Matthew Schlecht, PhD — Biography

Matthew Schlecht was born in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, USA in 1953. He attended elementary and secondary school in Madison, Wisconsin, with an early focus on science in general and chemistry in particular, and signaled an early talent for languages by studying Latin all four years of high school. His undergraduate education at the University of Wisconsin, Madison, provided a solid preparation in the field of chemistry, along with the opportunity to add German to his linguistic repertoire. He was awarded a Helfaer Scholarship in Chemistry in his senior year in recognition of his academic achievements, and graduated in 1975. Matthew continued his training in the discipline of synthetic organic chemistry at Columbia University, in New York City, while finding time to strengthen his linguistic development as well by pursuing the study of French, Spanish and Russian. During a portion of the graduate school years, Matthew worked as a consultant for a patent law firm in New York City, searching for prior art in English and other languages in support of patent litigation actions. He obtained his PhD in 1980, and completed his scientific training as a post-doctoral researcher on an NIH-sponsored fellowship from 1980-1982 at the University of California, Berkeley.

Dr. Schlecht then accepted an academic position at Polytechnic University, in Brooklyn, New York, where he taught organic chemistry at the undergraduate and graduate level, and pursued research projects in the areas of organic synthetic methods, organometallic chemistry medicinal chemistry and polymer chemistry. During this time he received a Research Corporation New Faculty Grant, and later an NIH Research Grant as the sole PI, while participating as a co-PI on an NSF Materials Research Center grant and an NIH supplemental grant for instrumentation. Over the period 1982-1986, he supervised the graduate research of three PhDs and three MS students. He also began using desktop computer-based molecular modeling in the design and analysis of organic synthesis pathways in his research, and developed a special topics course to introduce these techniques to the Polytechnic graduate students. Dr. Schlecht also participated in programs to involve talented local high school students in university-level research projects, and worked as a consultant to local law firms in matters where the expert opinion of a professional chemist was needed. He published 14 peer-reviewed scholarly articles and made several dozen presentations as scientific meetings in the US and around the world, and began using his capabilities to read and understand articles from the scientific literature in his four languages in addition to English.

In 1988, Matthew moved to DuPont Agricultural Products, in Newark, Delaware, to begin 11 years of research in the areas of herbicides, fungicides, and target site-based compound discovery in the crop protection chemicals area. In addition to his research work he studied Japanese for eight years, and wrote a book chapter on the topic of "Oxidative Rearrangement Reactions," a technical encyclopedia article on the topic of "Conjugation and Hyperconjugation," and produced a textbook for Wiley Interscience on the use of desktop computer-based molecular modeling to solve chemical problems, oriented toward amateur and new users. Also during this time, Dr. Schlecht applied his linguistic abilities to the analysis of research-related scientific papers and competitive patents, both in his own work and that of colleagues. His research accomplishments led to the filing of four patent applications in the herbicides area. In the latter portion of his stay at DuPont, Matthew managed a project to develop a new Oracle-based research database system that would provide a technical user-friendly interface to data from

existing company and external databases with computational functionality in the service of compound discovery and early development in the crop protection chemicals area. In particular, he worked closely with programmers and designers to create the database structure and to design and test user interfaces. In addition to this department-wide effort, he worked with the Computational Chemistry group to develop computer algorithms for selecting chemical structures for acquisition and screening, to aid in the creation and maintenance of compound and substance libraries and to add more value to the high-throughput screening effort.

In 1999, Dr. Schlecht moved to CB Research & Development (later Beard Research, Inc.), in New Castle, Delaware, as a senior scientist to do contract synthesis and contract research, with many of the major pharmaceutical companies as clients. Here, Matthew gained experience in scale-up work and organic chemical process development, and also cultivated skills in client relations and communication. For a portion of this period, he supervised a team of four other PhDs to meet and exceed the client's progress metrics. This client from the pharmaceutical industry included Dr. Schlecht and his team as recipients of a Research Excellence Award in November, 2001.

In February, 2002, Dr. Schlecht left active research to begin a free-lance technical translation, writing and editing practice, focusing on work in the medical, pharmaceutical, chemical, polymer and agrochemical fields, and working from Japanese, German, French, Spanish and Russian into English. Over the succeeding years, he has developed a clientele of over one hundred direct clients and agencies, many of whom have become steady clients with work that is best carried out by someone who has Dr. Schlecht's extensive knowledge and experience in the research field. In addition to his translation work, he has co-authored a chapter on the "The Enantioselective Synthesis of Morphine," and edited many manuscripts for scientific publication and grant proposals for submission to federal funding agencies. In the Fall Semester, 2007, he taught sophomore organic chemistry at the University of Delaware. Dr. Schlecht has been called upon to evaluate the work of other translators working in technical areas, and to collaborate in the analysis of larger collections of scientific documents to target translation efforts more strategically. He continues to develop this business by building his client base and networking with other language service providers, coupled with his own extensive direct experience to deliver translated and edited documents of the highest professional quality.