

John A. Secrist III, PhD

Dr. John A. Secrist III is Vice President of Southern Research Institute's Drug Discovery Division. He received his undergraduate degree in Chemistry from University of Michigan and his Ph.D. in Organic Chemistry from the University of Illinois, Urbana with Dr. Nelson J. Leonard. He subsequently completed a postdoctoral fellowship program with E.J. Corey at Harvard University.

At Southern Research Institute where he has been involved with drug discovery and development research, Dr. Secrist has focused on the development of new anticancer, antiviral and antibacterial agents, largely on programs funded from the National Institutes of Health. Among Southern Research Institute's achievements are six FDA-approved anticancer drugs: amifostine, carmustine, dacarbazine, fludarabine, lomustine, and the recently approved, clofarabine, which was co-invented by Dr. Secrist.. No other organization can claim discovery or development of such a significant number of cancer drugs on its own.

Dr. Secrist is Co-Founder and President of the International Society for Nucleosides, Nucleotides and Nucleic Acids. He is also President of the International Society for Antiviral Research. He has served on numerous NIH study sections, including several years as chairman of one of the AIDS-related panels. He has also served regularly on the Army prostate and breast cancer panels. He is on the Editorial Advisory Boards of several journals and serves as Executive Editor of the journal, Nucleosides, Nucleotides and Nucleic Acids, and is presently a consultant or member of the Scientific Advisory Board of several companies.

At Southern Research Institute, Dr. Secrist has been involved with the initiation of two startup companies derived from SRI technology. He has published over 130 papers and holds over 60 patents. He holds several appointments at the University of Alabama at Birmingham and has been an invited lecturer at many universities, companies, and meetings around the world.