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Metabolomics: Coming of age

John Ryals
Metabolon Inc., USA

Biography

Ryals received his Ph. D. in Molecular Biology from the University of Texas at Dallas in 1982. Following post doctoral work in the lab of Charles Weissmann at the Institute for Molecular Biology at the University of Zurich, Dr. Ryals joined Ciba-Geigy in the Biotechnology Research Unit at Research Triangle Park (now Syngenta). Dr. Ryals worked in various research and management positions including Head, Agricultural Biotechnology Research, Vice-President of Biotechnology, Vice-President, Research for Novartis Crop Protection, Inc. and Head of the Biotechnology and Genomics Center of Novartis, Inc.

In 1997, Dr. Ryals founded Paradigm Genetics, Inc., an early systems biology company, and served as the Chief Executive Officer, Chief Science Officer and President and taking the company public in 2000. After leaving Paradigm Genetics in 2002, Dr. Ryals joined Metabolon, Inc. as Chief Executive Officer and President. For the past 10 years, Dr. Ryals research interest has been in the development of metabolomics to aid in pharmaceutical drug discovery and development, healthcare and nutrition.

Metabolon, Inc. is a diagnostics and commercial services company offering the industry's leading biochemical profiling platform. Metabolon has performed over 2000 studies to date with involving more than 500 customers and collaborators. Among these studies, Metabolon has conducted over 300 studies on cancer and in particular in contrasting various types of cancer and discovering biomarkers that can be used to differentiate various forms of the disease.