

Our Keynote Speaker for the 2018 Graduate Research Symposium is
Dr. Leonore C. Witchey-Lakshmanan,
Principal, Pharma CMC/IP (Ohio State Ch.E, B.S. '83, M.S. '84; NC State Ch.E, Ph.D. '88).



When studying for her Master of Science degree in polymer processing with Dr. Jim Lee, Dr. Witchey would often speak to him about career pathways into the field of artificial kidneys and other medical devices. She continued her Ph.D. under Professor Hal Hopfenberg at North Carolina State, doing research in membrane transport and polymer physics. Even then, a Chemical Engineering degree was a key degree for entering into the pharmaceutical field. Her long career path included working at Merck, at Schering-Plough, and with a startup GeneraMedix, all in New Jersey.

Her work included developing conventional and controlled release dosage forms in veterinary medicine, inventing antibody and gene therapy products for human medicine for cancer and other rare diseases. She has several patents, has published papers, and has edited text books and authored chapters on pharmaceutical development practices.

For the last 7 years Dr. Witchey has been an independent pharma consultant, serving companies in all aspects of Pharmaceutical Development, from drug substance characterization, to formulation and process development, to process scale up and launch to the commercial market for various pharmaceutical companies in US and overseas. She has traveled extensively all over the world in setting up manufacturing facilities and assisting with clinical trials. She is also a registered patent agent, assisting pharma companies in developing and maintaining their patent portfolios, via technology review, intellectual property prosecution, expert witness in patent litigation, etc.

As Keynote Speaker, Dr. Witchey will review with us how the skills gained in graduate school, specifically in Chemical and Biochemical Engineering, can form the foundation career success. In addition, she will describe the multiple opportunities for CBE in the Pharmaceutical Industry, not just in research and development, but also in the government regulatory approval process, and in the many and varied industries supporting the creation and maintenance of pharmaceutical products.