held a Research Associate position at the University of California, San Diego.