## Alejandro Zaffaroni

WOODROW WILSON AWARD FOR PUBLIC SERVICE



Alejandro Zaffaroni, successful biotech pioneer, business entrepreneur, and generous philanthropist, has left a lasting, positive impact on the lives of millions through the invention of innovative medical technology.

Growing up in Montevideo, Uruguay, Dr. Zaffaroni was awarded a Fulbright Scholarship to study biochemistry at the University of Rochester in New York. In 1951, he joined the small Mexican chemical company Syntex S.A. and played a key role in transforming the firm into a major pharmaceutical corporation that pioneered the development of the birth control pill and therapeutic corticosteroids.

In 1968, he left Syntex to found ALZA Corporation, a company focused on the modalities of controlled drug delivery. This would

be the first of Dr. Zaffaroni's nine companies built around his novel technologies and 130 patented processes for drug delivery, high-speed genome scanning, and the discovery and development of drugs and innovative materials for a wide variety of industries. These companies have produced a multitude of successful platform technologies from which further medicines, drugs, and materials have been developed.

Building upon the success of his entrepreneurial pursuits, Dr. Zaffaroni and his wife Lida have given generously to humanitarian causes. The Zaffaroni Foundation provides grants for medical research, education and scholarships, and the construction and ongoing support of the Moldaw-Zaffaroni Clubhouse of the Boys and Girls Clubs of the Peninsula, among numerous other causes.

The Alejandro and Lida Zaffaroni Scholarship and Fellowship Program, which is partly funded by gifts from donors who credit Dr. Zaffaroni with providing inspiration, mentorship, and friendship throughout their careers, provides undergraduate scholarships and graduate fellowships to students at Stanford University. The Zaffaronis were also major donors to the recently completed Lida and Alejandro Zaffaroni Breast Imaging Center at the Stanford Cancer Center, providing patients with a state-of-the-art facility dedicated to cancer detection and prevention.

Numerous awards and honors stand as testament to Dr. Zaffaroni's vision and creativity. Notably, in 1995 he was awarded the National Medal of Technology by President Clinton in recognition of his contributions to the pharmaceutical and biotechnology industries. Other prominent recognition includes the Biotechnology Heritage Award, a combined award from the Chemical Heritage Foundation and the Biotechnology Industry Organization (BIO); the Bower Award for Business Leadership from the Franklin Institute; and First Recipient of the Lifetime Achievement in Entrepreneurship & Innovation Award from UC Berkeley's Haas School of Business.

Dr. Zaffaroni's professional associations include the President's Circle of the National Academy of Sciences, the Beckman Center for Molecular and Genetic Medicine Advisory Council at Stanford University, the Division of Biological Sciences Advisory Council at Harvard University, a Founding Member MIT Sustaining Fellows at MIT, and a Fellow of the American Association for the Advancement of Science.