

Francis C. Szoka, PhD

UCSF School of Pharmacy

2016 AFPE Mentor of the Year
of the Year

Professor of Bioengineering, Therapeutic Sciences, and Pharmaceutical Chemistry



Dr. Francis Szoka, founder of Sequus Pharmaceuticals, has been selected as AFPE's 2016 Mentor of the Year. Dr. Szoka's research group utilizes chemical, biophysical, and physiological principles to develop new vaccine, drug, and nucleic acid delivery systems. Dr. Szoka and his research group have published over 220 manuscripts and received 29 U.S. patents. Dr. Szoka has mentored over 28 graduate students and 49 Fellows.

AFPE's Mentor of the Year Award recognizes a mentor whose mentees nominate them for their guidance, respect, dedication, and leadership.

PhD, SUNY Buffalo
MS, University of Maryland
BA Johns Hopkins University

Chancellor's Award for Academic Excellence
Louis W. Busse Lecturer, University of Wisconsin
Fellow of the American Association of
Pharmaceutical Sciences

Dr. Szoka's students and mentees praise him for his dedication, guidance and leadership:

"Dr. Frank Szoka is truly the epitome of an outstanding mentor. Dr. Szoka gave me the freedom to pursue my own research interests and grow as an independent scientist. My career would not be fulfilling without him. Dr. Szoka is the most deserving person I know for this award. He has shaped me, both personally and professionally, as he has so many other young scientists as they embark on their scientific careers."

"Dr. Szoka's enthusiasm for science is contagious and his innovative thinking and constant inquiry encourage all who have the opportunity to work with him. His time devoted to personal and professional growth is extraordinary. He is a truly transformative mentor."

"Dr. Szoka is a great visionary and a highly accomplished scientist. He instills curiosity in each of his mentees and challenges everyone to perform at their best. He teaches his mentees to think creatively and to strive for developing better therapeutics."

American Foundation for Pharmaceutical Education