

Biographical Sketch

Yoshito Kishi

Yoshito Kishi was born in Nagoya, Japan, in 1937. He received both his B.S. (1961) and Ph.D. (1966) degrees from Nagoya University under the supervision of Professors Yoshimasa Hirata and Toshio Goto. During the period from 1966 through 1969 when he was an instructor in the Department of Chemistry at Nagoya University, he took a leave of absence (1966-1968) to conduct research at Harvard University as a postdoctoral research fellow with Professor Robert Burns Woodward. Upon returning to Nagoya, he was promoted to the position of Associate Professor in the Department of Agricultural Chemistry. He was invited as Visiting Professor of Chemistry at Harvard for the 1972-73 academic year, appointed as Professor of Chemistry in 1974, and then as Morris Loeb Professor of Chemistry in 1982. He served as the Chairman for the Department of Chemistry from 1989 through 1992. He retired from classroom teaching in 2002, and is now engaged full time in research.

In addition, he served as the Chairman of the Advisory Board for Eisai Research Institute of Boston from 1987 through 2006. Since the fall of 2006, he is the Chief Scientific Advisor to the CEO of Eisai Pharmaceutical Company, Tokyo, Japan.

His awards include the 1967 Shinppo-sho from the Chemical Society of Japan, the 1973 Chunichi Press Award, the 1980 ACS Award for Creative Work in Synthetic Organic Chemistry, the 1981 Harrison Howe Award, the 1988 Javits Neuroscience Investigator Award, the 1993 Naito Prize, the 1995 Nagoya Medal of Organic Chemistry, the 1995 Prelog Medal, the 1996 Havinga Medal, the 1999 Imperial Prize, the 1999 Japan Academy Prize, the 2001 ACS Ernest Guenther Award in the Chemistry of Natural Products, and the 2001 Tetrahedron Prize. He was elected as a Member of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences (1985), as a Fellow of the American Association for the Advancement of Science (1999), an Honorary Member of The Chemical Society of Japan (2000), and a Person of Cultural Merits (Japan, elected in 2001).